

MONTREAL POLICE AND FIREMEN ON STRIKE

Notwithstanding the strong efforts made this week by representative public bodies and others including the Prime Minister of the Province, Sir Lomer Gouin, to come to some settlement satisfactory to all concerned, the threatened strike of the Montreal police force and the firemen took place yesterday at 12 o'clock noon.

Public sympathy is not with either the police force or firemen, in their exorbitant demands for increased pay, and such being the case, it is for the men who have imperilled the public safety to think for themselves. In anticipation of the strike the Canadian Fire Underwriters Association and the fire companies generally placed a number of employees at the disposal of the fire department. These have been augmented by the merchants and manufacturers. The Board of Trade and the Manufacturers' Association have also taken action in the matter.

The following resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Fire Companies held in the Association rooms:

"Whereas it has come to the knowledge of this Association that a dispute has arisen between the City of Montreal and its employees, the Police, Fire and other Departments, and it has developed that the employees have made certain demands including the following: immediate dismissal of the Director, Mr. Joseph Tremblay; of the Assistant Director, Mr. Arthur Mann, and of the Chief of Detectives, Mr. J. A. A. Belanger, and the right for the policemen and firemen to determine themselves the choice of the future chiefs,

"RESOLVED that this Association, with tremendous interests at stake, without wishing to pass upon the merits of the question of wages, which ought properly to be decided by arbitration, feels that it must, with all the emphasis at its command, deny the right of employees to dictate who shall be their superior officers, and, furthermore, this Association condemns any action on the part of the employees which would expose the city to a serious disaster."

The Administrative Commission have published the following information in connection with the demands of the policemen and firemen:

1. The immediate dismissal of the Director, Mr. Joseph Tremblay; of the Assistant Director, Mr. Arthur Mann, and of the Chief of Detectives, Mr. J. A. A. Belanger, and the right for the policemen and firemen to determine themselves the choice of the future chiefs.

2. Scale of salaries:

Policemen		
	Salary demanded	Present salary
Captains.....	\$2,000	\$1,600
Lieutenants.....	1,800	1,300
Sergeants.....	1,700	1,200
Detectives—		
Class No. 1.....	2,000	1,600

Class No. 2.....	1,900	1,400
Class No. 3.....	1,800	1,250
Constables—		
Class No. 1.....	1,600	1,150
Class No. 2.....	1,500	1,050
Class No. 3.....	1,400	900
Stablemen.....	1,200	860

Firemen

Captains.....	2,000	1,600
Lieutenants.....	1,800	1,300
Engineers.....	1,700	1,200
Assistant Engineers.....	1,600	1,150
Firemen—		
Class No. 1.....	1,600	1,150
Class No. 2.....	1,500	1,050
Class No. 3.....	1,400	900

Fire Alarm Staff

General foreman.....	1,800	1,400
Foreman of the Linemen.....	1,700	1,250
Asst. Foreman of the Linemen.....	1,500	1,000
Inspectors of the alarm boxes.....	1,500	1,050
Inspectors of the Linemen.....	1,400	950
Alarm telegraph operators.....	1,700	1,200
Asst. alarm telegraph operators.....	1,600	1,100

The sum total of the increases demanded is \$700,000.

The Administrative Commission, in their budget for the coming year, have provided for an increase of \$180,000 to be apportioned proportionately among all the employees of the Fire and Police Departments, with the exception, nevertheless, of the captains, which represents for these employees an increase in salary of \$110 per annum.

These employees, moreover, enjoy the following advantages: Uniforms supplied free of charge by the city; free transportation in the tramways; full salary in case of sickness; pension, as provided for by the city's by-laws; twelve days' vacation, which the Commission are prepared to increase to 15 days per annum.

Moreover, the firemen enjoy life insurance paid for by the city, and varying from \$500 to \$1,000, according to the number of years of service, the whole in virtue of a resolution passed in January, 1875.

The Commission, in offering to their employees an increase in salary aggregating the sum of \$180,000 feel that they are able to "buckle the budget" without increasing the present rate of the tax on real estate.

In the event of their complying with the demands of the policemen and firemen, they will unavoidably be forced to increase this tax to \$1.42.

The Commission are willing to submit any misunderstanding which exists at present between them and their employees, inasmuch as the question of salaries is concerned, to a Board of Arbitrators, conditionally, however, that the decision of the majority of this board shall be final for both parties.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

Board Room, City Hall,
Montreal, 9th December, 1918.

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