

STRIKE PROBE IS RE-OPENED AT WINNIPEG

**Judge Robson Calls on Witnesses
to Repudiate the Strike
Leaders**

SPEAKS TO INDIVIDUALS

**But Also Included All Men Who
Have Not Been Re-
instated**

WINNIPEG, Sept. 8.—Judge H. A. Robson, at the re-opening of the strike probe today, called upon the members of unions in Winnipeg who were being refused re-employment by the employers of Winnipeg to repudiate the strike leaders, confess that they were misled and to come out and state that in future they would not repeat the history of the past. Mr. Robson made this statement to witnesses appearing on behalf of employees of his government of the Canadian National railways, but also included all men who had not been re-instated. If such a confession were made, he intimated the possibility of reinstatement of all those shut out being re-employed was not very remote.

The first witness this forenoon, J. Watson of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad employees, embracing express and clerical workers, testified that discrimination had been displayed toward members of the organization. Questioned by Judge H. A. Robson, witness admitted that the Canadian National express employees were forming a union of their own.

Undesirable Influence

Commissioner Robson informed the witness that he was in a position to know that there was an obstacle in the road to re-employment of members of witness' union; that it was necessary for that body to get together and take their affairs into their own hands, when Judge Robson had

reason to believe, they would be taken back. The commissioner had placed the situation before the authorities at Ottawa. Before any move could be made toward re-employment the brotherhood would have to break away from an undesirable influence. Judge Robson pointed out to the action of postal employees who had disavowed reactionary motives in the strike, saying that such a statement would form a basis for settlement; and he suggested that the resolution be drafted by the men themselves, who ought to see that they were misled by their leaders; that they ought to state that such a strike would not occur again.

Mr. C. P. Wilson stated that no one wished to revoke the power of the strike; but the workers should realize the error they had made.

Explains Position

Mr. Watson said he did not believe the commission understood the brotherhood's position. The organization did not order the strike, but the different divisions saw fit to decide such action for themselves. The employees took the vote and the officials did not see their way clear to condemn the strike.

W. H. Gamble, store accountant's office of the C.N.R., stated that the grand division of the Brotherhood of Railway employees had ordered local lodges to put themselves under authority of the Trades' and Labor council.

Addressing Mr. Watson, Judge Robson said:

"Just because you were led by some rascals whom you did not understand is no reason why you cannot get back."

O. B. U. Member Speaks

T. F. Flye, formerly blacksmith in the C.N.R. shops, a member of the One Big Union, under cross-examination, exclaimed: "I have lived in Winnipeg for years. I have seen my children starving, without boots on their feet; I have worked until late at night and then was ashamed to go home because the sight of them made me feel that way. I am played out and all my life have worked hard and tried to live honestly. Would I go on strike? I would do it today and every day in the week. . . ."

"You talk of cutting off milk to children, but we cannot buy milk in the best of times. . . ."

"Do men attempt to overthrow constituted authority with their naked hands. Major Lyle and another man told me and a friend at a meeting one night while the strike was on that the citizens' committee was going to break the strike and that to do so they were prepared to let the streets of Winnipeg run with blood. I was there and heard those words."

The O.B.U., he said, has come to stay. Its development along harmonious lines depends on the employers.

Mr. Wilson remarked that he had

wanted to know why employers did not desire to employ the witness, and he had found out.

Loyalty of Police

John Gray, representing the policemen's organization, gave testimony as to the loyalty of the force throughout the strike, and George Lovatt, also a member of the police force, gave evidence concerning participation of the force in the strike. Lovatt denied that the Trades' and Labor council had any governing direction over the force. At the conclusion of the session this afternoon the probe was adjourned until ten o'clock Wednesday morning, when further evidence dealing with discrimination will be heard.

that Diamond Park has been leased by professional baseball.

It is, therefore, asked that the site known as the "municipal football field" on Ross Flats be put into shape. There is considerable space outside the spot now used for playing, which it is proposed to include, and the whole requires to be plowed, disced, harrowed and seeded this fall.

It is asked in the latter, which is sent by T. S. S. Davies, secretary to

the association, that a board should be erected about the ground while the association would erect grand stand and buildings suitable for the accommodation of the players.

The remark is made that amateur games cannot be made a success unless they are self-supporting, and asked that council should assist thus promoting association football.