

The Economic Conditions and Operations

OF

The British Columbia Electric Railway Company *and* Subsidiary Companies

REPORT

BY

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Commissioner

THE street railway employees of Vancouver went out on strike on June 13, 1917, as the result of the refusal of the demand for higher wages, which the Company offered to meet to the extent of \$100,000 a year. The strike lasted seven and one-half days in Victoria and eight and one-half days in Vancouver.

¶ Following a meeting of representative citizens called with the object of reinstating the car service, negotiations were opened by the City Council of Vancouver with the Company, when the Company stated that it was impossible for it to pay the wages asked by the employees and at the same time compete with the jitneys.

¶ It was decided at this meeting that the Company would pay the wages asked for by the men and reinstate the car service, and that both the City and the Company would agree to abide by the decision of a Commissioner to be appointed by the Provincial Government to enquire into the economic and operating conditions of the B. C. Electric. An Order-in-council was subsequently passed by the Provincial Government appointing Dr. Adam Shortt, of Ottawa, sole Commissioner, who held sessions in Vancouver and Victoria from July 16 to August 21, 1917, and subsequently reported as follows.