

Report of Vancouver Citizens' League

was solved, the only handicaps being a ten-cent instead of a six-cent fare and no transfers. The most flagrant defiance of public welfare emanating from the strike committee was an ultimatum to the effect that if the jitneys were not legislated off the streets, the telephone service would be tied up. The City Council declined to be stampeded and a partial strike of telephone operators ensued. Through the activities of the Citizens' League, however, a sufficient number of new operators was obtained to supplement the reduced staff which remained faithful, and an adequate service on this important public utility was maintained.

Another blow at a recognized democratic institution was the attempted imposition of a printers' censorship on the newspapers. For several days this theoretical censorship did not seriously embarrass the editors, but on June 4 the Daily Sun closed its shop because the printers declined to set a certain editorial denouncing the strike as a revolutionary move. A few days later the "Province" also suspended over a somewhat similar issue, but the "World" succeeded in being able to continue. Owing to the difficulties which beset the newspaper editors, the Citizens' League began on June 16th to publish a daily bulletin reviewing the strike situation and exposing the underlying motives of those who inspired it.

Riots In Winnipeg.

In the meantime the strike in Winnipeg was proceeding to a violent climax. On June 17th the police arrested ten men including five prominent leaders of the Winnipeg strike, four foreigners and a Vancouver man, the president of the One Big Union. At the same time a quantity of literature was seized in the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Hall. Among the documents seized were letters proving the receipt of Bolshevist funds for the promotion of the strike and clearly showing that certain of the strike leaders were endeavoring to overthrow the existing constitution of the labor bodies.

After several riots and near riots, an armed clash was precipitated on June 21st, when several thousand strikers held a parade in defiance to an official proclamation forbidding it. Shooting occurred, a man was killed and several were wounded. The Riot Act was read and the military commander of the district took charge of the situation.