

EIGHT STRIKE LEADERS TRIED

Seditious Conspiracy is Now Charged Against the Winnipeg Men

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Winnipeg, July 21.—R. B. Russell, William Ivens, W. A. Pritchard, R. J. Johns, Ald. John Queen, Ald. A. A. Heaps, George Armstrong and R. E. Bray appeared before Magistrate R. M. Noble at the Law Courts this afternoon facing charges of seditious conspiracy. Other informations have been laid, it was announced, against the other strike leaders who did not appear on this charge.

The amended information is now a charge of "seditious conspiracy," where before it was "seditious activity." Further, according to a statement made by A. J. Andrews, K.C., Crown counsel, in addressing the court, "as far as these proceedings are concerned, the amendment practically amounts to a withdrawal against the other men previously mentioned, but in all probability there will be other informations laid."

F. J. Dixon, M.L.A., Chartinoff, Almazoff, Blumenberg and Schoppeirel are the ones affected by the withdrawal of the charges.

Fernie Reporter Testifies.

Frederick G. Perry of Fernie, B.C., a court reporter who had acted as reporter at the Western Labor Convention held in Calgary last March, was the first witness called on behalf of the prosecution. A verbatim report of the whole proceedings taken in shorthand by himself and the transcript were put in as an exhibit by Mr. Andrews.

Sergt.-Major Langdale of the Intelligence Department said he had attended the meeting at the Walker Theatre in December last. He produced a document which, he said, was a copy of the report he had made, which was transcribed from shorthand notes.

Called the Germans "Our Friends."

"We intend to have the better things of life if we have to fight for them," and "the British constitution has been held up as recognizing the rights of the minority. British, Canadian and American Governments now have come to the place where they recognize only the rights of a few of the minority," are statements this witness said George Armstrong had made at this meeting. William Ivens, said this witness, had stated that "they say the alien enemy must be interned. I say it is no longer necessary since the armistice was signed. The Germans are our friends," and here mention was made of German Socialists, whom, according to the witness, Ivens had described as "true patriots."

Inculcating Revolution.

The whole meeting was described by Sgt.-Major Langdale as "very radical and revolutionary in its tone.

Cross-examined as to the effect speeches of this nature would have on the minds of those present. Sgt.-Major Langdale said they would inculcate revolutionary ideas in the minds of those present. On conclusion of the cross-examination of Sgt.-Major Langdale the Court adjourned till 2.30 p.m. to-morrow.