

We further request a cessation of the policy of intimidation lately pursued against the employees of various departments by your various officials because of their membership in the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees. A satisfactory reply hereto is requested by 11.30 o'clock a.m. to-morrow, 27th instant, otherwise the employees represented by this committee will cease work at 12 o'clock noon.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) ROBT. BROOKE,
F. J. WALKER,
DAVID LAVEROCK,
P. G. DENISON,
S. GARNHAM,

Acting Agent.

Strike of Clerks, Baggage men and others at Vancouver, February 27.

Mr. Marpole met this committee at 11 o'clock on the morning of the 27th, and at 11.40 the committee retired. In addition to the suspension of Forrest mentioned in this communication, the case of the freight checker at Revelstoke, who had been discharged on the 24th, was also taken up at the interview. Mr. Marpole understood that the committee were to come back in the afternoon, but they did not, and a strike was declared at noon, twenty minutes after they had left his office. Thereupon the clerks, office men, station baggage men and men at the stores who were members of the Brotherhood at Vancouver went out.

Immediately after the strike had been declared a circular letter was issued to other unions in the city, in which an appeal was made for their aid and sympathy. A direct appeal was made to the city trades, such as the teamsters, the building trades and the iron trades, to make an effective boycott of all materials which they might be expected to handle which in any way might have come over the C.P.R. Carried out in accordance with the wishes of the strikers, compliance with this request on the part of those appealed to might have produced a complete paralysis of industry and business throughout the city.

Forrest was suspended on Tuesday, February 24. The letter sent by the committee demanding his reinstatement was dated February 26. On the 25th Estes

wired from Portland, Oregon, to Garnham, at Vancouver:

Will arrive Vancouver 'Mainlander' Friday morning or train Friday evening.

The Strike directed by Estes.

The strike was declared on Friday, the day of Estes' arrival, and he at once took supreme command of the striking forces. The correspondence indicates that no important step was taken without his initiative or authority. In fact, both letters and telegrams reveal very clearly that the order is governed by an autocracy, and that executive officers, not only in Winnipeg, but at different places along the line where the Brotherhood has established divisions, were in many cases not so much as consulted as to what course it would be advisable to pursue, but were entirely subject to the dictates and directions of the president of the order.

As examples of the manner in which Estes exercised his authority, and as illustrating the means taken to extend the strike over different parts of the company's system, the following may be quoted from the originals of telegrams produced. The telegrams here quoted are such only as were sent to executive officers of the Brotherhood at different points.

On the day on which the strike was declared, Garnham, of the strikers' executive, at Vancouver, had wired to Gault, of the local executive at Winnipeg:

We quit work noon; wire Calgary immediately.

Gault was acting at this time as organizer for the Brotherhood, P—— being in the hospital, and he evidently communicated at once to the headquarters of the Brotherhood, at San Francisco, as on the day following a wire was received by Estes at Vancouver from C. M. Hurlburt, one of the executive at San Francisco, stating:

Gault says Vancouver wires quit work; wants him call out Calgary; keep us posted.

On receipt of this telegram from Hurlburt, Estes wired to Gault at Winnipeg:

Trouble confined to Pacific division only; Revelstoke goes out next.

On March 2, Estes wired Gault that fifteen clerks left Montreal Saturday for Vancouver, and instructed him to watch west-bound trains. The next day he advised Gault by wire as follows:—

Publish in 'Voice' (a Winnipeg labour paper) and other papers for all men keep away from British Columbia; 100 machinists, clerks, freight handlers struck (at) Revelstoke to-day.

On March 4, Estes wired Clarence Smith, secretary of the American Labour Union, Butte, Montana, as follows:—

Strike spreading; Revelstoke out; longshoremen struck here to-day. Please have Western Federation Miners refuse to allow coal loaded on cars, steamboats, ships or hulks at Lady-smith, Union or other points on Vancouver Island for Vancouver. This to prevent Canadian Pacific getting coal. Rush orders by wire—Don't fail—Fight for life—Answer.

On March 5, Estes wired Gault at Winnipeg, addressing the latter by his official title of vice-president, and subscribing his title as president to his own signature:

Call out all Canadian Pacific Railway members at Winnipeg and Calgary on strike to-day. File written statement with superintendent that men will return to work when settlement made here, and advise when out.

Later in the day he wired Gault, temporarily rescinding this order, as follows:—

Negotiations for settlement opened; call strike off Winnipeg and Calgary until further advised.

The same day he wired to George Horsted at Nelson, B.C., at 11.22 in the forenoon:

Call out all members of 92 on strike to-day. File written statement with superintendent that men will return to work when settlement made here. Advise number out.

At 1.10 p.m. Horsted, having received Estes' message, wires in reply:

Please say quick if any objection to members carrying on work for Great Northern; this is a union depot.

Estes answered this telegram at 7.55 p.m. as follows:—

Yes, go ahead and carry on Great Northern work.

In the meantime, however, other telegrams passed between Estes and Horsted, in regard to the men working for the C.P.R. At 2.55 Horsted informed Estes that 26 members at Nelson, 3 at Rossland and 3

at Ehoit, had quit work at 1 p.m. At 5.30 Horsted wired Estes as follows:—

Superintendent Downie requests Division ninety-eight to resume work until he communicates with his superiors at Vancouver. Wire instructions quick.

At six o'clock Estes replied to this telegram:

Hold all members out until strike settled. Negotiations now progressing.

The negotiations here referred to, and which were the occasion for the holding off of the strike at Winnipeg and Calgary were those carried on by the Vancouver Board of Trade, and other parties, to bring about a settlement of the dispute. These efforts not having been successful, Estes commenced to re-extend the strike. On March 9, he wired to Gault at Winnipeg, as follows:—

Board of Trade endorsed proposed Canadian Pacific Railway agreement; Montreal declined it this morning. Call out all Canadian Pacific Railway members Winnipeg and Calgary immediately. Notify Leonard in writing strike on this division is for recognition (at) Montreal. Get endorsement Labour Council. Labour Council here has endorsed; fight to finish.

This telegram was sent from Vancouver at noon. At 3.20 p.m. (Vancouver time) Estes received from E. B. Smith, Winnipeg, executive officer, the following wire:

All out four o'clock; Calgary called on; will stand to finish.

At 1.30 p.m. Estes wired to Halton, who at this time was in Montreal:

Yourselves, Foulds, Dick, Wilson, prepare, sign as committee and deliver letter to-day to McNicholl, requesting recognition of U. B. R. E., stating strike will be settled when recognition granted. Calgary now out.

To this telegram Estes received the following reply the next day (March 10):

Letter delivered; refuse to treat except through departmental head; claims customary procedure.

On the same day Estes wired from Vancouver to Halton again at Montreal:

Press reports say four hundred clerks Montreal striking. Organize them on any terms.

J. W. Stanley, at Calgary, wired Estes on the same day:

Teamsters in sympathy; won't haul baggage; is this right? Answer