



MN Governor Johnson and 1907Strike

The impartial role played by the state government was the third major factor in preventing violence on the Mesabi. In response to requests for state troops to police the range. Governor Johnson himself visited Hibbing, Mountain Iron, Eveleth, and Virginia. He conferred with range politicians, police officials, and strike leaders, including Maki, McNair, and Petriella.¹⁹

In a speech in Eveleth the governor assured both sides of protection by the law, and this position he steadily upheld, favoring neither faction. When appeals for troops continued, Johnson sent representatives to the range with the following instructions: "I want you to go to the scene of the strike and let me know immediately the true situation. The militia will be held in the armory, and if you say troops are needed, they will entrain in fifteen minutes." **

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<http://www.mnopedia.org/sites/default/files/styles/xlarge/public/pf080306.jpg>

** <http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHHistoryMagazine/articles/40/v40i07p340-347.pdf>

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