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FURTHER EVIDENCE IN ESTES CASE

PRESIDENT THOMSON THE CHIEF WITNESS

Minute Book of the Local Steamshipmen's Union Has Been Produced in Court.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The examination of A. Bulley, president of the local steamship union, was completed yesterday afternoon in the preliminary hearing of the charge against George Estes of inciting a strike on the steamer Charmer. There can be no doubt that he was glad when it was finished. Though a witness for the prosecution he proved a very adverse one. For over a day and a half he was in the box. The evidence of Special Officer Bullick, of the C. P. R., and of Capt. Troup was also heard.

On opening in the afternoon the examination of President Bulley was continued by E. V. Bodwell.

The witness could not remember whether he asked Mr. Estes to speak or not at the private meeting. He was not sure whether he himself presided at the meeting or not. He did not remember whether he gave any information to a reporter as to what took place at the meeting. The C. P. R. fleet was practically called out on Friday. Captain Troup made an agreement as to the 12 hours' notice. He gave the copy of the agreement which was entered into to the night editor of the Colonist on Saturday night before he left. He did not know when it appeared.

In giving a summary of the meeting which was held, witness said an outline of the stand taken by Capt. Troup was given by either himself or Mr. Livingston. It was stated that a promise had been given by the witness to Captain Troup that 12 hours' notice would be given by the union before coming out. It was left to the members to decide what should be done.

Mr. Estes at the meeting spoke. He advised the "boys" not to go on strike if they could avoid it. Witness inferred from Mr. Estes that he was decidedly against going on strike. He believed that Mr. Estes outlined the C. P. R. strike in a speech. To the best of his recollection it was described as having been taken owing to the belligerent attitude of the C. P. R. to the union. He did not remember if Estes said that the crew of the Princess May would not have gone back had it not been for his advice. There was a resolution introduced that they would go out on strike at once. Witness called attention to the fact that he had given his word of honor that they would give 12 hours' notice. Mr. Estes, according to his opinion, urged against going out on strike. He advised them to "consider" the step they were taking, doing so when he spoke a second time. The third time he advised them to weigh well before going out on strike. A fourth time he spoke against it.

"Do you want us to believe that this man spoke four times, and only told them to consider well what they were doing?" asked Mr. Bodwell.

His idea was that Mr. Estes was trying to persuade the men not to go out on strike.

Referring to the public meeting in the Eagles' hall, witness thought Mr. Estes took a different stand to what he did at the other.

A resolution was passed at the meeting on the evening of the 16th, in which it was declared that members should quit work on steamers carrying "scab" freight. He did not think that the carrying of coal for the Empress was specified. He did not vote owing to his position. He went to the Charmer and communicated to the crew this decision, but did not speak to the engineers about leaving. It was about 1 o'clock when he went down. He met Capt. Troup as he came off. He never thought of the question of the boat being tied up through it not being possible to get other men in their places. He was concerned with getting his clothes off the boat. He did not go down to the Danube on the Friday before Captain Troup told him that there would be trouble if they interfered with any of the vessels carrying mail. Witness had made a statement that they could not interfere with a railway train which carried mail.

Upon a copy of the Railway Employees' Journal being produced, witness said he had never seen a copy of such a paper before. He did not know the paper existed. He was positive of that. At this positive attitude Mr. Bodwell express great surprise, saying he would have expected an answer that he was not sure."

He could not remember Mr. Estes after that meeting saying anything to the effect that now they had them they would tie up every boat they had.

Mr. Estes did not tell him of a telegram which he sent to Winnipeg stating that all the steamship men would be called out. He was in no way under Mr. Estes's orders now that the strike was on.

Special Officer Bullick, being called, was examined by Mr. McNeil. He said he was a special constable of the C. P. R. He had been such since about the beginning of the strike. He came over on Monday, the 16th, on the Princess Louise. While witness was in the smoking room Estes, the two Thompsons and Bulley came in. They came from down below. These four sat for two or three hours talking. One of the Thompsons did not stay there all the time. Mr. Estes told of strikes in California, telling how they were conducted and the success. Thompson and Bulley spoke about holding a meeting that evening for tying up the C. P. N. boats. He did not know which of the men spoke of the holding of the meeting. They would cease talking when he turned to look at them. He was satisfied they knew who he was.

He did not hear Mr. Estes say anything with regard to the remark of tying up the boats. Mr. Estes also spoke to Col. Prior on the boat after this. That conversation lasted perhaps 20 minutes. He heard Mr. Estes telling of the C. P. R. using "scabs" on the Empress at Vancouver.

Cross-examined by Chas. Wilson, witness said he knew that Mr. Estes spoke of one strike on the Southern Pacific which was a successful one. It was spoken of generally. He was quite sure Mr. Estes said it was in California.

Capt. Troup, manager of the C. P. N. Co., testified that the men of the Charmer were called out about midnight on the 16th. When he went down he found the Charmer and other vessels in the harbor practically free of crews. He had a few words with Mr. Bulley. He got a crew together and got out late. The Danube, which carries mail, had to be cancelled.

Mr. Wilson objected to the Danube being brought into this matter.

Mr. Bodwell said he was going to amend the information so as to include that vessel.

Capt. Troup said that since that time he had found men in the stoke hole of the Charmer whom he had to have removed.

Mr. Wilson objected that this was irrelavent.

His Honor held that it might be a proper question.

Capt. Troup said that this was on Tuesday evening. He was on the ladder above. He saw a man trying to get in the way of the stokers. He refused to go, and finally he had to have him removed. He thought the man was a striker.

Objection being taken, Mr. Bodwell contended that this had connection with the strike.

Capt. Troup did not know the man's name. He would know him again if he saw him.

Mr. Wilson held that there was no proof that Mr. Estes was in any way connected with this man's act.

Mr. Bodwell said that it was a circumstance dealing with this. He was proving that these vessels were being delayed from sailing. Even the circulation of the remarks of Mr. Estes had its effect.

Capt. Troup said they had had trouble since in keeping men on the boats. They were negotiating with men who expressed a willingness to stay who were non-union men, but under pressure were practically afraid to work on their vessels. This showed itself in its most aggravated form from Tuesday to Friday of last week.

To the Court he said the Charmer sailed at 2.32, instead of at 1 o'clock, her scheduled time, on the morning in question. She never leaves later than two unless something was radically wrong. She would have sailed at 2 o'clock that morning.

The court then adjourned until 10.30 this morning.

In the police court this morning the Estes case was continued. Chas. Wilson, K. C., was absent. His place has been taken by Geo. Powell.

Upon opening the information was amended so as to include the inviting of the crew of the Danube as an extra count. There was little evidence of importance brought forth. President Thomson, of the B. C. S. S. union was the principal witness.

Sheff Thompson, secretary of the local branch B. C. S. S. union, was the first witness called. He had been secretary since its formation. He went to Vancouver on Sunday week. He had received telegrams and letters from Vancouver before this. He attended a meeting on Monday evening after his arrival in this city. The meeting was called for the purpose of allowing him to give a report. He asked Mr. Estes to attend the meeting. The minutes were in the meeting room.

Mr. Bodwell proposed that these minutes should be produced.

Mr. Robertson contended that these minutes could have no bearing upon the case. Mr. Estes was not a member of that lodge, and was there by courtesy. He could not object to anything done in that meeting. The written statement of what took place at that meeting could not be used against Mr. Estes.

The magistrate held that upon the minutes being produced it might be found that Mr. Estes had taken some important part in the meeting.

Mr. Robertson held that Mr. Estes having no status in the meeting he could not be reasonably supposed to reply to anything said or any action which took place.

Mr. Bodwell explained that Mr. Estes was directing the operations of the U. B. R. E. while on strike. The intention was to extend this to Victoria and other parts of British Columbia. It was but reasonable that Mr. Estes came to Victoria for the purpose of extending the strike to Victoria. A meeting was called for that purpose, and Mr. Estes spoke at it three or four times. He did not know that the minutes could be put in. They could be used, however, to refesh the memory of the witness. They might be admissable also as evidence. The court was not bound by the rules of order of that society. At such a meeting when a criminal action was to be decided upon Mr. Estes had a responsible position. If he kept silent he acquiesced in the strike. If he spoke they wanted to find what he said.

The magistrate held that the prosecution were entitled to the production of these, and they were accordingly sent for.

In the meantime C. H. Thomson was called. He said he was president of the B. C. S. S. having two branches, one in Vancouver and one in Victoria. He met Mr. Estes at Vancouver four or five months ago, when the latter was giving a series of lectures. He met him about two weeks ago again. He met him at an executive meeting of the strikers' union. Four men represented the U. B. R. E., the Longshoremen, the Steamships' Union and the Teamsters' Union. He was not sure that all these were on strike the first time he met Mr. Estes. When he met Mr. Estes the latter was there as president of the U. B. R. E., which started the strike.

"What was the reason of your union striking?" "Because we could not continue to work without handling 'scab' freight." The men who handled it were non-union men, and hence the Longshoremen's Union could not handle it as union men.

Before the meeting of the executive of the striking unions to which he referred, the two unions to which he belonged—the Steamships' Union and the Longshoremen—had already taken their position. They had decided not to handle "scab" freight.

The tug Czar was tied up at Vancouver and afterwards released by witness's permit. Mr. Estes took no part in that. There was no meeting. He conversed with Clarence Marpole outside Labor hall. The captain of the Czar asked him for a permit to go out. He asked him what he was going for. The captain said for the barge Transfer. Witness refused to allow it on account of its going for coal for the C. P. R. The captain afterwards said that Clarence Marpole would give an agreement that it would not carry coal for the C. P. R. Finally an agreement was entered into with Mr. Marpole that the Transfer would carry only coal for domestic purposes. The tug was then allowed to go. They were to prevent the carrying of coal to the C. P. R, if possible.

"Was there a general meeting of the committee of strikers in which a general plan of campaign was outlined?" "The plan developed as things turned up."

The papers more or less gave the outline of the campaign. The plan was to tie up all vessels carrying coal to Vancouver. The intention was to carry the influence as far as they could. It would include C. P. R. vessels among others sailing from Victoria. It would include the Charmer and Danube.

The Vancouver branch passed an order on March 1st prohibiting its members from handling "scab" freight. This was communicated to Victoria. Mr. Bulley was sent for to see witness in order that information might be given first hand. They went to the headquarters in Labor hall, Vancouver. Mr. Estes is not the president of that. The U. B. R. E. was the first parties to the strike. Mr. Estes was president of that organization. Mr. Bulley wanted information for his branch. He got that and went to his boat. The information he got was as to the position of the strike. He did not know that Mr. Estes and Mr. Bulley had a talk. He believed they had, however. Witness was getting the information for Mr. Bulley. He did not know what Mr. Estes and Mr. Bulley were speaking about.

He left Vancouver about the 10th and returned about the 15th.

Witness was present at a meeting on Monday, when the general situation of the strike was discussed. He did not remember of the question of an extension of the strike to Victoria being discussed. That had already been decided. He decided to come to Victoria on Sunday night as a result of the vote of the headquarters' division. Mr. Estes was not a member, nor was he present. He did not think that Mr. Estes's name cropped up. He did not know what steps were taken to have Mr. Estes visit Victoria. Witness told Mr. Estes he was going to Victoria on orders of the headquarters. Mr. Estes might have inferred why he was coming to Victoria.

Witness was called on the wharf by Capt. McClusky. He was never on the freight deck. He told Mr. Estes on the way over what Capt. McClusky said, that there was no "scab" freight.

He attended a meeting in the Eagles' hall about 10 o'clock on that evening. Mr. Estes went to the meeting. He spoke at the meeting.

"What was the character of it?" "I'm not aware it had character, Mr. Bodwell."

"I would have thought it would have had considerable character," returned Mr. Bodwell.

Mr. Bodwell read from the Colonist the following:

"The strikers claim that the steamer Pilot and City of Nanaimo will also be affected by the strike, for President Thomson, of the Vancouver branch, said last night that as Mr. Dunsmuir had publicly stated that he would not recognize a foreign union, and that three firemen and three deck hands had been reported to have been discharged from the steamer Joan for being affiliated with an outside union, the crew of the Pilot and City of Nanaimo would be called out, and he said he would also endeavor by another course to have the crew of the Lorne called out to-day. As he put it, 'I've got a way to catch them.'"

Mr. Bodwell asked if that was correct. The witness replied, "Oh that fellow was away off." It was not a correct report.

Some pretty hot speeches were delivered in the meeting as to the way the men were treated. He believed the resolution was carried unanimously. In explanation of the 12 hours' notice, he said that a verbal notice was all they asked from Capt. Troup, as he always stood by it. They did not blame Capt. Troup for that.

He also attended the public meeting the evening after. The object was to lay their side before the public. Their side was the right one. He argued that the reports given in the papers of the meeting were substantially correct.

Before adjourning at ten minutes to one the question arose of what was to be done with the minute book of the Steamships' Union which had been given into the hands of Mr. Powell. Mr. Bodwell asked that the book be given him for examination. Mr. Powell objected. The minutes of the meeting alluded to occupied only about six hours, so that he was not ready to allow the prosecution to go on a "fishing expedition" through the book.

The matter was left over until this afternoon, to be settled upon resuming. The court then adjourned until 2.30 this afternoon.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Yesterday afternoon in the police court Sheff Thompson's examination was concluded. At the opening Mr. Bodwell asked for the production of the minute book. He asked for the minutes from the 1st to the 17th of March.

Mr. Powell contended that only the minutes for the days, 16th, 17th and 18th could be allowed by them.

Mr. Bodwell said he was agreeable to forego claiming any right to inspect these if the counsel for the defence would assure him there was nothing relating to the strike in it.

This was agreed to and Sheff Thompson again entered the witness box. Telegraph messages were produced. In answer to Mr. Bodwell witness said he did not keep copies of the replies sent to these.

A special meeting was held on Friday, the 13th. He went to Vancouver with Mr. Bulley in consequence of the telegram relating to the Princess May. He went to a regular meeting in Vancouver on Sunday evening. Mr. Estes was not present. It was a mass meeting in Labor hall. He was at an informal meeting on Monday at which Mr. Estes was present. He was not interested in it as it did not affect their trouble. He knew of no message being sent as to calling a meeting. Just outside the outer wharf on the way in he decided it would be best to call a meeting. Mr. Estes on the way over talked about the strike in Vancouver. He said that the teamsters and the steamship men were out, which witness already knew. He said that one branch of his union was out. He did not mention anything about the local branch. They were doing all they could to prevent a strike until they were forced to do so. The company had compelled them to carry unfair freight handled by men who worked to the detriment of his union.

As soon as he gave his report at the meeting a motion was put that they go out on strike. One man opposed it, either Andy or Arthur Slater. The subject was thoroughly discussed, so that they should make no mistake in deciding that the agreement was being broken.

After going on the Princess Louise at Vancouver he went down among the freight men. He was shown "scab" freight by Mr. Allen. Several members at the meeting spoke against the motion. Mr. Bulley was, like himself, opposed to taking "rash" action, that was coming out on strike that night. After the meeting he went to notify the men. He went to the Danube. The motion of the meeting was "that the Danube be held till 12 o'clock." It was decided also to go on strike. The men came off from the Danube, the Charmer and the Louise. The resolution included all boats which had been forced to handle "scab" freight. Mr. Estes was there by invitation. He was asked to speak. He was not sure whether it was before the resolution was passed or not. The men since, in consequence of the resolution, have stayed off the boats. Men who have since been intending to go to work have been warned of what they were doing. He did not know that men patrolled the wharf for the purpose of keeping men from joining the boats. Capt. Troup ordered witness off the wharf. He would be surprised to learn that members of his union had been on the wharf attempting to interfere with men joining the boats.

An adjournment was taken until this morning.

In the Estes case this morning the president and the secretary of the Vancouver board of trade were examined, and also the chairman of the Vancouver branch of the U. B. R. E. The chief interest centred in the different aspects in which the members of the board of trade and the member of the U. B. R. E. viewed Mr. Estes. The officers of the board of trade recognized in Mr. Estes the "head" of the striking executive. Mr. Brook, of the U. B. R. E., restricted Mr. Estes's power to little or nothing, admitting him only in an advisory sense.

The first witness this morning was H. Lockyer, of Vancouver, manager of the Hudson Bay Company store there, and president of the Vancouver board of trade. The board of trade arbitration committee met Mr. Estes and others to endeavor to bring about a settlement.

Mr. Bodwell asked for a statement of what took place at the meetings with relation to the position which Mr. Estes seemed to be regarded by the strikers. Objection was taken to this, and the examination of the witness proceeded by questions.

Mr. Bodwell asked what part did Mr. Estes take in the meeting?" "He took the leading part."

Most of the negotiations were conducted with the board of trade committee, and Mr. Estes, for the striking contingent. Mr. Estes stated the case for the strikers. The interview lasted from about 2 to 5, and much was said on both sides.

Giving the "gist" of Mr. Estes's remarks, the witness said the employees were striking not because of the want of higher wages or shorter hours, but for the "right to exist." Witness understood this to mean recognition of the union.

"Did he say anything about the steps which were being taken and the objects to be attained and the way it was to be accomplished?" "I gathered from the interview of Friday afternoon that it was to be a fight to a finish, and everything which they could do to accomplish their object would be done. In opening the case Mr. Estes read, he thought, from telegrams and letters giving the reasonable support which might be expected from the outside. He could not recall names, but he thought it was expected help would come from the coal miners."

"In what way was that to be directed to the C. P. R. strike?" "Mr. Estes, quoting from a telegram to some organization, referred to getting help from some miners." It was with a view of shutting off the coal supply to the C. P. R.

"Did he say anything about the extension of the strike?"

He believed Mr. Estes said it might be extended to all union men in British Columbia, and might extend to the Western States. Other members of the executive also spoke, justifying the course they had taken. On some occasions the others were more exacting than Mr. Estes would appear to be. They seemed, however, to follow his lead. When Mr. Estes raised the point that certain things to which they objected were immaterial the others invariably dropped there.

Mr. Estes was not present at a meeting held in the evening when the railroad company met the striking employees. The railroad company objected to meeting only their own employees. At that conference points would arise and the representatives of the striking unions would go to another room and consult with Mr. Estes.

A hot meeting at which all the striking unions were represented was held on Saturday. A document was drawn up. Mr. Buscombe represented the conciliation committee of the board of trade; Mr. Estes represented the strikers. At that meeting, while the document was under discussion, the point was raised that the railroad company would not stand for a recognition of the union. Some said that they might just as well declare it all off and fight to a finish. He could not remember that Mr. Estes spoke to that effect.

A conference was held with the railroad company on Saturday night, a report was made to the striking executive, when it was stated that there was a good prospect of settlement. On one occasion he thought Mr. Estes referred to using "personal magnetism." This was, he thought, at the Saturday meeting. Mr. Estes said that "he had had to use every ounce of animal magnetism in order to get the members of the committee to view the matter in the way they did."

Witness drew from the remarks of Mr. Estes at the opening conference that the general effect was to tie up the C. P. R. and the western country.

Wm. Skene, of Vancouver, secretary of the board of trade, who acted as secretary of the arbitration committee of this board, was the next witness. The first meeting was called to meet the strikers and get in a general way what was asked for by them. They had not been accepted to arbitrate by the C. P. R. Mr. Estes went into the history of the U. B. R. E. Mr. Estes said that they were in communication with the Western Federation of Miners. They were not affiliated, but would work together. He showed telegrams and said that he was in communication with the coal unions, so that if necessary the coal miners of Vancouver Island would be called out. If necessary the coal miners of Washington would also be called out. Some one said, he was not sure it was Mr. Estes, that the shipping at Vancouver would be tied up.

"Who did your committee regard as the person to deal with?"

A document was drawn up as a result. Mr. Estes was actively engaged in this. No one of the striking executive but he had anything to do with it. That document was submitted to the C. P. R. officials.

Another document, embracing modifications in the original one, was drawn up as a consequence.

Mr. Estes seemed to be the head man of the strikers' committee at these meetings. They seemed to look to him as such. The others, on occasions, gave way to Mr. Estes. At the late meeting on Saturday night, when the decument had been submitted to Montreal, when they were expressing congratulations at the success of the matter, Mr. Estes referred to having had to use magnetism carrying it to the success it had attained.

Robert Brook, Vancouver, chief clerk in the telegraph office, was then examined. He was a member of the United Brotherhood and was chairman of the division. He was one of the body which went out on strike. He met Mr. Estes last November. There was no talk of a strike at that time. Mr. Estes came back to Vancouver on the evening of the 27th of February, after the strike was declared.

"Was he sent for?"

As a result of a visit of some of their members to the East they were suspicious that the C. P. R. was trying to disrupt them. All parties were to be advised and the headquarters were accordingly advised. They hoped that an amicable settlement might be arranged by him. Mr. Estes regretted that the matter had come to a head. He was disappointed. He had expected it to have gone otherwise. Mr. Estes was very averse to strikes taking place, like a great many more of them. He did not remember of Mr. Estes having made a statement that his regrets for a strike was that they were not sufficiently organized to carry it out successfully.

The strike was evolved from day to day. It was in charge of an executive. Mr. Estes attended the meetings rarely. He had private matters to attend to. He did not remember Mr. Estes being at a meeting when the questions of coal supply came up. He remembered meeting Clarence Marpole at the Commercial hotel. He thought Mr. Marpole wanted to get some coal for Vancouver. Mr. Estes wrote out a certificate for Mr. Thomson to be signed by Mr. Marpole that the coal was going to the city of Vancouver.

"What did Mr. Thomson want this certificate for?"

After considerable trouble the answer was brought forth that Mr. Thomson wanted to know where the coal was going. He supposed Mr. Estes was asked to do the writing because he wrote a better hand than Mr. Thomson. Witness did not remember taking any part in the conversation. He did not stipulate that the coal should go to the C. P. R. He did not remember making a suggestion that a seal should be affixed to the certificate. Mr. Marpole signed the agreement, stating that the coal was to be used by the people of Vancouver.

He did not remember Mr. Estes saying to Mr. Thomson after the document was signed that "now you can fix the matter up."

"Why was it necessary to see Mr. Estes in connection with that matter?" "When things are tied up you generally go to try and get them untied."

Witness said that the head of the department in charge of the steamships would have the power to let the vessels go.

To get a reply to the question as to why Mr. Marpole had to give a certificate that the coal would be used by the citizens of Vancouver occupied a considerable time. Witness would not give a definite answer.

In trying to couple Mr. Estes with advising the strikers' executive, witness interjected that "Mr. Estes was not running this show."

Mr. Estes's opinion was sometimes asked for. They followed his advice when they thought necessary, and they "turned it down" when they thought fit." Mr. Estes was not a local man and did not understand local conditions as well as others.

The court then adjourned until 2.30 this afternoon.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The proceedings in the Estes case in the police court yesterday afternoon were very short. Only Capt. Christiansen, of the tug Czar, was examined.

The captain said he was in charge of the Transfer running from Vancouver to Ladysmith. The vessel was tied up. He endeavored to have it released by applying to Mr. Thomson. He was taken to the Commercial hotel to meet Mr. Estes. An agreement was made that the crew would resume work upon it being agreed that no coal would be carried for the C. P. R. He went to the Commercial hotel because Mr. Thomson could not give a satisfactory answer until he saw Mr. Estes. He saw Mr. Brook at the Commercial hotel. The barge was allowed to go upon condition that no coal was to be taken into Vancouver for the C. P. R.

An adjournment was then taken until 10.30 this morning. Mr. Bodwell said he was in doubt as to what further witnesses would be called. He would not be in a position to say so until the arrival of the mail from Vancouver in the evening. They might be able to dispense with calling some they had intended to have examined.

This morning's proceedings in the Estes hearing were productive of very little interest. There was a marked diminution in the attendance which, in most instances throughout this cause celebre, has been exceptionally large. Probably the fact that curious habitues of the court were not compelled to-day to ascend the woodpile in the corner to command an unobstructed view of everything worth seeing may be taken as an indication that the public are becoming surfeited. There is little doubt, however, that, guaranteed red-hot argument between counsel, a witness with just enough Hibernian in him to reel out spontaneous witticisms, the spectators' accommodation in the court room would be taxed to its utmost capacity.

Two scribes from the Terminal City, the storm centre of the big strike, were examined this morning. They were S. Robb, of the Vancouver World, and W. F. Findley, of the Province, and it is whispered that they are only the vanguard of members of the Terminal City fraternity who will pass under the scrutiny of the court, the lawyers and spectators in grand procession. The first of the twain to be called was Mr. Findley, of the Province. Under examination by Mr. McNeill he stated that he knew Mr. Estes, having made his acquaintance since the strike began. He had interviewed the defendant on several occasions—on March 7th and 11th. The first interview was by telephone.

During this conversation Mr. Estes, in reply to questions, had said that negotiations were broken off and that a telegram would in all probability be sent to Calgary and Winnipeg calling out the men there. He had further stated that the U. B. R. E. would continue the strike to the end, and if necessary tie up all the shipping of Burrard inlet.

The report of this interview was then read and the witness described it as a correct reproduction of what was said. He also interviewed Mr. Estes on the following Wednesday, March 11th. In that conversation Mr. Estes, who had just returned from a meeting of the executive of the U. B. R. E., gave witness to understand that it had been decided to call out the crew of the Charmer at Victoria. He knew Mr. Estes's signature, and had seen him write it several times.

Mr. McNeill produced a document and asked the witness if he identified the signature on it as that of Mr. Estes. Mr. Findley, after examination, said he had no doubt in his own mind that it was the handwriting of Mr. Estes but would not swear that it was, unless he had seen the signature written. Mr. Estes wrote a hand that could be easily copied.

On the prosecution desiring to put in the document as evidence, considerable argument ensued, Mr. Powell contending that the signature had not been proved and insufficient basis was afforded on which to prove other signatures by comparison. Until it was definitely shown to the satisfaction of the court that the signature was Mr. Estes's the document should not be allowed.

Finally Mr. Findley was re-called for cross-examination. He said he had seen Mr. Estes affix his signature to reviews of the strike situation which he had given to the press. On one occasion he had seen the defendant actually write his name. He had no doubt that the signature on the document was that of Mr. Estes.

Mr. Powell further claimed that this evidence was not sufficient to permit of the document being admitted for purposes of comparison.

Mr. Bodwell called another scribe to give evidence on this point. Samuel Robb, of the Vancouver World, positively identified the signature on the decument as that of the defendant. To Mr. Powell he said he was prepared to swear solemnly that it was.

The much-debated document was then duly submitted as evidence.

Previous to the examination of these witnesses D. A. Upper, of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company, was called and after reading the company's rules governing the production of telegrams in court made way for Augustin Ferrari, a counter clerk in the Great Northwestern office in Vancouver. The last witness identified a telegram produced as one received by him for transmission. The dispatch, which was rendered as evidence, was one addressed by Geo. Estes to E. B. Smith, of Winnipeg, and asked that the Montreal Star's report that the strikers had returned to work be denied. The telegram also stated that all the steamshipmen of Vancouver were out. This message was dispatched on the morning of March 16th.

The proceedings were adjourned until this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

A PRETTY WEDDING.

Marriage of Mr. Arthur H. A. Bird and Miss Ruby M. G. Pemberton Wednesday Evening.

On Wednesday at 24 Henry street, the residence of the bride's father, in the presence of a number of friends, a very pretty wedding took place, when Rev. Dr. Campbell celebrated the marriage of Mr. Arthur Henry Ashmore Bird and Miss Ruby Marguerite Grant Pemberton. The bridesmaid was Miss Margaret Thompson MacQuarrie, and the bridegroom was supported by his brother, Mr. Edward Joseph Bird. The bride was in Swiss silk, and the bridesmaid in white organdie. The bride carried a bouquet of white carnations, and the bridesmaid that of pink carnations.

The marriage was solemnized under a beautiful hymeneal bell. The house was artistically decorated with flowers. The bride's popularity was seen in the many beautiful and useful presents. After the congratulations of the company had been extended to the happy couple, supper was served. Mr. and Mrs. Bird will make their home in Victoria, to which Mr. Bird has just returned from England, where he had been visiting his father and mother.

Rev. T. W. Glover, of New Zealand, who intends delivering a lecture on temperance in this city shortly, is a guest at the Dominion hotel.

DRAMATIC CANTATA AT THE VICTORIA

"QUEEN ESTHER" GIVEN IN EXCELLENT STYLE

All of the Performers Acquitted Themselves Creditably—A Large Attendance—Repeated To-night.

Wednesday's performance of the dramatic cantata, "Queen Esther," was a great success from every point of view. The theatre was well filled by an appreciative audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the performance from beginning to end. The chorus singing was exceptionally good, and the action pleasing. The various drills and marches were performed with the precision of trained soldiers. Perhaps the most pleasing was the shepherdess and tambourine drill, the latter evoking tremendous applause.

The principals in their various roles did full justice. Mrs. Burnett made an ideal Queen Esther, her calm, dignified impersonation of the beautiful Queen being very much appreciated. Her acting was faultless throughout. Especially was this the case in the scene where Haman is denounced as the adversary and enemy of the King. Indeed this scene is the climax of the whole story, and brought out in no uncertain manner the histrionic ability of Mrs. Burnett, Queen Esther, and J. G. Brown as King. The latter in virile and tragic tones scathingly rebukes Haman for his base ingratitude, and asks what fate should be fitting for his vile acts. He is answered by the captain of the guard, who replies that the gallows stands waiting built by Haman's hands.

Herbert Kent, who impersonated Haman, and who is no stranger to the stage, won fresh laurels by his splendid acting and singing last night, and like the others was at his best in the scene where his own denunciation takes place. Mrs. Currie, who assumed the role of Zeresh, Haman's wife, is an actress of merit, and scored a triumph in this same scene, her singing of "Do I Wake or Am I Dreaming?" being beautifully rendered. Miss Scowcroft made an excellent prophetess and Mordecai's sister, her grace and fine contralto voice completely captivating the audience. Gideon Hicks had not much to do, but his task was done well, his splendid bass voice being heard to fine advantage in the solo of the lord high chamberlain, "Honor and Arms," from "Samson." This solo is after introduced in this work. Mr. Hicks's singing in the duet with Miss Scowcroft, "Thou Wilt Keep Him In Perfect Peace," was one of the gems of the evening. The part of Mordecai, taken by H. J. Cave, is a difficult one to sustain, but Victorians had an opportunity last night of seeing a splendid interpretation of this great character. Mr. Cave's acting was at once natural and forceful, and his singing all that could be desired. His best effort was when he implored the Queen to go and plead with the King for her people.

To sum up, a better presentation of this work is hardly possible for amateurs, but for a few hesitating leads of the choruses, which were due to nervousness, which will have disappeared by tonight. The performance reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. A. H. Newton, in the short time at his disposal, has done wonders. It is impossible, lack of space makes it impossible, to enumerate all the good work done, and to mention all that took part, but the work of the scribe, Harbouah, and herald, taken by Messrs. Kinnaird, Redman and Fraser, deserves mention, as does also A. Petch, who took the part of the beggar. The trainbearers, Miss Ethel Brown and Miss Amieta Meston, were as pretty as pictures, and Ida, Haman's child, represented by little Miss Foote, was quite smart. The cupbearers were Masters Willie and Arthur Creech.

Mrs. Lewis Hall presided at the piano, and was assisted by Jesse Longfield, violin, and A. Longfield, 'cello, all of them doing splendid service throughout.

To-night the performance will be repeated. Already a large number of seats have been taken, and no doubt the theatre will be crowded to the door. The performance begins at 8.15 p.m., not at 8.30, as is usually the case at the Victoria theatre. This is on account of the great length of the play.

—Beaumont Boggs is making every endeavor to bring about the organization of a cadet corps at the High school within a few weeks at the outside. The roll has been signed by 30 students of the school. Col. Holmes has promised to accompany Mr. Boggs to the school in order to stimulate interest in the movement. A regulation just issued provides that the cadet corps shall each be furnished with two of the most modern type of Lee-Enfield rifles for target practice. This, of course, will be in addition to the regulation Snider-Enfield carbine, which is provided each member of the corps.

Mrs. Scholefield has returned from Vancouver, where she has been visiting her daughter.

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