

THE TOILER

G.N.W. OPERATORS FORCED TO STRIKE

The Company Used the Spy System to Get at the Doings of the Union.

McMICHEAL, THE UNION HATER

Will Not be Allowed to Triumph Over Honest Canadian Men and Women With His Americanisms—Fight for Freedom.

In connection with the G. N. W. strike which was called on Tuesday the International President, W. C. Long, furnishes some interesting matter as a leader-up to the present difficulty. Mr. Long's little resume of history reads as follows:

"It may not be generally known but it is nevertheless a fact that the Great North Western Telegraph Company is practically a Western Union adjunct, and the latter is trying every way in its power to control the telegraphic business of Canada. It is a well-known fact that traffic in the United States prior to the organization of the Postal Telegraph Company there.

"The policy of the Western Union has always been and is still to employ the cheapest kind of talent possible to handle the telegraphic business, depending on its legal department to fight the unfortunate customers who suffer such losses by the employment of such cads."

"As a matter of history the Great North Western Telegraph Company was formed during the latter part of 1881 or the early part of 1882, by the amalgamation of the Dominion and Montreal Telegraph Companies, and was leased to the Western Union on guaranteeing a dividend of \$8 per cent. per annum to the stockholders of the Dominion Telegraph Company and 6 per cent. per annum to the stockholders of the Montreal Telegraph Company.

"Mr. Erastus Wyman was elected president with headquarters at 183 Broadway, New York City, with the Western Union and Mr. H. P. Dwight as appointed general manager, with headquarters in Toronto.

"It is a matter of record that not long after the Western Union had succeeded in effecting the amalgamation it tried every possible way to evade the payment of the dividends it had guaranteed at the time, and it has done after long testing in the Dominion court and in its power to its members and those depending upon them."

He who works is entitled to fair dealing and we are inclined to take the side of the strikers in this little fight, and if they have any business to do with, no doubt, know just where to place it to protect the freedom of action desirable in this cause of ours.

BUSINESS MEN AGAINST CO.

We do not think that the business men of this city will support a company which resorts to the spy system in order to re-engage itself upon a few men and women who are seeking to better the conditions surrounding their business. The constitution of the union speaks of the aims of the organization as follows:

"To protect, maintain and advance the professional rights and welfare of our conditions of employment; to establish and uphold a fair and equitable rate of wages; to give all moral and material aid in its power to its members and those depending upon them."

McMICHEAL KNEW.

When the first move was made across the border to get the telegrams to line the Canadian capital, Mr. McMichael by Mr. Long that the object of this new union was primarily the elevation of the younger members of the fraternity to that high standard of proficiency the older telegraphers had obtained in years gone by. The weekly benefit system, club feature and health benefits this new union was endeavoring to establish in all the smaller localities already in vogue in the larger towns were also referred to.

Mr. McMichael knew the temperature due to so largely instrumental in turning the railroad operators' organization up to the high standard it had obtained, was also explained. Mr. McMichael agreed with Mr. Long at that time that such an organization would not only be of inestimable value to the young telegrapher but would also advance the personnel of the profession.

When this explanation of the aims and objects of the union, Mr. McMichael was apparently satisfied that the result would be a good thing, which, in the light of recent developments makes it very hard to understand his conduct.

WAGES PAID.

The company officials, in interviews with the press, have sought to convey the impression that operators were well paid, a statement which the men strongly deny.

The scale of wages given out by the officials in interviews are very misleading. While it is true that some of the mid-grade wire operators may receive from \$50 to \$100 per month in some portions of the country, the range given of salaries for commercial operators at from \$50 to \$75 per month is not at all correct.

The Great North Western Com-

pany pays from \$15 to \$25 per month, only one operator in the office receiving the latter amount. One other receives \$65, probably half a dozen more \$60, half a dozen more \$55, two or three \$50, two or three more \$45, five or six more receive \$40, half a dozen \$35, and the balance are scaled down from \$30 to \$15, the lady operators being in the latter scale, only one of them receiving \$50.

The five operators mentioned have received their dismissal notices, in order

to keep the fellows from taking a stand to have reinstated some of the poor paid ones have been promised an advance of \$5 per month if they would retain their position.

The operators in the Great North Western Telegraph Company's service are frequently ordered on for extra work, and the dismissed of three of the oldest and best operators in the service at Montreal unless, however, they are willing to withdraw from the union, and instead of doing this they sought and obtained positions elsewhere. This has been the result wherever the Western Union has tried to force its employees to leave the union.

At St. Louis, Chicago, New York, New Orleans and Shreveport, La., all the dismissed Western Union operators were secured better positions with the Postal, on railroads and in brokers' offices.

President W. C. Long, however,

in his single fight with the Western Union has so precipitated that he does not take the credit of it to himself, but that it is owing to the sentiments of unionism that has permeated the craft during the past ten years and the friendly attitude of the Postal Telegraph Company in the States and the C. P. R. here in Canada, under the able management of Vice-President and General Manager Walter and General Manager of Telegraphs Kent and their able assistants respectively in the United States and Canada.

Emboldened by his apparent success at Montreal, Mr. McMichael came to Toronto, and some two weeks ago arranged for the spy, whose identity will be revealed to the Toronto public later, to secrete himself in a stairway overlooking the meeting place of the members of the Great North Western employees attending the meeting two weeks ago last Saturday evening. Probably the only reason no more have not received their notices of dismissal is owing to the fact that the spy could not see those on the same side of the hall next to his hiding place, and for the further reason that so many of the employees of the Great North Western belong to the union, and would seriously cripple the business of the company to dismiss them all at once. The spy, will, no doubt, get their dismissal notices as soon as enough operators are secured by the company to take the places of all the union people in its employ, as it is understood that Chief Operator McNamee's desk is still loaded with more of this kind of bushwhacking ammunition.

The public, however, need have no fear that the great serving organ of the body, and when it is fully developed, the blood becomes purified, causing many unpleasant symptoms, such as: dull heavy languor, loss of appetite, constipation, rheumatism, pain in back or shoulders, sore stomach, constipation, dryness of the skin, rheumatism, etc. These symptoms are not dealt with immediately, they become aggravated, as the disease progresses, so as to render the cure permanent.

Health and vigor depend upon the quality and quantity of the blood—HUMANITARIAN

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