

information. I should add that the militia came immediately to the assistance of the Mounted Police and the mob was dispersed in the course of half an hour or a little more. Since that time the city has been quiet; there has been no trouble since the dispersal of the mob.

Let me repeat that the first shots were fired by the paraders or those associated with them, and that Mounted Police fired only in self-defence. The information that we have is that the police acted with great coolness, great courage and great patience, as is characteristic of men of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. What is true of the police, is equally true of the militia. As a matter of fact, I believe that the majority of the police were returned men, as were large numbers of the militia who were called out. Up to 7.30 p.m. last evening some 80 arrests had been made by the police.

Every one must regret that life has been lost on this occasion. Every one must regret that serious casualties have been sustained, but I am sure that members of the House and the sane and thoughtful people of the country will agree that law and order in Canada must be maintained. The sooner all classes fully recognize that it is the intention of the Federal Government and of the provincial and various municipal governments in Canada to maintain law and order and to protect life and property, the more speedily we shall reach a common understanding in relation to all matters affecting the public interest.

Mr. CAHILL: It is reported in the Ottawa Citizen this morning that returned soldiers in favour of the strikers started the parade; that crowds joined and a clash ensued. Is there any truth in the report that the parade was led by returned soldiers?

Mr. ROWELL: As I have already intimated, the group that presented the request to the minister was composed largely of returned soldiers, who, however, constitute only a small section of the returned soldiers in Winnipeg, the great majority of whom are entirely out of sympathy with the action of this group in starting the trouble.

Mr. H. A. MACKIE (East Edmonton): Is the strike in Winnipeg being continued on a demand for centralized power for collective bargaining?

Hon. A. K. MACLEAN (Acting Minister of Labour): The demand for collective bargaining is still dominant, I would imagine, in the minds of the strikers; they are still

insisting upon it as one of the terms of settlement. The Minister of Labour, who is still in Winnipeg is in constant negotiation with representatives of employers and employees endeavouring to reach a settlement of the main issues which were the original cause of the strike.

Mr. M. CLARK (Red Deer): Can the minister give us any information as to how far it is true that three firms of employers are now prepared to concede what they at first refused?

Mr. ROWELL: My colleague has asked me to reply. I presume my hon. friend refers to the statement which was issued by the three employing firms on Monday last I think, as a result of a conference between them and representatives of the railway organizations. I am sorry I have not with me a copy of the statement, which has already appeared in the press. That statement recognized the principle of collective bargaining as defined in the statement. The representatives of the various railway organizations issued a statement endorsing and approving that definition of collective bargaining, and the railways themselves and Senator Robertson also approved that statement. It was a statement issued by the employers and approved by the Minister of Labour, the various railway employees' organizations, and the railways themselves, and it defined collective bargaining, as I understand, substantially in the same terms as it is now in use in the various railway organizations in dealing with the railways. As to how far that goes beyond what the employers were prepared to concede, I am not in a position to say.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Has a date been set for the trial of the strike leaders who were arrested the other day?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No date has yet been fixed.

Mr. PETER McGIBBON (Muskoka): Is it the intention of the Government to give these men a speedy trial? It would appear in the public interest to do so.

Mr. MEIGHEN (Acting Minister of Justice): The Government does not decide on questions of that sort. The matter of the administration of justice is, of course, provincial, and under the Act any one accused of an offence can elect within a certain period whether he will take a speedy trial or not, that is under a certain section of the Code. I am not sure whether that section applies to charges of seditious conspiracy, but even if it does not, this Government has no say