

the Grand Trunk voted for a strike on two occasions except forty-one. I think I have gone far enough. (Go ahead.)

Now, then, I will say this to you. I felt assured, as an officer of the Brotherhood, as a Canadian citizen, as a man who had watched closely the relations between the G.T.R. and the Dominion Government—I felt personally absolutely assured and was prepared to assure the members of our organization that I came in contact with that settlement as made, and that the interest shown by the Government and the close relations of the Government with the company were such that the company would not dare to undertake to violate the agreement. But see whether they did or not. You know that when the 2nd day of November arrived last year we found 268 men who had not been returned to their former positions and places. We took the matter up with the Minister of Labor and we found that gentleman Johnny on the spot. (Applause.) We find him at once writing to Mr. Hays, to Mr. Berry and to myself, and the situation was so urgent that he suggested there were great differences of opinion between us, that the employees contended that a great number of men were still out of service, and the company contended that all of the men had been returned to service as per agreement. Mr. King wrote to us, and Mr. Berry, and I answered promptly by a telegram that we had accepted his suggestion that some outside disinterested party should investigate. Judge Barron was suggested. What did Mr. Hays say? It has been said by other honorable gentlemen and a great many people all over this country that the Government did not do enough. Let us see whether they failed in any point after they found the G.T.R. failed to carry out their agreement. Mr. Hays at once wrote back to the Minister of Labor and said it was entirely contrary to railroad practice to permit such a thing as an outside or disinterested party to investigate the eligibility of any man to be in their employ, and the result was he declined absolutely to consider the matter in any shape or form. The matter went on, the men clamoring to be reinstated, as was their right, and finally, after conferences with the Premier, with the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Labor, Mr. Hays asked Judge Barron to do what he had said two months before, or less than two months before, he would not do under any circumstances. Who brought that pressure on him, who made him change his mind? No one but the Dominion Government through the Minister of Labor. (Applause.)

I would like to go into this matter and explain it fully to you as it should be explained, but I wish to say to you, ladies and gentlemen, that I can prove to you by documentary evidence all the statements that I have made to-night, and many others I could make if I had time. I have got positive evidence to produce that I am sure would convince even Mr. Blain or Mr. Northrup. The trouble is, ladies and gentlemen, with some gentlemen, that they have not looked for information in the proper place, they have not wanted to secure the evidence that would convince them. (Hear, hear.)

Now then, who is to blame for the deplorable, unfair and inconsiderate conditions that prevail on the G.T.R. system to-day? Somebody is to blame, because there is no doubt about it the situation is deplorable. The people of Ontario should rise up in their might some way and show their resentment against the inconsiderate dealings that have been handed out to Ontario men. It is only in the Province of Ontario, in Stratford, Sarnia, Windsor, Niagara Falls, and certain other points that conditions are bad. Down on the eastern division in Montreal where we have 450 men on the first month's payroll we