

a man is arrested on regular charges. This was one of the charges on which I was arrested:

The jurors aforesaid do further present:

4. That J. S. Woodsworth, in or about the month of June, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and nineteen, at the city of Winnipeg, in the province of Manitoba, unlawfully and seditiously published seditious libels in the words and figures following:

"Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; to turn aside the need from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey and that they may rob the fatherless."

Isaiah (110:1-2)

And they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people; and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Isaiah (65:21-22)

That was sedition, according to the authorities at that time. I do not think I could give a better illustration of the positive hysteria which prevailed at that time. Do you think men could have a fair trial under those conditions? As far as the law is concerned I also call this to the attention of the leader of the opposition: My hon. friend from Winnipeg South Centre, who was engaged in the prosecution of these cases, assures me that if my case had actually come to trial he feels quite confident they could have convicted me for having published these two passages.

Let me read in the few moments that remain to me a few paragraphs from the second count of the indictment:

What is the present situation? The sixth week of the strike leaves neither side in control. Both the strike committee and the "citizens" committee are determined to hold out. Neither is by any means at the end of its resources. In the ranks there is little sign of weakening. The strike may be prolonged for weeks. In the meantime the business men claim that the city is being ruined—is ruined and the workers undoubtedly will face the winter with reserves sadly depleted.

The City Council, the provincial government or the federal government have adopted no constructive policy. They stood prepared only for repressive measures.

When finally it did seem that the provincial government might effect a settlement, the Dominion government upset everything by its outrageous arrest of the strike leaders.

In the meantime, the returned soldiers are becoming restless and threatening to take things into their own hands. They are tired of the policy of "do nothing"—"keep order", so consistently followed by the strike leaders.

And a little further on:

Mediation, by a body as well equipped as any that is likely to be found, has apparently failed. There is a dead-lock.

What will happen? How will it end? Is there any possible way out?

Members, both of the strikers' committee and the citizens' committee say: "We must fight to a finish. We cannot afford to yield. If it takes three months, we will see it through,"...

I could go on through the whole of that article, which was a conciliatory article written after consultation with some of the leading business men in Winnipeg. I suggested that a commission should be appointed, and that in the meantime the work of the city should go on. I proceed to quote:

The task of such a commission would not be an easy one. The strike has revealed how widely divergent are the views of the employers and "the workers". Then, what is the alternative? A wide bridge must be found or "It's a fight to a finish," and then what?

Let us reiterate there are very reasonable men in both camps.

I said that at a time that we were all liable to be arrested; I pleaded for mediation at a time when feeling was running high. That is on record and, in passing, I would note that it is curious that that very article should have been one of those said to be seditious. I have not read it all, but any hon. member is welcome to do so.

I have not very much more time to-night. I had not thought to go into this matter at all, but the issue has been forced by the leader of the opposition. I feel that he has been misinformed; he confesses that he has read official documents and he has read the newspapers, but I think I may claim to have been a little nearer the workers. Fundamentally, however, some of the same difficulties are in existence to-day as there were in 1919. Groups of men who occupy prominent positions in the community are accustomed to running things in their own way. I have called attention in this house to the fact that we have a very few people who, through interlocking directorates, control the whole situation. They do not brook any interference or opposition, and when outsiders begin to organize the workers or the farmers immediately they are up in arms. One of the leaders in the United States said only a few weeks ago, "If you wish to damage your opponent do not begin to argue against him but call him a bolshevist; that is the easiest way." That was done in 1919, and I hope the time will yet come when we may have a chance before some impartial tribunal to bring out all of the facts in connection with that struggle.

Now I come back to the postal workers. What are we going to do? I say that a great many of the citizens of Canada have found out in the last nine years how ill-founded were their fears and how one-sided were the sources of their information. I am not trying