

## Page 7 - The 1923 Strike in Steel and the Miners' Sympathy Strike ISSUE : <u>Issue 22</u> Published by Ronald Caplan on 1979/6/1

The Royal Canadian Regiment enc'pment at'fl Gate try and artillerymen to hold off the at? tacks of the mobs who have been conducting raids on the steel plant since the steel? workers\* strike started, the officials of the company anticipate no further trouble. There is a general feeling of relief in the city this morning over the arrival of the troops (June 30)....(Strikers) were not in a fighting mood. They stood guietly and watched the soldiers on picket duty a- bout the entrance. Military pickets are distributed about all of the strategic points on the edges of the plant this morning....The force is made up of small drafts from the various units in Halifax, Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, Royal Canadian Regiment and Army Service Corps.... • Entered In Warlike Style The troops arrived shortly after four o'clock and they made their entrance into the city somewhat along the war-like lines adopted by the military during the recent strike of coal miners. Before the train an armoured gondola was pushed. The sides were piled high with sand bags and car bristled with machine guns. A light engine proceeded the troop train over the railway spur into the steel plant to make sure that no damage had been done to the track by the strikers. A force of constables pa? trolled the track all evening to prevent any happening of the kind but every pre? caution against damage to the train was nevertheless taken. Docks. Hon. James Murdock, federal Minister of Labour; It is the popular impression... that the Dominion government sent the troops to Sydney. Under the militia act, commanding officers of military districts are bound to furnish protection in areas where the local civil authorities call up? on them to do so. That is what happened in Sydney. The first troops were sent from Halifax in response to the order of the Sydney authorities before the federal gov? ernment knew anything about the matter, Tom Moore, President of the Trades and La? bour Congress of Canada; Military forces were rushed to the scene and upon the re? quisition of one man (Judge Finlayson of Sydney) and not on the request of the mu? nicipal authorities, who should be the best informed as to any possible danger existing or likely to exist against public safety. Prime Minister MacKenzie King; Perhaps I should say that some days ago I took steps to make it known to His Honour Judge Fin? layson, to the officer commanding the dis? trict and the Premier of Nova Scotia, that our government viewed with some concern the numbers of troops which had been re? guisitioned in aid of the civil power in Cape Breton, and made it guite clear that we were most anxious that the military forces should be withdrawn just as rapidly as circumstances would permit. Added to this (writes the Post) Mr. Mur- Normaway Handcrafts Gift Shop • Charlotte & Townsend Streets in Sydney Tartan Material from Scotland Cape Breton and Scottish Handmade Gifts and Souvenirs • Northeast Margaree on the Cabot Trail • and adjoining the Northeast Margaree shop. Museum of Cape Breton Heritage Ideal Ice Cream Co. Ltd. A Complete Line of Frozen Foods Ice Cream and Fountain Supplies 162 Prince Street Sydney