

SOVIET IS GOAL OF O. B. U., OFFICER TESTIFIES

Winning Denies Intention To "Starve Winnipeg"

NO IDEA OF BOLSHEVISM, HE DECLARES

Tells Commission Unrest Still
Prevails and Another
Strike Looms

ADMITS "PERMISSION"
CARDS WERE BLUNDER

Emphatic denial that there was any intention of the strike committee to "starve Winnipeg into submission," and that there was the slightest hint of sovietism in the strike, was made by James Winning, president of the Trades and Labor council before the Robson commission today. The commission is investigating the causes of the strike.

"We were overwhelmed by the magnitude of the strike," Winning said. "We never expected anything like it. Thousands of unorganized workers came out with the union men without the slightest pressure being brought to bear on them. They all were dissatisfied. They could not make a decent living. There were only 12,000 union men out. The balance came out of their own account, apparently as a protest of conditions under which they were working."

Tried to Prevent Riot.

"We thought," Winning asserted, in explaining the strike's purpose, "that if we could win the right to

told him that was what the O.B.U.

was working for.

"To the best of my memory his

words were exactly these," Sergt.

Waugh said:

"This is the aim of the One Big Union—the soviet form of government. We're going to have it."

Magistrate Noble took up the copy

of the Labor News, which was placed

in evidence, and examined it closely.

The examination of Sergt. Waugh

was one continuous round of clashes

between witness and counsel for the

defense. Waugh continually went

into explanations in answer to ques-

tions, putting in testimony concern-

ing the operations of the O.B.U. which

were asserted by Mr. McMurray to be

far outside the boundaries set by the

questions.

Noble Censures McMurray

The session at last became so heat-

ed that Magistrate Noble called Mr.

McMurray to task for his attitude to-

ward the witness.

"I'll tell you right now, Mr. Mc-

Murray," he said, "the witnesses in

this court have got to be treated

with respect. This one hasn't."

McMurray also objected to the in-

troduction as evidence of books and

papers seized by the mounted police

at headquarters of the miners' or-

ganization in Calgary, but the mat-

ter was allowed to go in.

"I thought we thrashed that out

two or three days ago," Mr. Noble

said. "It has been shown that some

of these men were delegates to the

Calgary convention and evidence

concerning that convention can come

in."

"If something was said at the Lib-

eral convention about replacing the

government would you admit that?"

queried Mr. McMurray.

"If something seditious was said

at the Liberal convention and it was

shown that some of these men were

delegates, I'd certainly admit evi-

dence concerning it," replied Magis-

trate Noble.

Sergt. Waugh's testimony was

hard fought by the defense on the

ground that it was pure opinion, but

the court admitted it.

"So far as I can see," Waugh said

in answer to a question from Mc-

Murray, "the One Big Union is sim-

ply for the purpose of gaining con-

trol by the worker of the industries

and government. And the Socialist

party of Canada is at the head of the

whole thing."

Revolution in Practice

The ideas held by these organiza-

tions, Sergt. Waugh said, on cross-

examination, were not revolution in

themselves.

"But putting them into practice

would be revolution," he declared.

"The One Big Union," he said, "is

an organization that, to my mind,

is designed to overthrow law and

order and constituted authority."

McMurray attacked Sergt. Waugh's

report of a speech made in Calgary

by W. A. Pritchard, one of the de-

fendants, on the grounds that it was

incomplete.

"What parts of the speech did you

take down?" he asked.

"The parts of the speech I took

down were those I considered re-

volutionary," he replied.

The mine workers, composed most-

ly of Russians and Austrians, and

led by radical Socialists, Sergt.

Waugh testified, formed the back-

bone of the One Big Union.

"In Calgary it's made up mostly

of riff-raff," he declared.

The word "riff-raff" aroused Mr.

McMurray, who assailed Sergt.

Waugh over its meaning.

"Do you know of any member on

the executive of the Mine Workers

who is either a Russian or an Aus-

trian?" asked McMurray.

"I can't name any off hand."

Sergt. Waugh once again attempt-

ed to answer with a long explanation

only to be shut off again by Mr. Mc-

Murray, who insisted on a direct

answer to his questions.

Quotes Pritchard's Remarks

Waugh gave extensive testimony

concerning a speech made by W. A.

Pritchard, one of the defendants,

and a One Big Union leader. He

said that on June 8, Pritchard had

delivered an address in Calgary con-

cerning the discharge of the postal

workers, in which he declared that

the workers should mass themselves

together in such a way as to gain

control of the government.

"It was their duty to make the

government retract their Prussian

methods," Waugh quoted Pritchard.

"The workers are not looking for

revolution and bloodshed, but the

Prussian methods of the government

and the capitalists may force them

to it."

Sergt. Waugh also declared Pritch-

ard said:

"That the government and capi-

talistic class, who owned the govern-

ment, when the workers tried to get

their rights, they called them Bol-

shevists, the reason being that Rus-

sia had been able to accomplish in

15 months what other countries

hadn't done in centuries."

Dr. H. O. Collins, superintendent of

the Winnipeg General Hospital, tes-

tified that he had been notified on

May 14 that the union employes of

the hospital would go out on the

following day.

Heat, light and power would have

been cut off by the strike, according

to a letter read into the record. Dr.

Collins said Alderman Simpson had

suggested he write to the strike com-

mittee asking permission for the men

to stay on their jobs.

Called on Committee

Dr. Collins said he appeared before

the strike committee with a personal

appeal and had been told he would

receive an answer.

"Did you hear anything from it?"

"No."

"What would have been the effect

if the men had gone out?"

More discussion between counsel

developed and finally Magistrate

Noble said:

"It is quite clear that on the 14th

it was the intention of the strike

committee to close up everything, in-

cluding the hospitals."

McMurray argued the point, but

Dr. Collins was instructed to tell

what would have developed if all

union men in employ of the hospital

had struck.

"It would have closed operating

rooms, prevented proper treatment

of patients after night, and prevented

any food-cooked for them," Dr. Col-

lins said.

The interruption of telephone ser-

vice proved a severe handicap, he

continued, but bread and milk was

supplied during the strike without

interruption.

"Was there anything else you no-

ticed as to the effect of the strike on

the public health?" Mr. Coyne asked.

"The difficulty of doctors getting

around to see their patients the dif-