

# Ten Labor Leaders Arrested In Their Beds in Winnipeg Are Brought to The Penitentiary

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Unconfirmed Report States That Men Will Be Taken to Kingston, Ont., For Arraignment—Labor Men Refuse to Comment On Government's Action and "Strike Bulletin" Makes No Reference to Arrests.

WINNIPEG, Man., June 17. — The federal government today made a dramatic move in connection with the local sympathetic strike. As a result ten labor leaders, most of whom have played an important part in directing the strike movement, are tonight behind the bars in Stony Mountain penitentiary.

The arrests were based on warrants charging with "inciting the police force to neglect of duty," and with responsibility for publication in the Strike Bulletin last Wednesday of a special article containing "false and libellous statements." The story was headed "Police replaced by thugs" and vigorously attacked the special returned soldier constables. The civic authorities were criticized for dismissing the regular police force.

Coincidentally with the arrest of strike leaders, the police raided the Labor Temple, the Ukrainian Temple, and Liberty Hall, where vast quantities of literature was secured which, it is said, will be used in the ultimate trials.

The utmost secrecy prevailed throughout the preliminary proceedings of the arrest this morning. Carefully planned by the authorities with the co-operation of the military intelligence department and other police branches, not one word of the impending arrests leaked out.

The special constabulary was mobilized in its entirety at headquarters and other strategic points. A large fleet of automobiles was stationed at various pre-arranged points and when the signal came the work started.

#### Are Found In Bed.

An automobile with mounted policemen sped away to the homes of the men they sought. Every man arrested was found in bed. Each one submitted quietly on being shown the official warrant for apprehension.

No trouble was reported. Women in the homes of the arrested leaders were naturally alarmed, and it was stated that Mrs. George Armstrong and Mrs. Wm. Ivens nearly collapsed from nervous prostration.

It was reported this evening, but not officially confirmed, that those under arrest will be taken to Kingston, Ont., within a few days for arraignment and trial.

A. J. Andrews, K.C., retained by the Dominion government as prosecutor, stated the warrants for the four men yet to be apprehended can be executed anywhere in Canada. Sam Blumenberg, a radical socialist, is reported to have crossed the boundary into the United States; W. A. Pritchard, a prominent Vancouver, B.C., labor leader, is said to be on his way back to the Pacific coast; R. J. Johns, local strike leader, is in Montreal, and B. Devyatken's whereabouts are unknown to the city police.

Although it was unofficially reported that the Dominion government contemplated making arrests of all alleged agitators in western cities, despatches from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Regina and Brandon stated that no such action had been taken. Local police took into custody eleven men, charged with picketing and intimidation.

#### Deplores "Strong Arm" Methods.

Referring to the federal government's action, Mayor Charles F. Gray said: "I have consistently deplored any attempt at strong arm methods, especially when we appear to have passed the danger crisis. These men have already earned the condemnation of labor men and their overthrow was simply a matter of days."

Labor men refused to comment on the new development, and the Strike

Bulletin made no reference to the arrests. The fact that an issue of the Western Labor News last week foreshadowed drastic action on the part of the authorities was widely discussed in union circles.

### **Street Cars Tomorrow.**

Street cars will be running in Winnipeg tomorrow, it was announced by E. Anderson, counsel for the Winnipeg Electric railway. "We will make every effort to get as many cars as possible operating," he said. The company is trying to get its regular men back on the job, but in the event of their refusal volunteers will be used to give a partial service.

The situation in the various railway yards is rapidly improving, according to company officials. Places of firemen, enginemen and switchmen who disregarded orders of their international union and struck, are being filled and traffic is suffering little interruption, it was announced.