

"Sitting on Volcano" is Way 'Peg Mayor Spoke of Strike; Life Threatened

Judge Metcalfe Intimates That He is Receiving Unsigned Letters—Mayor Gray on Witness Stand Most of Morning—Relates History of the Weeks of Strike.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 8.—Intimidation of the citizens throughout the city and the receipt of threatening and indirect letters by himself and his wife, were among the facts related by Mayor C. F. Gray in his evidence at the trial of R. B. Russell today.

He described the state of the city following the commencement of the strike and preceding the actual rioting.

"We were sitting on a volcano," he said when asked concerning the state of the city on June 1.

He had received letters threatening his life, said the mayor. At a later time in his evidence, the mayor said that at a meeting held on Friday, June 20, on the Market Square, inflammatory harangues were made by pro-strike speakers. These speakers, said his worship, insisted that the mayor's authority must be set aside and a parade held in defiance of the law. Women and children were invited to join in this procession, said the mayor.

Justice Metcalfe, during a momentary lull in the proceedings today, handed to the counsel for the crown and the defense a letter which he said he would like both of them to read. Nothing was said as to the contents of the missive which was read by both counsel in silence. It could be noticed that the letter was unsigned and undated and typewritten. After it had been perused and handed back to the judge, Justice Metcalfe said it was just

a sample of the kind of letters he was receiving.

William Marshall, manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway western telegraph lines, told of attempts of the strike committee to gain control of all telegraphic messages passing through the city during the strike.

The evidence of witnesses was taken as to seizures made at Calgary. Court adjourned at 12.45 to 2.15 p.m.

Spread Lenin Propaganda

WINNIPEG, Dec. 8.—Sergeant Herbert Macey, R.V.M.P., was the first witness called at the morning session of the assize court of the trial of R. B. Russell this morning.

He gave evidence regarding a search and seizure made July 1 at the home of W. H. Leowen, of Calgary. Documents seized were put in for identification. Ten copies of a pamphlet entitled, "Russia," by Nicholas Lenin; seized July 1 at the Alexander bookstore, Calgary, where Leowen was employed, were introduced.

The Telegraph Strike

William Marshall, manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway telegraphs from Port Arthur to the coast, was next called. He gave evidence regarding the sudden strike of the operators in May. They had no grievance with the company, he said. Their agreement called for 30 days' notice and they only gave him two days, the witness said. He told of a letter received from the strike committee asking that two operators be allowed to return to work to handle certain parts of the business and which threatened that unless this was allowed the strike committee would call out the chief operators. The witness stated that 15 employees came back to work on June 2, but had to be fed on the premises and conveyed to and from their homes to prevent interference by the strikers.

Would Close Banks

Fred Body, accountant at the main office of the Union Bank, was called as a crown witness. He stated that on the second day of the strike a man, who said he was the secretary of the Elevator Men's and Night Men's Union, called at the bank and asked to see the manager, who, the witness said, was busy. The man stated that he was sent by the strike committee to ask the Union Bank to close down their elevator. Mr. Body stated that he told him that this could not be done. The man, he said, declared that if the bank did not close down the elevator that they, the strike committee, would close them by Saturday and what was more would close the banks by Wednesday.

Letters to Justice Metcalfe

The court was adjourned for five minutes following this witness. After the resumption of the session, Mr. Justice Metcalfe said: (Handing letter to the court reporter):

"I have here a letter I would like both Mr. Andrews and Mr. Cassidy to see."

Mr. Andrews read the letter, which was typewritten, undated and unsigned, and handed it to Mr. Cassidy, who read it interestedly.

Mr. Justice Metcalfe: "That is just a sample of the kind of letters I am receiving from time to time."

Mayor Charles F. Gray was the next witness called. In answer to a question as to who took the leading part in representing the strike committee during the strike he named Mr. Winning, Mr. Russell and Mr. Veltch. Members of the strike committee attended nearly every council meeting, but he saw more of them in his office than in the council chamber. Men he

HUNS NOT DROPPING WAR INVESTIGATIONS

New Policy Will Be Instituted Making it Even More Far-Reaching

BERLIN, Dec. 8.—Rumors current abroad that the committees investigating the war guilt of German leaders in 1914 have discontinued their meetings, are entirely wrong, according to a semi-official parliamentary news agency, which issued a statement here today.

"On the contrary," the statement says, "it is intended to conduct the investigations with every energy to a conclusion, but new methods will be adopted which will make it impossible for witnesses to mislead the conciliatory spirit shown them for political purposes. The investigating committee intends to conclude its inquiry into the manner in which President Wilson's peace initiatives were received as soon as possible so that the peace possibilities of the spring and early summer of 1918 can be subjected to scrutiny."

trick, making the distribution of the limited coal supply difficult.

Looks for Agreement

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The executive committee of the operators, in a formal statement, said:

"The strike situation appears to be distinctly more favorable from the viewpoint of adjustment."

The executive committee states that the matter of adjustment with the mine workers is in the hands of the government. "It has the utmost confidence in the efforts of the government to reach an agreement that will

recollections being included, in addition to those already named, Mr. McBride and Mr. Eise and others. He said that Mr. Hussen was strongly in evidence most of the time, in fact he could not recollect any meeting attended by the strike committee, at which Hussen was not present, except the occasion when he was informed that the bread and milk would be taken out of circulation and when were at this meeting, he said, and it was said that the bread and milk was being taken out because they thought that action was the proper thing to do. The mayor did not remember any particular reason that was given.

The mayor said he remembered the council meeting at which was discussed the matter of the water pressure. The meeting was held around May 22 and in addition to Alderman Hoops and Queen there was also present delegations from the strike committee and from the running trades.

The mayor said that Mr. Best was one of the representatives of the running trades. Speakers of the delegation from the strike committee said that it might be dangerous to raise the water pressure as it would make the strike worse. They intimated that there would be more trouble; that so far they had kept law and order, but if the water pressure was raised they might not try to keep their men back and there might be trouble on the street. They also said, said the mayor, that the strike would be continued till they got collective bargaining for every worker in the city. If necessary they would pull out the workers in other cities in sympathy. It was inferred, said the mayor, by their speeches that they were holding the running trades in leash to be called out at any time.

The mayor said that Mr. Best in speaking on behalf of the running trades said that they would like to see the strike settled, but if it was not, the organization he represented would come out. Aldermen Queen and

Heaps informed the mayor that if the water pressure was raised the men still working in the waterworks plant would be pulled out. The mayor said that the motion to increase the pressure was put to the council and was carried, Queen and Heaps voting against it. The men who had been working in the waterworks plant then walked out, he said, and were replaced by volunteers.

A document—agreement between the policemen and the city—was produced and put in as an exhibit. Mr. Gray said that it was signed by the police commissioner on May 13. There had been a tentative verbal agreement made before, which had been typed and put into shape in the form of the exhibit just put in, said the mayor. There was no scavenging work done in the city during the major part of the strike, said the witness and refuse and garbage had accumulated. Toward the latter part of the strike a little work had been done, but not very much, he said.

City's Stipulations

Prior to dismissing the police force, said the mayor, the city council made a move with reference to the remainder of the civic employees. A resolution, he said, was put through the council asking the employees to return by a certain date. Before re-employment it was stipulated they would have to sign an agreement, which the mayor summed up under three headings:

(1) To serve the city faithfully.

(2) Take part in no sympathetic strikes.

(3) Not to affiliate with outside body with particular reference to the Trades and Labor Council. Mayor Gray continued his evidence by speaking of the agreement prepared by the police commission and which the members of the force were asked to sign. This agreement was referred to, he said, by the strikers as "the slave pact." The agreement was introduced as evidence and Mr. Andrews read it to the jury. It contained clauses stating that the members of the police force would join no union and would not take part in favor or support of a general strike. At meetings of the strikers, he said, remarks were made regarding the "alleged pact" asking that none of the men sign it and stating that the strikers would do their best to prevent anyone signing such an agreement. On May 31 a new agreement reached between the adjustment board of the police and the police commissioners was presented. It was modified to allow the police to form a union among themselves without outside affiliation. The police refused to sign it and the police commission dismissed the force, the witness said.

He went on to describe the parade which he declared was held almost daily.

Mr. Andrews: "What were the general police conditions at this time?"

Intimidation Taking Place

Mayor Gray: "The city was fairly orderly. A great deal of intimidation was taking place and vast crowds were parading up and down the street. The city was more or less in a state of unrest and people were wondering what was going to happen next. We were sitting on a volcano. The intimidation was terrific and stories were brought to me daily from various parts of the city."

Mr. McMurray: "I object to this evidence going in. This is second hand information."

Mayor Gray: "I will give you some first hand information."

Mr. Andrews then spoke against the objection, saying that it showed the state of public opinion. Mr. Justice Melville ruled the evidence was admissible.

Mayor Gray continued by saying that most of the complaints regarding intimidation came from Weston, and from Elmwood.

Wife Got Intimidating Letters

"As I stepped out of my automobile I was approached personally and an attempt was made to intimidate me. My wife got letters till I was forced to open her mail. It was well I did so. I received intimidating letters which I would not like to read in this court. I will let your lordship look them over if you wish."

In answer to questions regarding the state of public opinion (on June 1, Mayor Gray stated there was a large amount of nervousness among the citizens. "People came in afraid of their lives. I had personal letters threatening my life," he said. "The peace of the city was only a thin veneer. We were not living under normal conditions in any shape or form whatever. We thought the police were under orders of the strike committee."

Mr. McMurray objected to the witness stating his views. Justice Melville ordered Mayor Gray to proceed.

Mayor Gray proceeded to give evidence regarding what was done to protect the lives of the citizens. Early in June, he said, the police commission decided that it was advisable to put on the special police. Consultations, witness said, were held daily between the civic officials and Gen. Ketchum, Commissioner Perry, H. N. W. M. P., Senator Robertson, Premier Norris and the attorney-general. He told of the arrangement made by the military to provide necessary protection which would be needed in case of trouble. The Mounted Police, he said, called all the men they could into the city. He next gave evidence regarding the issuing of proclamations to prevent parades being held.

The mayor stated that he issued the proclamation banning parades because of fear that a clash would occur between opposing factions, both of which had organized processions. He told of the dismissal of the police force and the recruiting of a body to take its place from the ranks of the returned men up to a strength of 1,400.

Mr. Andrews informed the witness that these men were referred to in the Western Labor News as "thugs" and asked if he had received any complaints. The mayor said he seen most of the special policemen and there was no justification for calling them "thugs" and gunmen.

The mayor then described the riot of June 10 at Portage and Main streets; told of endeavors of the specials to clear the streets; and said he had persuaded leaders to cancel a parade of 4,000 aliens and about 500 returned soldiers which had formed in Victoria Park.

A. J. Andrews read from the Strike

Huller in of June 12, a heading saying the police were driven from the streets and that rioting had ended in the complete rout of the police. He asked when, after June 10, the specials appeared again openly on the streets.

The mayor stated that it was not until June 21.

Referring to rioting of June 21 as the result of an attempt to parade despite the formal ban, the mayor said

that as a second proclamation and a conference with leaders of the proposed demonstration did not have the desired effect, he was compelled to call out the R.N.W.M.P. to disperse the crowd and the hostile attitude of the crowd left him no alternative but to read the Riot act and call out the militia. He had heard shots fired before the arrival of the R.N.W.M.P., he said.