

# Saskatchewan Labor's Realm

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THE SASKATCHEWAN LABOR'S REALM

A Weekly Labor and Social Reform Newspaper.

Justice, Truth, Fraternity. "Labor Omnia Vincit."

HUGH PEAT

EDITOR.

## Street Railway Blocks City's Progress

### Winnipeg General Power Co. Returns Thanks for Favors Received from the City

The following dispatch from Winnipeg makes interesting reading, especially in the face of the action taken by the civic authorities at the time of the street car strike in Winnipeg about a year ago.

It will be remembered that the Winnipeg street railway employees, after repeated attempts to get a fair deal at the hands of the street railway company decided to go on strike. The strike being called the men all quit work and met every day in the Trades Hall, to devise ways and means of conducting the strike in a peaceful and lawful manner, but public opinion ran so high and the railway company were so universally disliked that it was utterly impossible for the street railway men to check or even curb the attacks made on the company.

The usual capitalistic tactics of detective co-operation was of course called into requisition. As usual, this agency immediately appeared on the scene with its usual quota of thugs, scabs and trouble makers. As is always the case these scabs were the cause of, and took the initiative in, most demonstrations, and cases were recorded where they went so far as to strike old and defenceless persons with pick axe handles—a weapon thugs are seldom without. These tactics proving of little or no avail the Railway Company then called on their next in order of very submissive servants, the then Winnipeg council. Tom Sharpe immediately got busy, called out the infantry, read the riot act and did all in his power to blackguard the men and pay high tributes to the company, spending public money for their welfare. Now, after the city doing all in its power to help the company defeat the men in a strike for a fair deal, this philanthropic company shows its deep appreciation of services rendered by seizing the very first opportunity to block the city in one of its most important enterprises. One wonders if the present Mayor, Mr. Ashdown, will call out the infantry and read the Riot Act to protect the City's workmen against the employees of the Electric Railway Co.

Winnipeg, Nov. 27.—The civic employees engaged preparing the trestles for the bridge over the Pinawa channel, at Lac du Bonnet, have had a pitched battle with the employees of the Winnipeg General Power company, better known as the Winnipeg Electric Railway company, and as a consequence the board of control, after consultation with Mr. Cecil B. Smith, and T. A. Hunt, city solicitor, have decided to call upon the provincial government to protect its employees from illegal assaults on its men.

The whole trouble seems to have arisen owing to the fact that the Winnipeg General Power company is endeavoring at every point to block the progress of the city in developing its power at Point du Bois, and will leave no stone unturned to gain its end.

#### Acting Legally

The city of Winnipeg, in the ordinary course, acting on a permit from the Dominion government, has surveyed a line for its tramway, from Lac du Bonnet to Point du Bois, a distance of 23 miles, crossing the Winnipeg river about a mile and a half past Lac du Bonnet. The tramway has also to cross the

Pinawa channel, and preparations were made to build a bridge across the channel at a point where the channel narrows, and so avoid the expense of a long stretch bridge.

#### Blocked Progress

The Winnipeg General Power company, seeing the city's object, made a line for the same point, claiming that the company had powers from the Dominion government to widen the channel 50 feet, and that the city, by building a wooden trestle at the point in question was interfering with the rights of the company.

Acting apparently on the instructions of some responsible officer of the company, the employees of the Winnipeg General Power company proceeded to erect a derrick in the way of the city's men, with the result that the city's employees seized the derrick, dismantled it and threw it in a near-by ditch. A pitched battle then ensued and each side fought to gain its own ends without any satisfactory results. It was finally agreed that a truce should be patched up for three days and the whole question referred to the responsible authorities in the city. This truce was arranged on Friday and ran out last night, so it is expected hostilities will be resumed today.

#### No Legal Right

The city of Winnipeg decided to wire Ottawa to find out the exact status of both parties and this morning a wire was received from the city's legal representatives at Ottawa. Messrs. Bethune and Chrysler, stating that on enquiry at the government offices they had learned that no permit had been granted to the Winnipeg Power Company to widen the Pinawa channel. In view of this the city decided to call upon the local government to protect their men in doing what they had a legal right to do.

The city has also been informed that the government has reserved for two years a half mile on each side of the entire line of the proposed tramway.

The city will proceed with its tramway notwithstanding the attempt of the Winnipeg General Power Company to retard the progress of the power development."

## Canadian Labor Party

A cordial invitation is extended to all the working men of the city to attend the Canadian Labor Party Meeting on Sunday afternoon next, December 1st, at 3 p.m. The Rev. E. A. Henry has signified his intention to be present and will address the meeting. The hall has seating accommodation for over 100 persons, is comfortably heated and the Executive Committee are desirous of having the hall crowded to the doors. It is the intention of the Committee to endeavor to secure speakers for the Sunday afternoon meetings throughout the winter. The membership roll is increasing week by week and the liveliest interest is being taken in social and economic matters by the wage earners, who are beginning to realize at last that the only true solution to the industrial problem lies in the amalgamating of labor's forces with the specific object of compelling whatsoever legislation is necessary for the welfare of the workers. Apart from the great number of trade unionists in the city who have affiliated with the independent party, there are many others who are in no way connected with organized labor who would be made welcome at the meetings of the C.L.P. Some people are under the im-

pression that the new party is a trade-unionist movement, and that its membership is limited to those who carry a card. Such, however, is not the case. The Canadian Labor Party was instituted by the Trades Congress of Canada, not in the interests solely of the trades unionists, but for the purpose and with the object of building a labor party owing allegiance to neither of the big political parties already in existence, and whose bigness seems to have been limited to the amount of littleness they should be compelled to do for the great majority of the electors—the working men. The two "great" political parties have improved the position of the working men in the years' gone by—how much? You are a working man and ought to know. You are no doubt in a position to appreciate the efficacy of the workman's compensation act in your own particular province. You will be interested in free text books in public schools if you have children to educate and will appreciate the efforts that are made to have them provided by those "great" parties already referred to. You are no doubt in favor of the Government's policy of the contract system on public works. There are a dozen other little items that you are interested in that so nearly affect your welfare and which those "great" parties have not had the time to attend to in the past. If such is the case accept the invitation from the people's party, step in the ranks of the forward movement, and instead of waiting for your old party to cease looking after the interests of its members and devoting a little time to your welfare get in line with the workers and do it for yourself. Again we repeat that the workers form the great majority of the electorate, they hold the balance of power in their own hands, and are yet unable to secure the legislation necessary for their protection as workers. For all of which no one is to blame but—the Workers!

## Samuel Gompers--- Labor Leader

Samuel Gompers, the Grand Old Man of the labor movement in America has been re-elected President of the American Federation of Labor for another year. It is a significant fact, and one rounding to the sterling worth of the man, that in other years he has had to fight against the bitter opposition of the socialists, whilst this year, owing to the general respect and admiration in which he is held and which he has commanded by his great personality and through the admirable work that he has achieved for labor in the past, the socialists have withdrawn from their old position and have supported him to retain the proud honor of being President of the Federation.

Writing in the "New York Evening Post" E.G.L. says:—

"The labor leader is not a familiar figure on the streets of Washington, but he is frequently at the Capitol during sessions of Congress. He watches labor legislation closely, and frequently appears before a committee to argue for or against bills affecting the interest of working men. He is a convincing and able talker. His delivery has a sort of ponderous solemnity that is not ineffective. He can say common place things in an impressive way.

Over on G street, opposite the big pension office, is a four-story brown-stone building that is a bee hive of activity. It was erected by the Local Typographical Union, and is now the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor. Apparently there are half a score of typewriters in each room. Each typewriting machine is being pounded fur-

iously by serious-looking young women. The clatter of the keyboards can be heard all over the place.

Here Mr. Gompers has his office, and here he contrives to keep himself uncommonly busy. The door leading into his private rooms bears the terse legend "don't Enter!" A most efficient young woman secretary enforces this command.

Here is what a labor man says Mr. Gompers once told him about his personal fortune:

"We were having a little informal talk, and wordly riches were mentioned. Bribery in high and low places soon drifted into the discussion. Mr. Gompers said that nobody tried to bribe him. Then he remarked:

"I believe there is less bribery than is commonly supposed. On the whole, men are pretty honest. That is my experience. If they are not, they are quickly found out and sent to the rear."

"Are you rich, Mr. Gompers?"

"The president of the Federation seemed surprised; then amused.

"Do you own any real estate?"

"Not a shovelful of sand."

"Any stock, bonds, or securities—anything from which you may clip coupons?"

"Not a share of anything. I have not an investment. I have no estate; and when I die all I will leave my family will be \$550, my Cigarmakers' Union insurance. I have no other property. I have no ambition to have any. I do not care for money. I believe I can get the few things that I want—if not as president of the American Federation, at my job or some other work. I am poor. I am proud to say that I am poor."

Mr. Gompers told this friend that "such a thing as a servant in the Gompers' household never had been known." This was last December.

With such leaders of the radical element of the labor unions as Debs and Moyer and Haywood, the Federation president is constantly at war. He has no patience with Socialism. Here is his summing up of Socialism and the Socialists:

"I want to tell you Socialists that I have studied your philosophy; read your works upon economics, and not the meanest of them; studied your standard works, both in English and German. I have not only read but studied them. I have heard your orators and watched the work of your movement the world over. I have kept close watch upon your doctrines for thirty years; have been closely associated with many of you and know how you think and what you propose.

"I know, too, what you have up your sleeve. And I want to say that I am entirely at variance with your philosophy. I declare it to you, I am not only at variance with your doctrines, but with your philosophy. Economically, you are unsound; socially, you are wrong; industrially you are an impossibility."

One great thing to Mr. Gompers' credit as a labor leader is his opposition to the violent methods which seem to be inseparably connected with the picketing system of organized labor. He has denounced violence, lawlessness, and thuggery many times. He said to the Chicago Federation: "We can not win by violence or thuggery. Brutality only grows. If we had to win by that method it would be better to lose. Violence and thuggery only hurt our movement."

#### SCOTLAND WOOLEN MILLS

We have received a communication from the manager of the Regina Branch of the Scotland Woolen Mills, to the effect that all connection with the Winnipeg office is now ended, and that in future all goods sold at the Regina office will bear the Union Label. Unionists take notice.