

Seized Correspondence Read at Trial of  
Strike Leaders Shows Revolution Advocated

# Russian Methods Strongly Upheld in Letters Written by Red Leaders—Tom Beattie, of United Mine Workers, Favored Organized Revolutions all Over Canada in Order to Seize Reins of Government—R. B. Russell Saw Glorious Opportunity to Show the "Plug" the Only Solution

The Calgary Labor Convention last March, at which the One Big Union was given form, was packed with "Reds," as the members of the Socialist party of Canada are known in labor circles.

One suggestion of the Reds was to organize riots to start in every town, city and village of Canada at one time, with the definite object of taking over the reins of government.

R. B. Russell saw in the coming unemployment situation a "glorious opportunity to show the 'plug' that the only solution to the question is the situation in Russia."

A veritable flood of propaganda, including distribution of banned literature on Socialism and Bolshevism, was distributed by R. B. Russell and other members of the Socialist party of Canada.

## Letters Read at Trial

This is the substance of letters seized by the R.N.W.M. in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg, and read in court yesterday afternoon at the preliminary trial of eight labor leaders for seditious conspiracy.

Corporal James Fripps, R.N.W.M.P., produced letters from R. B. Russell, seized on June 3 in the offices of C. Stevenson, secretary of the Socialist party of Canada, in Vancouver, with a quantity of literature.

Sergeant Robert Howell, R.N.W.M.P., produced letters and literature taken in a raid on the home of Joseph R. Knight and John F. Maguire at Edmonton, July 1.

Corporal Albert Moss, R.N.W.M.P., told of searching the home and office of Carl Burg at Edmonton, and produced letters and literature seized.

All the men implicated in the raids were connected with the accused, either by their presence at the Calgary convention, or by the fact that the letters found were from R. B. Russell.

J. B. Coyne, for the crown, called the attention of the court to the fact that a large quantity of the literature seized was still under ban.

Among the books and pamphlets produced were *The Red Flag*, *The Soviet*, *The Bolsheviks and the Soviets*, *Soviets at Work*, *Lessons of the Russian Revolution*, by Nicholas Lenine; *The Russian Soviet Republic—on whose side are you, worker or capitalist?* *The Right to be Lazy*, and many others.

## From Russell to Knight

One letter produced, dated at Winnipeg, Nov. 29, 1919, signed R. B. Russell and addressed to J. R. Knight of Edmonton, says in part:

"Well, Joe, I expect we will now be confronted with the horrors of peace, and it is to be hoped that the Reds will wake up now and get in all the propaganda that can be expounded 24 hours per day. Now, Joe, here is another matter I would like to take up with you, and that is the Western conference . . . you can readily realize we could pack it with Reds, and no doubt start something. Yours in revolt, R. B. Russell."

Another letter, written by John F. Maguire, an official of the Socialist party in Canada, to R. B. Russell, January 12, 1919, says in part:

"We have just returned from the Alberta Federation of Labor convention. . . . We gave the Bolsheviks the finest boost that has been accomplished for some time. . . . The Western conference came up for discussion and we carried that against the wishes of the machine. They did all possible to show that it was a great mistake and that we were doing the worst thing in the interests of organized labor. . . . With a big representation in Calgary we ought to make things hum. Wherever possible, get Reds to be the delegates. . . . We must plan to have a bumper meeting when we all are in Calgary, and then surely this is one place that we can paint RED."

## Beattie's Strong Language

A letter addressed to C. Stevenson, secretary of the Socialist party of Canada, at Vancouver, B.C., from Tom Beattie, an official of the United Mine Workers of America, says in part:

"We want to be using some more Russian methods, resolutions don't get us anywhere. However, things are moving rapidly. The unemployed are increasing, and the situation will be getting acute, when the farmers are unable to sell their grain this coming fall. . . . Now that there are, or will be, about half a million more soldiers to provide work for, they will be up against it. The remedy, we all know, to capture the reins of government, etc., but how? Certainly not by the ballot. The only way we will ever get anywhere is by the use of force. The time is coming when there will be riots and petty little revolutions here and there all over the country. That proposed demonstration in Toronto of 10,000 unemployed is but a starter; there is no telling what may come out of it, but I think if these things could be organized to start in every town, city and village at one time, with a definite object in view, we would arrive all right. I am yours for the revolution. (Signed) Tom Beattie."

Proof that R. B. Russell was intimate with Stevenson, to whom this

letter was addressed, was introduced in many letters passing between them relating to the distribution of what the letters termed "red propaganda."

A letter read was from R. B. Russell to J. R. Knight, dated January 3, 1919, in which he said:

"I see arising out of the unemployment that is now beginning to make itself manifest, the most glorious opportunity to show the plug the only solution to the question is by continually pointing to him (as you say) the situation in Russia."

A circular signed by John F. Maguire, and sent from the offices of the Socialist party of Canada at Edmonton, after telling of the arrest of the labor leaders now on trial, and asking for funds, has this statement:

"Our only means at the present stage of the game to obtain their freedom is through the masters' courts; tomorrow it will be different, and seems not to be too far distant, you understand, comrades."

A large part of the correspondence introduced was between R. B. Russell and C. Stevenson, secretary of the Socialist party of Canada, at Vancouver, and related to the receipt and distribution of banned literature.

Early in the afternoon, F. J. Foster, a baker, testified that he was not allowed to put his eggs into cold storage until he got permission from the strike committee.

Court adjourned at 5 o'clock until 10.30 o'clock this morning.

## Morning Session

The One Big Union, to which a large portion of Winnipeg labor is committed, is part of the seditious conspiracy charged against eight labor leaders, the crown alleged at the session Thursday morning of their preliminary trial.

W. A. Pritchard, chairman of the "Big Five" of the O.B.U., and one of the defendants, was for the first time definitely connected with the prosecution. The chief witness this morning was Sergeant S. R. Waugh, R.N.W.M.P., secret service at Calgary, who raided the Calgary offices of Edward Brown, a delegate to the Calgary convention, on July 1. He also gave evidence respecting the O.B.U.

The constitution of the O.B.U. was one of the articles seized in his raid. This was put in as an exhibit today.

As A. J. Andrews, K.C., crown prosecutor, examined Sergt. Waugh as to the O.B.U. E. J. McMurray, defense counsel objected.

"Are we trying the One Big Union?" he asked.

"We may be," was Mr. Andrews' answer.

"Certainly we are," J. B. Coyne, assistant prosecutor, added.

Magistrate R. M. Noble said: "I thought we had thrashed this out a few days ago. Some of the accused here were at the Calgary convention and were members of the O.B.U."

## Labor News Chart.

A salient point of Sergt. Waugh's evidence was his conversation with Edward Brown, of Calgary, when a copy of the Western Labor News reached Calgary bearing a circular chart of the soviet form of government. The Labor News at the time of publication boasted that this was the only copy of this chart on the American continent.

Sergt. Waugh—Ed. Brown had this paper in his hand and he called me over.

Mr. Andrews—Try to remember his exact words.

Sergt. Waugh—"This is the aim of the One Big Union, the soviet form of government, as we are going to have it."

Speaking of strikes in sympathy with Winnipeg at the time of the general strike here, Sergeant Waugh said: "It was a noticeable thing that the only ones who went on strike were the advocates of the One Big Union."

## Quotes Pritchard's Utterances.

He read reports he had made of several meetings at which W. A. Pritchard spoke. He said he made notes of the salient points of the meeting, and, while the proceedings still were fresh in his mind, he wrote his report in his office. Reading from his report of one of Pritchard's speeches, he said:

"The government and the capitalists who own the government, whenever the workers demand their rights they call them Bolsheviks. They know that Russia has succeeded in 15 months in doing what we have not been able to do in the last few centuries. They know every how to get down to work in Russia. They fear the position would be the same in this country if the workers are successful in their aims, and so they call them Bolsheviks."

Reading from another report, he said Pritchard declared:

"That it was their duty to make the government retract the Prussian heel and let them know once and for all that the workers were the only power. (At that time he was referring to the dismissal of the postal employees.) Our boys went over to Flanders to fight the same thing, and we are going to do the same here. It is the duty of all the workers to strike and cause the government to retract its orders. They may crush us for the time being, but there will be a reaction, about next winter." He then referred to the Russian revolution and the French revolution, stating that at those times the governments had their heels on the workers, but finally the workers turned. The soldiers fought for

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liberty, the workers are slaves, they in their turn will fight for liberty. If we are deported to the Old Country where we came from, the Canadians will be deported here. It is merely an exchange of revolutionaries. There was a big gulf between the workers and the capitalists, and it was merely a question as to who had the right to be in power. They hate us like snakes and would kill us if possible."

### Born in Mining Areas.

Sergeant Waugh gave a short history of the O.B.U. as far as he was connected with it. He said it had its birth at a conference of mine workers. The mine workers were chiefly Russian and Austrians, led by British, Scotch, Irish and Italians, he said.

Among the exhibits filed, identified by Sergeant Waugh as having been seized by him in the offices of Ed. Brown was a letter from Ald. W. B. Simpson, of Winnipeg, an official of the Western Labor News, enclosing a year's subscription to a publication handled by Mr. Brown.

### "Ginger" in Box.

Robert "Ginger" Snook provided comedy relief to the trial. He was the first witness in the morning. He told of having been engaged by the city to haul away garbage during the strike.

He said he had been attacked by a gang of about 300, who forced his driver to unhitch the horses and drive them home, while they demolished his wagon.

He then told of a second attempt at intimidation by a large gang of strikers.

"I took my stick and fetched a blow at the leader and broke the stick in two," he said. "Then I turned to the man with me and said, 'Get the pitchfork.' I told the gang that they might kill the old man, but that he'd be one up on them, anyway; I'd get one of them with the pitchfork."

"I then went into Jerry Robinson's and bought a stout baseball bat. I guess I can handle it with anybody else in this town."

Cross-examining him, E. J. McMurray asked him if he ever had run for mayor.

"No, sir. But I might run for mayor against John Queen," he said.

He told of complaining to the city council of intimidation, and said that Alderman W. B. Simpson objected to his complaint. "I said I'd like to see Queen and Heaps run out of town, and I'm of the same mind now."

He said the garbage he collected from restaurants and fruit stores was alive with vermin.

As he walked away from the witness box he paused in front of the

jury box, where the accused were sitting, turned to Queen and said, "Good morning, John."

Alvin Johnson, a Toronto newspaperman, elaborated his statement at the Wednesday session that William Ivens had told him he would have his press messages to the Toronto Star O.K.'d by the strike committee and stipulated that they might be sent out if they were sent simultaneously to the New York Call, a Socialist organ, and two other labor papers.

Dr. C. O. Collins, superintendent of the General hospital, told of having had to present a written request in person to the strike committee for permission to have some of his striking employees return to work.

C. R. Lewis, proprietor of the Club cafe, told of conditions in his cafe at the beginning of the strike.

The court adjourned at 1 o'clock until 2.30 o'clock this afternoon.