

FED. AND EDITOR SENT FOR TRIAL

Magistrate Sends Accused Up to Higher Court

The criminal charge against The B. C. Federationist and its editor, for publishing a pamphlet which it is alleged advocates the use of force, violence, terrorism or physical injury to person or property in order to bring about a governmental change, was resumed before Magistrate Shaw at the police court on Saturday morning, and the accused were formally committed to stand trial in the high court.

Thus were concluded the initial stages of the criminal prosecution at the police court extending over several weeks, and commencing with the preferring of the charges by the authorities, the carrying out of the different preliminary formalities at the police court, the hearing of evidence before the magistrate, the arrangements in the High Court for bail and the final committal.

His Worship, addressing Mr. A. S. Wells, the accused, stated the usual formula in such cases prior to commitment: "Having heard the evidence, do you wish to say anything in answer to the charge. You have nothing to hope for or fear from anything held out to you or by any confession of guilt, but whatever you say may be given in evidence against you upon your trial, notwithstanding such promise or threat."

Counsel for the accused, Mr. I. I. Rubinowitz, stated that the accused reserved his defence, and thereupon the committal became effective, making it necessary for the accused either to remain in custody pending the trial in the higher court, or to enter into bail bonds, together with his bondsmen to ensure his appearance to stand his trial, the latter course being followed.

The criminal proceedings having been launched, and having duly passed through the police court, the accused stands committed for trial at the next court of competent jurisdiction, and such trial must take place in due course either before a judge and jury at the assizes or before a county court judge as the accused will determine.

This ends the first chapter in a criminal prosecution which has provoked lively interest in Labor circles representing an important phase in the working class movement locally.