

# REGINA OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO CLEAR THE NORTH LINE

Special Meeting of City Council Called Yesterday  
Afternoon to Consider the Prince  
Albert Line Blockade

CITY WILLING TO CLEAR THE DISLEY DRIFT

Power Plant Will Likely Shut Down During  
Day—Schools and Churches May Close  
—Special Police Patrol

## PITEOUS APPEALS MADE FOR FUEL

From Monday's Morning Leader.

### Local Situation.

In Regina itself the fuel situation while in no sense so serious as at Davidson and outlying points, growing hourly worse. With the fuel of the local dealers practically exhausted, unless the C.P.R. can break the blockade which exists in the neighborhood of Swift Current, the position by the end of the week is likely to be extremely grave.

### Special R.N.W.M.P. Patrol.

At R.N.W.M.P. headquarters here the work of outfitting and completely equipping a special patrol is being rushed to completion. This special patrol will proceed by the first train out to Saskatoon and from there will strike across country on a patrol of the districts where no regular patrol by the Police is maintained.

### Schools May Shut Down.

The question of whether or not it would be advisable to shut down the city schools is now being seriously debated. This step has already been taken at Brandon, and the opinion that it would be wise to do so here. While no formal steps in the matter have yet been taken by the Board, it is likely that the stock in hand could be better utilized by being ported out to the city and that residents who are actually in want of fuel.

### The Power House.

For some week or ten days past the question of temporarily discontinuing the day power service has been under consideration and it has now been decided that should no fuel supplies arrive in the city by noon today that such a step will probably be put into effect tomorrow. It is proposed to run the electric lighting plant from 4.30 p.m. to midnight and for the convenience of early morning risers, from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. By thus cutting out the day service the power house stock of fuel will be very appreciably husbanded.

### Churches to Be Closed.

The churches, like all other large institutions, are also confronted with the fuel problem. Two at least of the city churches, namely Knox Presbyterian and Hamilton Street Methodist, will hold no week-day services or meetings of any description during the present week. It has even been suggested that for the present, and until the position has been relieved, that the Sunday services shall be cut out, it being felt that any coal available for the churches could be better utilized in relieving the necessities of farmers and others.

### Crying for Coal.

At outside points the clamour for fuel still continues unabated. At Moose Jaw the stocks of the local coal dealers are absolutely exhausted. The schools have a sufficient supply to keep them going until the end of the month and at present there is no idea of closing them down. The day power service of the electric light plant has, however, been cut out and the plant is now only run at night for lighting purposes only.

### Weyburn's Piteous Appeal.

The two districts suffering most are the Soo Line and the Prince Albert line between Regina and Saskatoon.

Two telegrams received by the Commissioner of Agriculture on Saturday from points on these branches indicate very forcibly the extremity which has now been reached:

Weyburn, Sask., Feb. 2.  
Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL, Regina, Sask.  
Weyburn without coal. People freezing. Can you help us?  
R. M. MITCHELL, Mayor.

Dubuc, Sask., Feb. 2.  
Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL, Regina, Sask.  
For the sake of humanity ship coal at sight.  
BLYTHE & CLEMENTS.

### Hard Work For Train Crews.

Interviewed last night at the Clayton, Conductor McLeod, who had charge of the C.N.R. train which pulled into Regina on Friday, said to the Leader that all that had been said about the difficulties under which the railways were at present being worked was more than true. He himself had become an expert shoveller of snow during the last six weeks. It was a heart-breaking job, though, for no sooner had they got out and cleared a piece of line than the snow blew in again, and the work was as bad as ever. With the thermometer at 30 or 40 degrees below zero, railway work was certainly no snap these days.

### The Disley Out.

The Disley out on the Prince Albert branch, the immense drift to which was referred yesterday by Mayor Smith as offering the chief obstacle in the relief of Davidson, has been little effort put forth on the part of the railways, and conditions would be infinitely worse when they came in the spring. If help were given by any one, he thought it was up to the Provincial Government to take action without waiting to have their aid solicited. He agreed that the task of clearing the line was primarily the responsibility of the railways, but he felt that the matter was one that cried for immediate action and they could not afford to wait and quibble about the prairies while men were freezing upon the prairies. He could not agree with Ald. Peverett that no effort had been made by the company to keep the line clear. He believed that the train crews and other railway employees were putting up an heroic fight against conditions which he believed that no man named Hobbs on the Boston settlement with his wife and two children had been located by his neighbors. Unsuccessful efforts have been made to reach him but the state of the trails is such that his condition is unknown.

The object of the patrol is precautionary rather than one of necessity. Wood in the Eagle Lake district is scarce. The details for provisioning the patrol will be arranged by Sergeant Adams on his arrival. The sleds are on the toboggan plan with three inch side rail and double cover by which the load can be lashed down and in case of an upset no harm can be done. The men will take along sleeping bags into which they can crawl and go to sleep. The horses must remain exposed. No tents will be taken.

Regina Offers Assistance. The unusual spectacle of a fully attended meeting of the City Council in progress in the Civic Chamber on Sunday afternoon was witnessed yesterday. The reason for such an unusual course, as will be generally supposed, was something quite outside of the usual routine work of the council, viz., the consideration of the north line blockade and the necessity of affording fuel relief to Davidson and other points.

Upon calling the meeting to order His Worship the Mayor expressed his regret at having to call them there that day. But it was in the cause of humanity, and he believed that, under the circumstances, they were doing as much good by attending such a meeting as they would by attending church. His reason for calling them together was that these had been the only state of affairs now existing in the Prince Albert line and the necessity for some action being taken immediately to relieve the situation.

Since yesterday afternoon, said His Worship, he had seen Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Attorney General, and from these gentlemen he had gathered that the people of Davidson and other north line points were in dire straits and crying desperately for fuel. There was a C.N.R. train crew and two engines here, but it was impossible for them to get north until the line was cleared. He had seen Conductor McLeod, who came in from the north on Friday, and had intended going back to Lumsden saying that the Disley Hill cut was choked with a drift of from five to ten feet in depth that would first have to be shovelled out. Once through the Disley drift, Mr. McLeod said, the line would be open with about ten or twenty men.

His Worship thought that it was up to Regina to take the initiative and clear the line. No expense would be incurred, he thought, if in the face of great suffering we did not suffer relief. His suggestion was that a gang of 50—or if necessary 100 men be organized and placed at the disposal of the company for the purpose of opening the line. The north line must be opened.

### THE RESOLUTION.

Moved by Ald. Cowan, seconded by Ald. Frank Kusch—  
"That the Mayor be authorized to wire Supt. Abbott that it has been reported authentically to him that great distress exists between Regina and Saskatoon for want of fuel owing to the trains being unable to get through on account of snow-drifts and that the company having found themselves unable to cope with the situation, the City of Regina hereby offers to organize a gang of fifty men, and if necessary, 100 men, to aid the railway company to clear the line, provided the company will undertake to take the supervision of the gang, and that a copy of this resolution be communicated to the General Manager, Mr. J. W. Smith."

Immediately after the conclusion of the council meeting, the special committee appointed to give effect to the resolution, and the following wire was despatched to Supt. J. Abbott at Saskatoon, a copy also being sent to Gen. Manager James at Winnipeg:

Understand great distress exists on North Line between Regina and Saskatoon for want of fuel, and as it appears your company are unable to clear the line, the City of Regina will undertake to organize a gang of 50—or if necessary 100 men to aid the railway company to clear the line, provided the company will undertake to take the supervision of the gang, and that a copy of this resolution be communicated to the General Manager, Mr. J. W. Smith."

### Referred to Our Wire of Date.

Referring to our wire of date, owing to the snow which has drifted very badly and packed hard, it would be impossible for a gang of men to dig out entire line within a week. In gold mining the snow would be made use of, the C.N.R. would not fall to do so.

Weyburn, Sask., Feb. 3, 1907.

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quickly. For humanity's sake let them set at once.

Ald. A. D. Wright said that he was certainly going to vote for the motion. At the time of the San Francisco earthquake they had not waited for appeals, but unasked had sent assistance to the people of the stricken city. They knew the circumstances in which the people of the north were situated and the distress prevailing, and if the people of California had claims upon them still more had the people of their own province. It would be small on their part were they to stand until they were appealed to for assistance. The cost would not be more than \$2,000 anyhow, and under the circumstances it was not worth while quibbling.

Other aldermen having signified their hearty approval of Ald. Cowan's motion, upon being put to the vote it was carried unanimously, and a committee of four consisting of His Worship and Ald. Gillespie, Kramer and Ald. Kusch, appointed to get into communication with the C.N.R. officials and take the necessary steps for the organization of the gang.

### In Communication With C.N.R.

Immediately after the conclusion of the council meeting, the special committee appointed to give effect to the resolution, and the following wire was despatched to Supt. J. Abbott at Saskatoon, a copy also being sent to Gen. Manager James at Winnipeg:

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