## AN APPEAL TO REASON

WE DESIRE TO APPEAL to the reason and sober judgment of the individual employee now on strike.

The relations between you and the Company have been, you will agree, most harmonious. The business dealings between your officials and those of the Company have been mutually satisfactory. Even after the large increase granted by the Railway Board last year, we endeavored to carry out the arrangement the Board made with you, without rancor, and so we feel we have the right to reason with you on points arising out of the strike.

For years, the average increase in wages was from two to three cents per hour. Then, after the strike in 1917 you secured an increase of 7c per hour, which the following year, eight months before your agreement expired, was increased to 9c. Then after the strike in 1919 you secured from 16c to 20c per hour, according to length of set 122.

This last increase we considered most unjust to the Company, for it was not an award of the Conciliation Board on evidence submitted. The Company had not completed its evidence when the Conciliation Board adjourned on the question of jurisdiction in view of the Railway Board having assumed control of the Company and in law being a new employer. Later, it endeavored to settle the strike by making an interim recommendation for an increase in fares and in wages, one contingent upon the other.

Up to the time of this recommendation, there was no guide as to what wages should be paid, you having refused the City's rate; but just as soon as a rate was mentioned by the Conciliation Board which was precedent upon an increased fare, the Railway Board accepted it as a basis, offered it to you, and you accepted. The recommendation as to fares was disregarded.

We believe that you feel the Company did not get a square deal last year.

You followed up these increases by asking 85c this year, or an increase of 30c per hour.

We do not believe all of you wanted to ask for 85c. We don't believe your business committee recommended it. We think it was due to the excitement and enthusiasm of a mass meeting, where the fellow who shouted the loudest and demanded the most money, the fellow who thought it just as easy to get a huge increase as a small one, was the hero—OF THAT HOUR. But in your calmer moments of reflection you realize that it was a mistake. The public thinks it was a mistake.

Do you not think it possible that it was another mistake to insist upon a new demand, in the face of the arbitration award;

and to go on strike to secure it, particularly, as we have pointed out, when the terms you now ask yield more money than the civic line rates, upon which it is claimed you based your new demand?

Moreover, the civic wages, and deficit, are paid by all the taxpayers; yours are paid by the shareholders of the Company, some of whom have to pay city taxes as well. You are aware that the shareholders received no dividends last year, nor will they receive any this year nor next year. Are they not entitled to some consideration from you?

In good faith they put their money into the enterprise from which you are deriving your living. Do you think it square that you should demand a wage that must come out of the assets of the Company when the stock for which the shareholders paid one hundred cents on the dollar is offered for sale on the market at 40 cents on the dollar? Do you think this is a square deal to the thousands of shareholders throughout the country who are getting nothing from the Company? Do you realize, further, that the Company faces an obligation of \$750,000 to be paid in wages this year in excess of that paid-out last year?

Many of you have gone on strike to be loyal to your mates and your union.

Taking the foregoing into consideration, would you not be doing a big thing for yourselves, a loyal act for the public, and the decent thing by the Company, if you came back to work at the prevailing rates as confirmed by the Arbitration Board? Next year, his Worship the Mayor has promised, will be the dawning of a better day for you—is it too long to wait until then?

Your officials have often told you that it requires public opinion to win a strike. Are you sure you have it in this case?

In the long run, would it not be more advantageous to abide by the award, operate the cars, and await that better day, with the knowledge that in so doing you have won the appreciation of the public?

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