

To which Estes replied :

That is right ; no freight or baggage handled by teamsters here.

He also wired Stanley :

Will go to Calgary personally soon. Stand firm ; will report daily.

Horsted at Nelson wired Estes to know if any arrangement had been made towards immediate settlement ; also as to whether there was any possibility of him or other speakers being there shortly in order to hold a mass meeting. Estes replied on the 10th of March, that no immediate settlement was in sight, but that the provincial government had proposed arbitration, and that the Premier was coming on Friday, and on March 11 that he himself would visit Nelson or send some one shortly, that the teamsters at Calgary were with them, and to stand firm. On the 12th of March he wired Horsted at Nelson :

Have instructed Forrest, now (at) Revelstoke ; to go (to) Nelson immediately to assist you.

and sent the following wire to H. P. Forrest at Revelstoke :

Please go (to) Nelson and assist there ; Greenwood Smelter Junction have struck.

He wired Gault at Winnipeg :

All teamsters, 200 struck here to-day ; refuse haul scab freight. Premier Prior arrives here to-morrow.

The same telegram was sent to Horsted at Nelson. On the 13th Estes wired Horsted at Nelson :

Mass meeting, 1,000 men here last night. Steamship men say will tie up all vessels to-morrow ; Premier not yet arrived ; 150 out Winnipeg.

To Gault at Winnipeg he wired :

Employ counsel protect your men ; Premier not arrived yet ; mass meeting 1,000 men last night ; steamshipmen say will tie up all vessels to-morrow.

The reference to employing counsel in this telegram is to a telegram received from Smith, at Winnipeg, on the morning of the same day, informing Estes that four office clerks had been summoned for breaking contracts and deserting employment, but that all was well.

On the 15th of March, Estes wired Gault at Winnipeg :

Railroad men, longshoremen, steamshipmen, teamsters, formed immense mass meeting last night. Waterfront tied up ; Skagway boat left without cargo. 'Empress' crew struck. Calgary, Revelstoke, Nelson still out and increasing membership.

To A. J. Jamieson, 260½ Fourteenth Street, Portland, Oregon, he sent the following:—

Railroad men, longshoremen, steamshipmen, teamsters, formed immense mass meeting last night ; waterfront tied up. Skagway boat left without cargo last night. Help us financially all possible.

On March 16, he wired J. F. Massey, Seattle :

Situation better to-day than heretofore ; men standing firm ; waterfront completely tied up ; I go Victoria to-night.

To Horsted, at Nelson, he wired :

Advise all members stand absolutely firm, no matter if all places are filled ; will win just same. Everything tied up here ; all men standing firm ; steamshipmen come out to-morrow.

To E. B. Smith at Winnipeg, Thornton at Revelstoke and Cardell at Calgary, he wired :

Montreal 'Star' publishes report that men back to work ; deny it ; we are all firm ; steamshipmen come out to-morrow.

As mentioned in his telegram to Massey at Seattle, Estes arrived at Victoria on the evening of March 16. On the following morning he wired to Garnham at Vancouver :

All steamshipmen struck here last night. Engineers and officers of other boats scabbing as firemen and deckhands on 'Charmer' to-day.

On the 19th he wired from Victoria to Garnham :

Strike getting stronger here ; have requested Massey come Vancouver.

#### Other Leaders brought in from United States.

About this time Estes was arrested in Victoria on the charge of conspiracy in attempting to stop the government mail on the steamboats. His trial occupied some days, during which time he arranged to have several members of the executive board in the United States come to Canada to direct the movement of the strikers at

different points. Among these were J. F. Massey, referred to in Estes' telegram to Garnham on the 19th. Massey having arrived, and taking command, wired on March 24th to C. M. Hurlburt at San Francisco :

Have French come here ; Canadian Pacific Railway summoning all our prominent members to Victoria. Want assistance to prevent disorganizing our forces. All firm. Can win with some one to assist.

On the 9th of April another executive officer from the United States was brought in to direct the forces of the strikers, as is shown by the following telegram sent by Estes to W. J. Bradley, St. Paul, Minn.:

Please go Winnipeg soon as possible. Assist Gault with work.

Estes having been discharged on the charges preferred against him at Victoria, proceeded to tour over the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, personally visiting committees and addressing mass meetings of the strikers and others at Nelson, Revelstoke, Calgary and Winnipeg. It was the latter part of April when he arrived in Winnipeg, and he remained in Canada until some time in May, when he left to attend the annual convention of the American Labour Union at Denver, and has not since returned. During the entire time of his stay in this country he continued to exercise the same absolute control, even in regard to matters of detail, as the telegrams here quoted disclose. As free a use of the wires appears to have been made by him, during the months of April and May, as was made during March. The telegrams sent during April and May, however, are for the most part in cipher, and the Commission, owing to his absence from the country at the time of its sittings in Vancouver, and also to the limited time at its disposal there, were unable to obtain their translation. Other telegrams appear to have passed in cipher from the commencement of the strike, between Estes and officers in the United States. We have reason to think from the reference made to these telegrams in the correspondence before us that, were their contents disclosed, the part

36a-4

played by Estes in the direction and manipulation of matters pertaining to the strike, and of movements auxiliary thereto, would be shown to have been much more extensive and daring than even the messages already quoted might suggest.

#### Strike in Violation of Constitution of U. B. R. E.

The strike of the Vancouver clerks and office men having been declared practically without notice to the company or other members of the Brotherhood, and in violation of the constitution, which provides that no strike is to be declared till the membership of the order reaches 100,000, the strikers found themselves in an isolated position. They had been preparing for a struggle, but the strike came when it did, only because local members felt that to allow the company additional time might have meant a disruption of the order. The constitution of the Brotherhood, however, is framed with a view to provide for emergencies of this kind. Unlike the loca's of regular unions, lodges of the Brotherhood are not left to determine for themselves whether or not sympathetic support is to be given to branches of the order elsewhere, or to employees who follow a different calling. The plan is to bring all classes of employees connected in any way with railways into one organization, and to subject all lodges, wherever situate, to the order and direction of the executive head. While, therefore, the strike was prematurely forced, once it had taken place, full rein was given by Estes to the powers conferred upon him by the constitution ; and methods which it was evidently intended were not to be adopted until a more perfect organization had been effected, were utilized on every side to gain a victory at any cost. A brief review of these methods and of their results will serve to bring out the more important developments of the strike, while at the same time they disclose the latent possibilities of evil to be found in this organization.