

THE RIOTS IN WINNIPEG ON JUNE THE 10TH

Evidence On Systematic Work of the Agitators Who Provoked the Rioting.

Toronto Telegram, June 11th.

Here is the evidence of the systematic work of the agitators who provoked the rioting, and the writer speaks from first-hand knowledge, as he stood in the street or on the adjoining housetops during the entire fracas. By concert several men, apparently with peaceful intentions, pushed their way up to the traffic officer. Other confederates closed in. The crowd pushed closer to witness the encounter. Then the mob leaders slowly began to push the officer away, amid a concert of cheers, evidently from those inside the ring of rioters. At this stage the boy policeman would attempt to fight, but his hands were pinned to his sides, and he had no club. Usually the rioters began at this stage to strike the officer, and those in the crowd not in with the rioters would push in to defend him, and he would ultimately be dragged from the bunch badly beaten, clothes torn and bloody.

Repeated Three Times

This happened three times to as many point officers sent to the scene before the authorities abandoned the effort to handle point traffic. When

the first assault occurred a single mounted policeman rode up. He was greeted with yells of derision. Rioters booed, took off their coats and shooed the horse away. The mounted boy was armed with a club, but he only struck one or two heads when he realized that it was useless. He wheeled and found half a dozen mates down the street, and they charged in. Heads were hit when they could make their horses get up close enough to the rioters, but the horses had never had fighting experience before. They had just come from the stable. They simply would not face the hurrahing, wrangling, fighting members of the crowd.

Then there were not enough, for as fast as they became separated they were surrounded and their horses rushed, their clubs torn from their grips, and missiles thrown at them. bricks, hats, paper and everything that would terrify a green horse.

A moment later a roar was heard and there was a wild scattering when a squadron of 100 mounted men under lieutenant J. M. Dunwoodie came at a gallop into the scene, swinging their clubs and yelling encouragement to the few specials on foot who had rushed forward. The cavalry formed full width of Main street, and rushed their horses around the corner into Portage.

The rioters, seeing that the presence of women and children prevented a full charge, ran behind these groups and threw things at the mounted men. In a moment each was fighting a separate group, but he could not reach them with his club, and his horse would not plunge into the excited mass though urged. One rider, evidently a cowboy who knew horses, actually wheeled and backed his horse into a comparatively rough group, and hitting sidewise knocked a dozen down before they realized that the trick could be worked. Hat

Lieut. Dunwoodie soon found that his men fighting separately were accomplishing nothing, so they rushed up Portage, reformed in solid mass and came down slowly, over the sidewalks over isles of safety, and slowly pressed the crowd into the stores.

The cavalry withdrew, and the crowd boomed and cheered, though much hand-clapping greeted the appearance of the specials on each occasion, showing that they had friends in the crowd. For half an hour not a special was in sight. Then up came four lines of specials on foot stretched the full length of the street, led by Chief Donald MacPherson, and the mounted men slowly rode along the sidewalks scattering the crowd. But even this display of force (and there must have been 500 mounted and afoot at this time) was insufficient.

No arrests could be made. Slowly they proceeded, but on the wings of the men afoot they were constantly fighting back the agitators. If one became separated he was pulled down and beaten.

This display of all available police force—for some 1,000 other specials were doing outside duty—was insufficient to quell the mob, and the officers finally returned to headquarters amid jeering and booing.

The crowd stood around for half an hour, expecting more excitement, then gradually disintegrated.

With plenty of courage the 2,000 special officers are insufficient obviously, without using guns, to overthrow the alien enemies and disorderly spirits among the strikers.