

Mayor Gray of Winnipeg Hints at Early Settlement of General Strike

Twenty-Four Hours He Declares—No Change Evident Yet.

INTEREST CENTRES CHIEFLY ON THE RUNNING TRADES

Switchmen and Trainmen May Quit Tonight—Other Branches Are Considering.

WINNIPEG, June 13. — Mayor Charles F. Gray announced this afternoon that no new developments in the strike situation were available for publication. He added, however:

"I shall have big news for you in 24 hours."

It was intimated in city hall circles that the mayor's statement presages prospective settlement.

Interest today in the strike situation centres in a meeting which it is understood is taking place in camera between representatives of three of the "big four" of the running trades, namely, the engineers, firemen and trainmen and the city council, when the former are seeking to persuade the latter to reconsider the city's attitude in regard to the old police force, dismissed for refusing to take the pledge not to enter into any more sympathetic strikes.

May Walk Out Tonight

It was stated positively by members of the switchmen's union and trainmen's union at noon today that the switchmen and trainmen had definitely decided to join the general sympathetic strike tonight at six o'clock. Officials of the union concerned refused to confirm or deny the statement.

Otherwise there is no change in the general situation. The worst inconvenience under which citizens suffer is absence of street cars, and this has been emphasized during the last two days by torrential rains. Rusted ribbons of steel demonstrate the failure of the Winnipeg Electric Railway to re-open a service. The financial position of the company is such that it is doubtful whether it has either the means or the will to take decisive measures to resume service. Indeed, there is a good deal of street talk as to the city being compelled to take over itself the operation of the street car system.

Citizens with cars pick up as many pedestrians as they can and there is a limited jitney service at high prices, but most of the people walk to and from work and after a month of this it becomes decidedly tedious.

Senator Robertson Busy

WINNIPEG, June 13.—Hon. Gideon D. Robertson, minister of labor, shortly after his arrival here yesterday afternoon, went in conference with the provincial government, but declined to make any statement as to the subject discussed or the result of the meeting. Premier Norris also stated that he had nothing to say.

Mr. Robertson also conferred with members of the railroad brotherhoods' mediation board. On being informed that the efforts made to get the metal trades employers and their employees to agree upon a basis of settlement had failed, the minister expressed the hope that the members of the mediation board would remain in the city for some time. Mr. Robertson appeared to be hopeful of developments of a more favorable nature.

W. Pritchard, of Vancouver, arrived in the city yesterday, while Joseph Knight, of Edmonton, has been here for the past few days. It is believed they were summoned by the central strike committee.

It was announced last night by H. E. Barker, chairman of the railway brotherhoods' mediation committee, that the committee would continue to hold its sittings notwithstanding the statement yesterday that an apparent deadlock had been reached in the negotiations. Senator Robertson was in conference with the committee shortly after his arrival. After the conference with the minister of labor the mediation committee had talks with some of the managers of the contract shops, said Mr. Barker.

Several Arrests Made.

Several arrests were made yesterday, arising out of the disturbances on Tuesday. Last night Sam Steinberg, a German Jew, was taken to the police station, being held under suspicion of being concerned in Tuesday's affray. It is claimed by the police that when he was arrested a quantity of stones was found in his car.

Special service officers in the afternoon arrested Carl Bousse, a Russian Pole, who, it is stated, has been identified as having attempted to drag a mounted constable off his horse about the time Sergt. F. G. Coppins, V. C., was beaten up.

Captain Dunwoodie, in charge of the mounted squadron, yesterday afternoon got information of an undesirable alien, who is alleged to be implicated in the Coppins case.

Special Police Armed.

The Manitoba government took a forward step toward arrest and punishment of rioters. A reward of \$500 was offered for information leading to arrest and conviction of persons who assaulted Sergt. Coppins last Tuesday. One hundred dollars will be paid for conviction of any other person who threw missiles during the rioting. Owing to the riotous conditions prevailing during the last few days, the members of the special returned soldier police force were ordered armed and instructed to defend themselves and the law with whatever force may be necessary.

Union officials refused to comment on the telegram sent by R. B. Russell, one of the strike leaders, to western Canadian cities where strikes are in progress to the effect that there was "possibility of the railway brotherhoods striking soon." The report of the brotherhoods' mediation board with reference to their fruitless attempt to conciliate the differences between metal workers and the iron masters, is awaited with much interest.