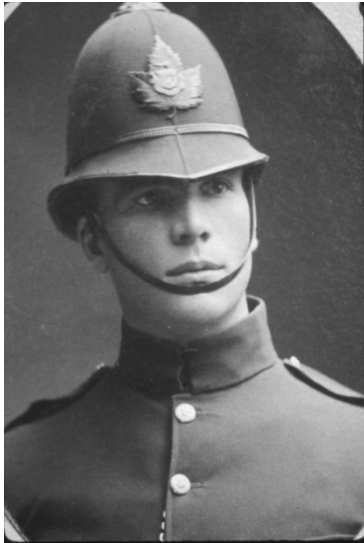

HENRY BERNARD EVERETT

Sergeant (1907-1919). Chief of Dauphin (1920-1926), Brandon (1926-1947)

*Written & researched by John Burchill
July 6, 2022. Winnipeg Police Museum*



Henry Everett was born in Greenwich, England, on February 24, 1885. He immigrated to Canada in 1902 at the age of 17.

On July 8, 1907, Henry joined the Winnipeg Police. He was promoted to Patrol Sergeant on May 1, 1914. He was one of 228 police officers dismissed on June 9/10, 1919, for refusing to sign an Oath of Loyalty during the 1919 General Strike.

While the majority of the police officers were taken back on strength after the strike ended on June 26, 1919, Henry was not.

In a letter to the Police Commission on June 26, 1919, Henry was one several officers singled out by Acting Chief Chris Newton that should not be taken back on strength for the “*good government and discipline of the Force*”.¹

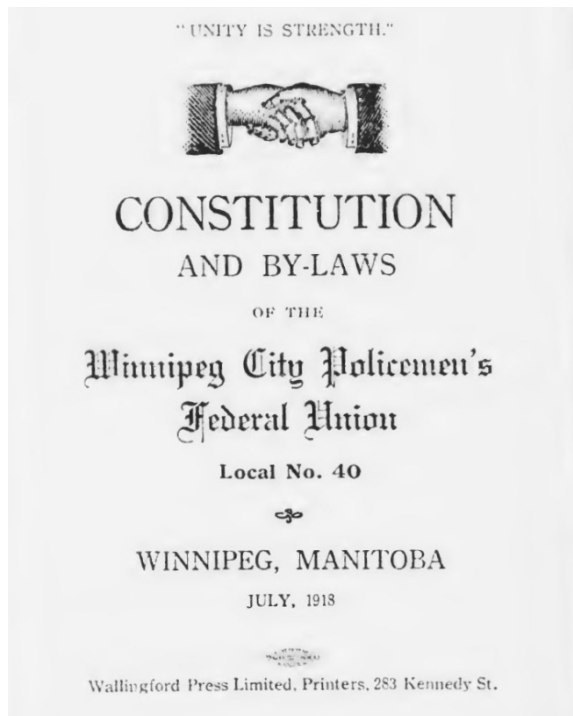
Henry’s offence against the good government and discipline of the Force? His involvement in the Winnipeg City Policemen’s Union.

Although the Winnipeg Police Commission passed a resolution on May 11, 1917, that “*no Union or Association allied with any other body whatsoever be permitted to be organized amongst members of the Police Department*”, a number of police officers began organizing their own union. In July 1918 the policeman’s union was sanctioned through the Department of Labour in Ottawa, as the Police Federal Union No. 40. By this time, about 90% of the police force belonged to the union. While it was a standalone union, they did have ties with the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council, an organization created through the joint membership of other major unions throughout the City.

On October 28, 1918, following a motion by Alderman John Queen and seconded by Alderman Abraham Heaps, City Council recommended to the Winnipeg Police Commission after a heated debate that they recognize the newly formed police union in a vote of 9 to 8. Alderman Fowler, who voted against the motion, stated the police could not have two masters and that “*Council will have a great deal of trouble with this policeman’s union if they accept it*”.²

¹ Others mentioned included Sgt. John Livingston, Clerk & Det. John Gray, Asst. Morality Officer George Lovatt, Acting Stn. Sgt. George Headon, and Det. Elmer Hudson.

² Alderman Queen and Heaps, who both went on to successful political careers as members of the Social Democratic Party, were arrested and charged with seditious conspiracy for supporting the Strike.



After a number of working conditions were agreed to in January 1919, Henry and several other members of the police union including Livingston and Hudson appeared before the Police Commission on April 16, 1919, with a proposed schedule of wages. Under a growing cloud of labour unrest, the Winnipeg Police Commission agreed to a new working agreement with members of the police force who were threatening a strike of their own over pay and working conditions on April 30, 1919.

Soon after this agreement, the City was faced with the beginnings of a General Strike. As tensions rose and conditions deteriorated, the Commission received a written notice from the Trades and Labour Council of a General Strike which included support from employees of the Winnipeg Police Force. This letter was also signed by John Gray as Secretary of the Police Union.

Although the Police Union had voted in favour of the strike, the Strike Committee established by the Trades and Labour Council requested the members of the police force remain on duty to enforce the law and maintain order. However, the Police Commission felt the police officers – being aligned with the Trades and Labour Council – could not have two masters and ordered Chief Constable MacPherson to interview every member of the police force and order them to both quit the union and sign an Oath of Loyalty. Those who refused faced immediate dismissal.

In the end, 228 members refused to sign the oath and were summarily dismissed while 23 members that did sign and remained employed. In response, the Commission authorized the hiring of special constables to patrol the streets and keep order. With the dismissal of almost the entire police force, the Commission then removed Chief MacPherson and reorganized the force under Deputy Chief Chris Newton who was made the Acting Chief.³



³ The background for this article on the police involvement in the 1919 Strike was adopted from Rod Hutter's article in the [Police Museum's 2019 Annual Report](#), pages 12-19.

After the strike, most of the members of the police force were permitted to rejoin and retain their original ranks under the condition they now sign the Oath of Loyalty. Acting Chief Newton also took advantage of the strike to submit a report to the Police Commission, recommending that a number of men not be rehired due to their conduct during the event. This list included all the officers who represented the Executive of the police union, and further included men who the acting chief did not want back for his own personal reasons.

Henry, for his involvement in the union, was not re-hired. However, he loved his job as a police officer. Like most of the other officers he just wanted better wages and working conditions. As he was unlikely to ever work in Winnipeg again (at least not under Chief Newton) he jumped at the opportunity when Dauphin advertised for a new Chief of Police in 1920.

Henry was hired and started as Dauphin's new Chief on May 5, 1920, bringing with him Constable James Toner, who had also been active with him in the police union and was not re-appointed by Acting Chief Newton. Henry remained Chief in Dauphin until April 3, 1926, when he left to join the Brandon Police Force as their Chief of Police.

In an ironic twist of fate Henry became the Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in 1933, replacing Chief Newton of Winnipeg. Henry was subsequently elected President of the Association in 1934-1935. Newton was forced to resign from the Winnipeg Police in 1934 as a result of an altercation he had with another motorist at the scene of a minor traffic accident.

Henry was involved in many aspects of community life in Brandon. He was one of the original members of the Elks Hockey Committee and active in the promotion of juvenile hockey in Brandon until ill health forced him to relinquish his activities. He was also a member of the Orange Lodge and Kiwanis Clubs in Brandon.⁴

After 40 years of policing in Manitoba, Chief Henry died in office on February 20, 1947. He was survived by his wife, Pembina (Nina), five sons and three daughters.



⁴ The Brandon Elks were a Canadian Junior A hockey team, playing in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League from 1938 to 1947. Team records for the Brandon Elks are kept as part of the Brandon Wheat Kings franchise. The Elks would win the 1939 Turnbull Cup as Manitoba Junior Hockey League champions. The biggest player to come out of the Elk's franchise was Glen Harmon of Holland, Manitoba, who would go on to play 9 years with the Montreal Canadiens and win two Stanley Cups.



Chief H.B. Everett. Courtesy Brandon Police Service

NOTE: Anyone wishing to recognize a police member they feel made sustained and substantial contributions to policing in Winnipeg and its surrounding municipalities during the past 150 years is asked to send me their name and (if known) a brief description of their accomplishments.