

the camps room and lodging at the Salvation Army headquarters for one week. Later a conference was held between Attorney General Sloan, Mr. Griffiths, provincial administrator, and a representative of military district number eleven, at which it was made clear that the only means for keeping men in the camps was the guarantee that they could not obtain relief elsewhere. It was pointed out that if relief were given, as had already been done in the case of several hundred who had congregated in Vancouver from the camps, it would almost be impossible to persuade men that by leaving the camps they would not obtain relief in Vancouver.

Your Minister of Labour gave written assurance that relief would not be provided to those who had left the camps for cause or of their own accord, and stated that the relief which had been given would be automatically cancelled from the fifteenth instant and not renewed.

We think it most undesirable that agitators should destroy the value of the camps which have been provided for homeless single men, and we seek your earnest cooperation to the end that the agitators may be dealt with by the attorney general's department as provided by law. In this regard please see my telegram of twenty-fifth February last to Attorney General Sloan. I trust you realize that but for the assistance given to the few who left the camps, the large numbers would not have congregated in Vancouver.

No investigation is necessary for the press and citizens have been invited to visit these camps ever since they have been established, and of one hundred and thirty applications which have been made for reinstatement in the camps, one hundred and twenty-three have been reinstated, which indicates the sympathetic disposition of the officers in charge to the problem with which they are dealing. The so-called black list included the names of those who have been told to leave the camps because their further presence involved the destruction of the very camps which have been established for the benefit of those who are the victims of propaganda.

R. B. Bennett.

That covers the situation at the end of December last, but to bring it up to date let me further add that the most recent report as of the seventeenth of January last is that there are at present no troubles in Vancouver. The men decided to go back into the camps and continue their organizing there. The revised figures are:

(a) Total discharged for cause or walked out during disturbances (covering month of December)	748
(b) Total applications for reinstatement, which includes men previously discharged	867
(c) Applications approved	628
Applications not approved	86
Applications held for further enquiries	153
Total	<u>867</u>

Every application for reinstatement is being carefully reviewed, and wherever there is reasonable probability of proper behaviour in future the man is accepted.

The records show conclusively that the officers in charge of this work have carried out their duties in a most sympathetic manner.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REPRESENTATIONS OF EMPLOYEES RESPECTING EQUIPMENT CONSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. G. SANDERSON (South Perth): Mr. Speaker, I desire to ask a question of the Minister of Railways. I have under my hand four communications, two letters and two telegrams, from different associations of the Canadian National Railway employees in the city of Stratford, and with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I propose to read the shortest of the telegrams which will take only a moment. It is addressed to me at the House of Commons, and reads as follows:

Press reports indicate that new equipment for Canadian National Railways may be constructed by private companies. Canadian National Railways employees protest such contracts as equipment can be advantageously constructed in Canadian National repair shops. Respectfully request that you use your influence for this work to be done by the Canadian National Railways in their own shops, whereby former employees may be returned to work. A reply would be appreciated.

J. Thomas.

My question to the minister is this: Is he prepared to-day to make any statement to the house and to the country in connection with this matter, or would he prefer to make it to-morrow or within the next two or three days.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Mr. Speaker, the same telegram I assume came to me among many others. There were many telegrams and letters from various sections of the country that were based upon a statement in the press which was not an official statement of any kind, and my reply to all the telegrams and letters has been that the matter has not been decided upon by the government; that there have been proposals put to the government for equipment by railway car equipment companies, but that no decision of any kind has been arrived at.