

# LABOR LEADERS ARE COMMITTED

## Ivens and Winnipeg Associates Accused of Seditious Conspiracy

## INSULT TO THE KING

## Agitators Boast of Remaining Seated When National Anthem Sung

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Winnipeg, Aug. 12.—The Crown completed its case in the preliminary hearing of the eight Labor leaders charged with seditious conspiracy—William Ivens, W. A. Pritchard, R. B. Russell, R. J. Johns, R. E. Bray, George Armstrong, John Queen and A. A. Heaps—to-day, and the accused were informally committed for trial at the October Assizes. Warrant of commitment was withheld, pending an appeal for renewal of bail before a County Judge on Wednesday forenoon. When Mr. A. J. Andrews, K.C., announced that the case for the Crown was in, the defendants were asked if they had anything to say, and all shook their heads.

The preliminary trial was one of the longest in the history of Manitoba courts, lasting 69 hours, and extending over three and a half weeks.

J. B. Coyne, prosecuting attorney, this forenoon read from notes taken in the raid on Ivens' home, purporting to be a skeleton of a speech or sermon he was to deliver. Among them were the following:

"Two lines of action—political. Discouraging features—1. The Government itself has set the pace of lawlessness. The Wartime Elections Act is sheer lawlessness. 2. Constitutional government is no longer possible. Government by orders in Council is a travesty of democracy.

"Revolution by Any Means."

"Still the workers cling to constitutional reform. This in spite of the fact that capitalists control the military, and use it against the worker. The only alternative—revolution by any means necessary—boody or bloodless."

Mr. Coyne then read extracts from the minutes of the Central Strike Committee during the general strike, according to which, on June 10, there was a discussion as to cutting off of electrical power, and a committee appointed to find if it was possible; members of the Policemen's Union were asked to patrol the Labor Temple to keep order; on June 17 a plan was discussed to flood the T. Eaton store with fake c.o.d. orders and demoralize distribution. Retail Clerks' Union believed the plan a good one, but the fact that the Labor leaders were arrested that night might have been the reason that the plan was not carried out. A plan to float an immense Labor victory loan is mentioned in the minutes, but the Fin-

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Finance Committee decided it was not feasible at the time. The letter which Senator G. D. Robertson gave to the newspapers on the day following the arrest of the leaders, in which reference was made to Bolshevik funds, and to which the defense objected several days ago, contending it was garbled, was read in full. It contained an explanatory clause to show that the Bolshevik funds were \$250, collected from Alberta miners.

## Planned to Feed Themselves.

A telegram from R. B. Russell to R. J. Tallon, Chairman of the Calgary convention in the first days of the strike, was read. It contained this sentence: "We are making arrangements to feed ourselves, to prevent recurrence of what took place in Seattle."

F. Law, official of an insurance company, testified that \$75,000,000 worth of riot insurance had been written in the early days of the strike, and the rate had trebled. Nowhere in America had such a situation occurred before, he said.

## His Boast.

R. J. Johns boasted of remaining seated during the singing of the National Anthem at a Labor meeting, in a letter to R. B. Russell, read in court.

Other letters read, which had passed between the accused and other agitators, and between agitators not on trial but connected with the accused through the Calgary convention and correspondence, appeared to show that the One Big Union is considered by them not as a basis of Labor organization, but as a mere step toward an organization which will lead to seizure of industries.

The case for the Crown will all be in to-day.

The letter in which Johns made his boast was sent from Hamilton, Ont., April 30. It says in part:

## Got Away With It.

"Well, the meeting opened with playing 'God Save the King.' We were forced to do that to obtain the hall. So the bunch in the audience stood, and Lewis Moore and I sat down on the platform, and got away with it."

Two letters from Carl E. Berg of Edmonton, a delegate to the Calgary convention, addressed to other persons who attended the convention, and later seized by the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, were read.

One, addressed to Victor McRea, Peace River, Alta., dated May 17, says in part: