

found that everyone had said "We will go out in protest", they got together at the city hall and took the ground that they must maintain the essential services. They therefore asked the milk drivers to go back to their work and keep the milk wagons going. Somebody suggested that it might be thought the drivers were leaving the strike, and so it was arranged to put a card on the wagon saying, "By permission of the strike committee". The next day the business men's organization took two lines of attack. They said: "You see the strike is weakening; the men are going back". It should be said that a number of these business men had agreed to this arrangement made in the city hall; it is regrettable that they had not the honour to stand by their agreement, and Mr. Alfred Andrews and others associated with him on the citizens' committee said, "Don't you see these strikers are weakening?" And they had in another column of their paper the announcement, "We cannot even get milk without the permission of the workers. Don't you see we are in the midst of a revolution?" They worked on the excited nerves of the people, because there was mass psychology then as well as in the war. The result was that the general public were stampeded and the workers were indignant at what they conceived to be a lack of honour on the part of the business men. Consequently they said "Well, if you refuse to carry out your obligations, if you misrepresent us, we will refuse to give you milk to-morrow." I think it was a mistaken method—absolutely—although the big milk companies have often failed to give milk for one reason or another, and we have had to go without. But in my judgment it was a mistaken thing to do. Then a milk service was organized by the citizens themselves. That is the milk incident and it is fairly representative of a number of things that took place then. I do not like to go into these details, but we have had the facts repeatedly so misrepresented that it seems to be absolutely essential that something of this kind should be done.

Mr. KAISER: You are the only source of truth.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No; but I am, I hope, one source of truth. I would say to the hon. gentleman who has interrupted me that what I am saying to-night I am saying because I believe it to be true, and because I think it is in the interests of the country that some of these matters should be straightened out.

It was said that the labour people in their labour hall had a soviet to control the city.

I will admit frankly that they had a tremendous power in their hands because the workers themselves, the builders, the milk drivers, the painters and machinists all said, "We are willing to have you direct our efforts." The citizens committee, which was practically an enlargement of the board of trade, said, "You have a soviet up there, you are controlling the life of this city." The real situation was this; if there was by any stretch of the imagination a soviet in the labour temple, there was also a soviet down in the board of trade rooms. Almost for the first time in the history of my own city the authority of the board of trade soviet was challenged. That meant trouble. The leader of the opposition told us to-day that he received telegrams from the city of Calgary. Naturally, one might believe that meant from the municipality, but when I asked the leader of the opposition he admitted frankly they were from the board of trade. In his judgment, the board of trade is practically the city of Calgary, and it was that very attitude that created the greater part of the difficulties in Winnipeg. The great majority of the people had looked to the board of trade to give a lead, and the board of trade had got the idea that they ran the city—as in fact to a very large extent they did. The board of trade consisted of bankers, representatives from the railways and representatives from the big industries and representative business men. This was the very same type of organization the labour people were trying to create; a soviet, if you will. The business men had their soviet, if you want to use that word.

Mr. STEVENS: Were not these bankers and so forth organized as citizens to sustain and uphold constitutional government in the city of Winnipeg?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: They considered that they were organized to uphold constitutional government in the city of Winnipeg, but the constituted government which they wished to uphold was a government which allowed a few ironmasters to deny the right of the men to organize. That is what it meant in practice, a frustration of the workers ideals and the preventing them having their own representatives in parliament. The newspapers were influenced to a very large extent, and the workers had no opportunity of getting their case before the public through that medium.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Did not the workers want constitutional government?