

Mr. N. W. ROWELL: I have just intimated that I wrote that letter with the full authority and co-operation of the Minister of Militia and Defence in advising that the Federal Government, through the Military and through the Mounted Police, would co-operate with the provincial and municipal authorities in maintaining law and order. Any action, of course, would have to be taken under the provisions of the law which defines the conditions under which the militia may co-operate.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Whether the Government is willing or not.

Mr. ROWELL: Quite so. The militia could be called out at the request of the municipal authorities; but this was simply to indicate the attitude of the Government in reference to these matters.

I understand that on Friday evening last a mass meeting of strikers, in which there were some five hundred or more returned soldiers, decided that they would on Saturday parade the streets of Winnipeg, notwithstanding the proclamation of the mayor that no parades should be permitted. They sent word to the Minister of Labour (Hon. G. D. Robertson) that they intended to meet in Victoria Park at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, and that they would parade from there to the Royal Alexandria Hotel, where the minister was staying, and that the minister would there address them, on pain of violence if he refused. The Minister of Labour, desiring to avoid any possibility of a conflict with returned soldiers, or any possibility of a violation of the mayor's proclamation, sent word to the strikers, through the solicitor for the strike committee, that he himself would go to Victoria Park on Saturday at 2.30, and there address the strikers. That, however, apparently was not satisfactory to them, and the committee requested a meeting on Saturday morning which was duly held, and at which the Minister of Labour, Commissioner Perry of the Mounted Police, and Mr. Andrews, representing the Department of Justice, were present. The committee insisted that the parade would go on unless the strike were settled before 2 o'clock; the street railways, which had been operating for several days, were stopped, and the minister and others should address them, on Saturday afternoon at the Industrial Bureau, of which they would take possession. The mayor intimated that under no conditions would the proclamation against parades be withdrawn; that it must be strictly observed, and that he would not discontinue the street car service. The

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Minister of Labour intimated that it would not be possible to secure a settlement of the strike within the time limited, namely, 2 o'clock that afternoon; but he promised if the mayor's proclamation was respected and the parade cancelled that he would endeavour to secure for them the Industrial Bureau, in which to hold their meeting; and said that he would be prepared to address them there. Mr. Andrews left the conference for the purpose of securing the Industrial Bureau for the committee, and succeeded in doing so; but before he got back the trouble had commenced. The strikers—at least a group of them—insisted that the parade should go on. The mayor, with the approval of the Attorney General and in his presence, went to the headquarters of the Mounted Police and asked their co-operation in preserving law and order. That was the joint request of the mayor of the city, representing the municipal authority, and the Attorney General of the province, representing the provincial authority.

Sir SAM HUGHES: It was done in legal form?

Mr. N. W. ROWELL: It was done in proper form, yes. The Mounted Police were thereupon called out, and, as has already been stated in the press, moved down Main street, endeavouring to disperse the crowd. There was evidence of violence almost at once—so much so that the mayor read the Riot Act and then proceeded to militia headquarters and asked that the militia be called out. As I say, there were acts of violence; a street car which was passing down the track was seriously broken up; bricks, stones, and other missiles were thrown at the Mounted Police, and shots were fired from the mob. As a result, there were several casualties, and the condition was such that the officer in command of the police felt it absolutely necessary, as a matter of self-defence, that the police should fire. This they did, with the result that there were a number of casualties. The latest report is that the total number of casualties was thirty-four, of which sixteen were in the Mounted Police; that would make eighteen casualties in the mob. I am glad to say that the casualties among the police, though at first some were considered serious, have proved not to be so serious. All the police are out of the hospital now with the exception of one, who was more seriously injured than the others. Of the men in the crowd who suffered casualties, one was killed and one or two were probably seriously injured; as to the condition of the others, we have no specific