

STRIKE LEADERS' TRIAL UNDER WAY

Charge Is Now Seditious Conspiracy Instead of Seditious Activity—Evidence Taken.

WINNIPEG, July 22.—R. B. Russell, William Ivens, W. A. Pritchard, R. J. Johns, Alderman John Queen, Alderman A. A. Heaps, George Armstrong and R. E. Bray appeared before Magistrate Noble at the law courts yesterday facing charges of seditious conspiracy. Other informations have been laid, it was announced, against the other strike leaders who did not appear on this charge.

The amended information is now a charge of seditious conspiracy, where before it was seditious activity.

Further, according to a statement by A. J. Andrews, K.C., crown counsel, in addressing the court, "as far as these proceedings are concerned, the amendment practically amounts to a withdrawal against the other men previously mentioned, but in all probability there will be other informations laid."

F. A. Dixon, M. L. A.; Charitinoff, Almazoff, Blumenberg and Schoppele are the ones affected by the withdrawal charges.

F. G. Perry, of Fernie, B. C., a court reporter, who had acted as reporter on the western labor convention held in Calgary last March, was the first witness called on behalf of the prosecution.

He recognized and identified Pritchard, Johns, Russell and Armstrong as men he had seen at the Calgary convention. A verbatim report of the whole proceedings taken in shorthand by himself and the transcript were put in as Exhibit 1 by Mr. Andrews. Recalled, after cross-examination, the witness stated that Joseph Knight, of Edmonton, and

Mrs. George Armstrong were also present at the Calgary convention. On request of the magistrate they stood up.

Evidence by Intelligence Officer.

Sergt.-Major Langdale, of the intelligence department, was the next witness for the prosecution. He said he was a member of the Law Society of Manitoba, and had been practising law prior to enlistment. Acting under instructions from Capt. G. A. Campbell he had attended the meeting at the Walker theatre in December last. Ald. John Queen, he says, had presided. He recognized George Armstrong, William Ivens and R. B. Russell as among those who had been on the platform at that meeting. He produced a document which he said was a copy of the report which he had made, and which was transcribed from shorthand notes. Objection was taken by J. E. McMurray, counsel for the defence, to the witness reading notes from the report, and the objection was noted.

"We intend to have the better things of life if we have to fight for them," and "the British constitution has been held up as recognizing the rights of the minority. British, Canadian and American governments now have come to the place where they recognize only the rights of the few minority," are statements this witness said George Armstrong had made at this meeting. Wm. Ivens, said this witness, had stated that "They say the alien enemy must be interned. I say it is no longer necessary since the armistice. The Germans are our friends," and here mention was made of German Socialists, whom, according to the witness, Ivens had described as "true patriots."

The whole meeting was described by Sergt.-Major Langdale as "very radical and revolutionary in its tone."

Cross-examined as to the result that speeches of this nature would have on the minds of those present, Sergt.-Major Langdale said they would instill revolutionary ideas in the minds of those present. Objection was taken to Mr. Andrew's examination of Sergt.-Major Langdale by Mr. McMurray in that his questions were very leading. The objection was, however, overruled by Magistrate Noble.