

THE INDICATOR

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FIVE CENTS

Capitalist Press Sabotaging Winnipeg Defence--Reports of Evidence Are Suppressed

WE are indebted to the B. C. Federationist, a labor paper with a comparatively limited circulation for the following report of evidence submitted for the defence of R. B. Russell in the labor trial in Winnipeg. The capitalist press, true to form of course, now that the defence is putting its case forward, is sabotaging it by a conspiracy of silence when anything derogatory to the prosecution is brought to light.

(Special to The Federationist)

Winnipeg, Man.,
December 16, 1919

At the start of the Tuesday morning session, Mr. Bird notified the court that he had asked Mr. Andrews for the crown to produce in court a man by the name of H. Daskaluk, a secret service man of the R. N. W. M., who gave evidence in the preliminary trial and whose name was on the back of the indictment. Andrews stated that the crown did not call this man as they did not consider his evidence was relevant to the case and furthermore, they could not rely on him.

Demands Witness Be Produced.

Mr. Bird thereupon stated that this was the very reason why this man should be called; just as the crown stated, he could not be relied upon, and as he was a secret service man of the R. N. W. M. P., it would show that the whole evidence of the R. N. W. M. P. given at this trial was in the same category, and that he would move for an adjournment of the case until this man was produced. He then proceeded to state that he had letters to show that this man had been offered \$500 to give evidence, which he had refused to do. Just at this time the judge stopped Mr. Bird from going any further until he had ordered the jury to retire from the court.

Jury Retires.

When the jury had retired, Mr. Bird proceeded to state his case, and the judge asked Mr. Bird if it was his contention that the law compelled the crown to produce a witness. Mr. Cassidy then pointed out that it was, and cited from a law book, whereupon Mr. Bird moved that the crown be forced to produce this witness, as he had proof that he was in the city last week, that he had a letter from him stating that he had given false evidence, and refused to do it again; that he had been put in jail in Vancouver for refusing to come here and repeat his previous evidence; that he had been promised \$500 for his evidence; that he had letters from re-

putable civic officers at Vancouver and Winnipeg, that showed that this man had been offered money, that Col. Sterns of the R. N. W. M. P. was involved, and after a further discussion the judge ruled that Mr. Bird must bring in a prepared motion on this question, so that the court could deal with it, which was agreed to by the defense lawyers.

Startling Letters Are Produced

A bench warrant to bring Daskaluk into court was applied for and issued by Judge Metcalfe. The following are copies of letters filed in court by Mr. J. E. Bird:

"530 Cambie Street,
Vancouver, B. C.,
Nov. 4, 1919.

"G. B. Clarke, Esq.,
Secretary Social Service Committee,
Winnipeg, Man.

"Dear Sir,—

Re Daskaluk, 688 Linden Avenue,
Winnipeg, Man.

"This man, his wife and infant child three weeks old, Ukrainians, are destitute and a public charge in this city. He states that he was sent here by your provincial government, as his life was in danger in Winnipeg on account of evidence which he gave against Almazoff in the recent trials at Winnipeg. Formerly he had been a special agent of the R. N. W. M. P.

"I have wired Col. Sterns, O. C., R. N. W. M. P., who is said to have paid his transportation to this city. A former promise of \$500 and transportation to his own country was not carried out for the alleged pretext that Ukraina was now at war and this man could not enter his country. He states that he has only received \$150 of the \$500 promised him. I have read the evidence as contained in the newspapers which he gave, and there is absolutely nothing in any of his statements that would endanger his personal safety. I expect the R. N. W. M. P. to provide transportation through their local commanding officer for this man and his wife to return to your city, if his statements are correct.

"Will you be good enough to investigate his statements, especially with Col. Sterns, with Mr. Andrews, the prosecutor for the province, and his brother, who lives at 256 Austin Street?

"Thanking you in anticipation,

"Yours sincerely,

"(Sgd.) GEO. D. IRELAND,
"Relief Officer."

Was Promised \$500.

"November 13, 1919.

"George D. Ireland, Esq.,
530 Cambie Street,
Vancouver, B. C.

"Dear Sir,—

Re H. Daskaluk, 608 Linden Avenue

"Your letter of the 4th instant to hand, and owing to the writer being sick, reply was delayed.

"I called on Col. Sterns of the Royal North West Mounted Police, who told me that this man gave evidence for the crown and was promised \$500, and he states that as soon as the case is finished they will give him the balance. As your letter states, he has received \$150 and his transportation to Vancouver. Col. Sterns told me that he wired to the officer commanding the Royal North West Mounted Police in Vancouver to advance Mr. Daskaluk \$100. I also called to see Mr. Daskaluk's brother at 256 Austin Street, but was not able to see him as he was working on the railroad, and comes in but once a week, and owing to the big storm we have had in Manitoba all the trains are held up. We do not know when he will be in.

"I further found that Mr. H. Daskaluk was never a resident of the city, but of East Kildonan, Man.

"Trusting this will be satisfactory, I am, Yours truly,

"(Sgd.) B. ZEGLINSKI,
"Agent."

Behind the Bars.

"Vancouver, B. C.,
November 1.

"My Dearest Friend,—Am writing this to let you know that at 10 p.m. I will be behind the bars for not obeying the order of 'Rapett,' as you know all about the journey to Winnipeg, so I flatly refused to go, as I told them it's against my nature and my people. I also sent my wife to them, but they won't listen to her either. I was behind the bars all night last night until 8 a.m. today and I am supposed to go back to the cell at 10 p.m. so before I go there I thought to leave this message with the hotel clerk and if you come back to Vancouver please come over to 691 Cambie and you will hear more. Today at the court room I was told that they will deport me if I will not go to Winnipeg. I said all right. You know they only gave me one cup of tea without sugar in 24 hours. Rotten system and barbaric treatment they use for me. But, my brother, I have promised to myself to stay where I am. Even if they starve me to death. I once done wrong being forced, but not again.

"Yours for Socialism and better rights,

"(Sgd.) HARRY DASKALUK."

FOILED!!!

Our luck is out again. The end of the world did not come off. The "story" was only another creation of the "stunt" press.

Liberty Bond Campaign Time Extended to January 15

On Tuesday, word was received by the local defense committee from the Winnipeg committee, to the effect that the Liberty Bond campaign had been extended to January 15, owing to the difficulties in reaching outlying points, and in getting the returns in. The local committee has fallen in line, and the campaign will be carried on in B. C. until the 15th of January, 1920. So far there has been collected since the campaign started in B. C., the sum of \$14,000, and as there are \$20,000 worth of bonds still out there will be no difficulty in raising the full quota of \$20,000 in this province. In addition to the sums that have been received by the local committee, there has been a considerable amount of money sent direct to Winnipeg. This is due to the fact that circular letters were sent to some points in B. C. by the Winnipeg committee, and the total contributed by B. C. will be considerably augmented by these sums. In all the amount collected by the local committee from B. C. points, including the sale of bonds, and contributions before the bond campaign was start-

ed, will amount to over \$23,000. This is a creditable showing, but more will be needed before the trials are over, so there should be no let up in the campaign until the date for the closing of it. Everybody get in and boost. This is a workers' fight, and the least we can do is to pay for it. Do not forget that it costs money to unearth and expose the foul work of procurers and stool-pigeons who are being used for political purposes against the working class movement.

—Defense Committee.

LABOR DEFENCE FUND

Send all money and make all cheques payable to A. S. Wells, B. C. Federationist, Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C.

Collection agency for Alberta: A. Broatch, 1203 Eighth avenue east, Calgary, Alta.

Central Collection Agency: J. Law, Secretary, Defence Fund, Room 1,

Latest reports are that Judge Metcalfe has ruled against admittance of Daskaluk's testimony.