

would not have got any agreement, but they would have been whipped and whipped to a finish. (Applause.)

Br. Blain.—Allow me to ask you a question. I just want to ask you one question and I am sure you will answer it honestly. Has any one man that was out on strike been reinstated to his former position in respect to everything, including his pension?

Mr. Murdock.—So far as I know to-day there are no pensions in effect on the Grand Trunk Railway to-day. The fact is the men that went out on strike did not resume their pension right, so far as I know, and if you will bear with me I will read a letter dealing with that. Here is a letter to Mr. Haughton Lennox, who, I understand, criticized this same situation in this city on the 21st day of August. It is under date of February 20th in answer to a letter that Mr. Lennox wrote to me touching on this question, and this will be my answer to Mr. Blain: "Your letter of February 7th, with which was enclosed three questions relative to the settlement of the G.T.R. strike, has only just reached me. Hence the delay in my reply.

I will answer your questions in order as given:

(a) Was the settlement intended and understood to put an end to all then existing disputes and difficulties?

Yes, positively hoped for and understood.

(b) Was it understood that the men would be put back in their positions they held previously to the strike?

Yes. Without reservation it was expected that the undertaking Mr. Hays gave to the Ministers of the Crown on August the 2nd as to its intended application of paragraph one of the agreement made on July 31st contemplated that all men who had gone on strike, who had not been guilty of overt acts, would be returned to their former positions without loss of seniority standing and so forth.

(c) Was it understood that the men would be reinstated, or were they only to be taken back as new men?

C is answered by the reply given to B.

I will be glad to know that yourself and other eminent and respected members of the Dominion Parliament are taking such a commendable interest in the welfare of the G.T.R. employes who have not been returned to service, or who have been returned to service, or who, having been returned to service, have not been conceded their former positions and runs.

The questions concerning pension rights to employees who had been on strike, and who were by the settlement to be returned to service was not even considered as a factor in determining the basis of settlement. Representatives of labor and laboring men generally recognize the fact that pension schemes, provident fund arrangements and relief associations inaugurated, fostered and maintained by the railroad companies and large employers of labor without the employees' co-operative sanction for the formation of those concerns are usually found to be nothing more or less than a pre-arranged and contemplated outlet or investment on the part of the employer to test the loyalty of the men to themselves, as individuals, and to each other in the event of just such a trying time as preceded the strike of July 18th last. Organizations of labor have not considered it as far as its legitimacy is concerned or offered to make representations to railroad companies or railroad officials as to the basis on which pension allowances should be inaugurated and maintained, and in the case of the G.T.R. strike settlement the question was not given serious consideration by the employees." (Applause.)