

'WE'RE GOING AFTER 'EM,' ---JOHNSON

Amazing Confession of John J. Pickersgill, Government Employee, Has Concerned Conservatives More Than Any Development of Campaign, Liberals Say

"We are going after the higher-ups." That is the statement of T. H. Johnson, who was commenting on the naturalization crimes exposed by the confession of John J. Pickersgill, an employe of the liquor license department, at the court of revision in Center Winnipeg last evening.

Efforts were made to obtain a reply from government men to the implied charges in the confession today, without success.

Will Not Let Up

"We are working on the case today," "we intend to get after them and you can bet we will if there is any possible way to do so. It would not be wise for me to say anything further at the present time, but the public can rely on it that the culprits will not escape if we can prevent it."

Mr. Johnson stated that the revelation of Pickersgill had been the cause of great consternation in the Conservative camp, and that nothing else in the campaign so far had approached it in importance. Telegrams were being received from all parts of the province asking for full particulars. Mr. Johnson also remarked that it was significant that the government forces and the liquor interests had not so far issued any denials of their complicity in the plot.

Makes Odd Answers

Amusement was caused in Court of Revision for Center Winnipeg today by answers given to questions by Joe Lucci, one of the 42 Italians registered on alleged bogus naturalization papers, of which T. H. Johnson claimed there were 1,500.

It was apparent that Lucci went prepared to say he had been in the country 5 years, but his knowledge of English was very limited. This answer fitted in very well as answers to the questions "How long have you been in Canada?" "How long have you lived in Winnipeg?" and "How long in the constituency?" but the crowd roared when he made the same reply to a question asking his age.

There were still 16 witnesses to examine in connection with the alleged bogus naturalizations when court adjourned to meet again at 3 o'clock. This business occupied the court all day, there being no decisions given by Judge Dawson.

Frank Cancilla, alleged proprietor of the Churchill club, was present throughout today's sitting, but Mike Johnston, provincial license inspector, was not seen at the court.

Denies Statement

W. J. Battley, provincial morality inspector, who was reported by a morning paper as having been named by Pickersgill as one of the men who paid him money for bogus naturalization work, denied in strong terms that he had ever given Pickersgill a cent to buy bogus papers or anything else. "I can prove the statement a falsehood and a misunderstanding to the satisfaction of everyone," Battley said.