

of the 28th day of July, Mr. King came down to the hotel in Montreal where I was, and we had a long conference at that early hour, the result being that it was decided that Sir Frederick Borden would stay over and assist if possible and bring over Mr. Hays and Mr. Fitzhugh to a better state of mind, get them persuaded, in fact, to make some kind of settlement with the men. Some kind of settlement, I say, because that is what we wanted. On Thursday, the 28th day of July, the members of my sub-committee were ready to bat me to the ground because I would not accept any kind of settlement all that day to get it off our hands. That is how bad we knew the situation was, ladies and gentlemen, and that is how bad we wanted to get a settlement at that time. However, the negotiations progressed until Saturday. On Saturday in the morning the sub-committees and officers of the organizations met and drew up this agreement absolutely as it stands word for word in the second and third paragraphs, the second paragraph referring to the standard rates that were going into effect from May 1st, and the third paragraph referring to the C.P.R. rates going into effect on the 1st of January, 1912.

The first paragraph the employees drew up was one which Mr. Blain, I am sure, would have favored, because it was worded in this way, "That in consideration of the organizations calling off the strike the company will agree to reinstate all men to their former positions and places and at once remove from train and yard service all men who took the places vacated by the striking employees." What was the result when we drew up those three paragraphs with the Minister of Labor sitting there, and went into a conference which the Minister of Labor and the Minister of Militia had got for us? When we went into the conference they had got for us, Mr. Hays said, "Gentlemen, I will accept your second and third paragraphs, but I do not just like the language of that first paragraph, and if you will accept another paragraph for that paragraph I will accept your paragraphs two and three, which refer to present wages and the future standard rate." Then he presented this: "The company will put back as soon as possible the men, other than those who have been or may be found guilty of acts of violence and disorderly conduct, the understanding being that there is no coercion or intimidation used towards the new men." Just as soon as we saw that paragraph we knew that it was loaded. We had seen that sort of paragraph before. We knew it was loaded, we knew it was not safe to handle, but at the same time don't you believe for a moment that we were not just as anxious to accept that settlement then as five days previously. We were just as anxious to settle then and Mr. Hays knew it. That was Saturday night. Finally at 11.30 the officials of the G.T.R. walked out of the office and left the two Ministers of the Crown and the officials of the organizations sitting there, never as much as saying good-night to them. They walked off, and they never did go to the conference later. That shows how much the G.T.R. officials wanted to settle that strike. That goes to prove how much I am right in saying that they never did under any circumstances want to make a settlement. On Sunday some strategy was used and the three paragraphs were drawn up in proper form, the paragraph Mr. Hays proposed the day before and insisted on so long and strongly, and the two paragraphs we had drawn up and he accepted. They were taken to Mr. Hays, and he signed them and they were brought to us by the Minister of Labor. We signed them. When they were all signed up in proper shape we served notice upon Mr. Hays that the strike would be called off and that the agreement was quite satisfactory to us for the calling off of