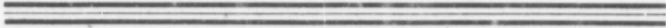


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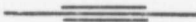
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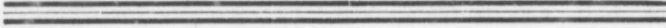
VANCOUVER CITIZENS' LEAGUE

Including a Brief History of Conditions and
Events Connected with

The June Strikes in Western Canada



JAMES F. MORRIS CO.
PRINTERS



Autho

Strikes and lockouts - Vancouver, B.C.



Foreword.

Popular belief that the series of general strikes throughout Western Canada in May and June were a menace to public safety led patriotic citizens to seek some way of protecting themselves. In Vancouver feeling was so strong that almost over night several leagues and societies sprang up. One or two of them quickly subsided, but three gained a large measure of support. Within three or four days of the outbreak of the strike in Vancouver, two of these, the Loyal Citizens' League and the Citizens' Protective League decided to amalgamate as THE CITIZENS' LEAGUE. The third, which had a restricted membership, continued to stand by itself as the Returned Citizens' League.

The objects of THE CITIZENS' LEAGUE were published broadcast from the outset and an appeal to the public for membership was made. The objects were:

To assist the civic authorities:

- (a) In maintaining law and order;
- (b) In operating all essential utilities and industries;
- (c) In the prevention of suffering, inconvenience and loss to the public generally.

In all 6,231 members signed pledge cards, of whom 5,069 were male and 1,162 female. Twenty-eight different occupations were represented.

The League organized itself for the protection of the community and, as recounted in these pages, was of real service. When the strike was over the question arose of the advisability of continuing the League, but after much deliberation the executive has decided that—

Foreword

"The Vancouver Citizens' League, having served the purposes and functions for which it was formed, be and is hereby dissolved, and that a committee be appointed to wind up the affairs of the League, due consideration being given to all undertakings made by the League."

The books have been ordered audited, and the president's report is herewith distributed to all members of the League.

It should be remembered, however, that conditions of unrest bordering on rebellion and creating a fertile field for the seed which anarchists are always ready to sow brought about the recent disastrous series of strikes. These conditions still appear to exist. The promoters of discord have been more industrious than ever during the summer, and the belief is well founded that further trouble of the same or more serious nature is to be expected. By perusing this report some idea of the wide-spread and deliberate character of the seditious movement may be gathered. The necessity for every good citizen to understand the situation and to hold himself in readiness at the call of the authorities is greater than ever before.

Stand Fast!



Labor's Admitted Aim

Proletarian Dictatorship and Revolutionary

I. W. W. Openly Endorsed

To know fully the danger in which the people of Vancouver stood last June, some recent history of developments in Western Canada labor circles should be studied. A western labor conference was held in Calgary on March 13, 14 and 15, 1919. At this convention it was resolved upon a motion emanating from British Columbia delegates that a general strike be called at the first of June. Among the demands to be made were the release of all political prisoners and the removal of all disabilities and restrictions now upon working class organizations. Two other resolutions indicate who were meant by political prisoners: "That the interests of all members of the international working class being identical, this body of workers recognizes no alien but the capitalist." And again: "Resolved that this congress declares all organized alien enemies worthy of protection of organized labor. . . ."

The reference to restrictions now upon working class organizations is not so plain, but the only labor organization which was banned by law was the I. W. W., whose headquarters in Chicago was clearly proved by the United States government to be in receipt of aid from Germans. Following are two other resolutions quoted, like those which have preceded, from the official report of the Western Labor Conference:

"This convention expresses its open conviction that the system of industrial soviet control by selection of representatives from industries is more efficient and of greater political value than the present system of government by selection from district. This convention declares its full acceptance of the principle of Proletarian Dictatorship as being absolute and efficient for the transformation of capitalist-private property to communal wealth.

"The convention sends fraternal greetings to the Russian Soviet government, the Spartacans in Germany and all definite working-class movements in Europe and the world, recognizing that they have won first place in the history of class struggle.

"Be it resolved that this conference places itself on record as being in full sympathy with the aims and purposes of the Russian bolshevik and German Spartacan revolutions, and be it further resolved that we demand the immediate withdrawal of all allied troops from Russia; and be it further resolved that this conference is in favor of calling a general strike on June 1st should the Allies persist in their administration in Russia or Germany or in any country in which it is or may be established and that a system of propaganda be carried on and that a referendum vote be taken."

At this same conference it was decided to recommend to the general membership that affiliation with the American Federation of Labor be broken off and that a new organization be formed under the name of the One Big Union. The debate and subsequent developments made it quite plain that the O. B. U. was merely another name for the I. W. W. idea.

Two plebiscites were authorized to be taken among the various labor unions. One was on the question of affiliation with the O. B. U. and the other was on the question of a strike for a six hour day. The method of taking the vote was based upon the contention openly made on the floor of the conference that an active minority of labor men was strong enough to swing the vote in the desired way. It was accordingly resolved that all members of unions who did not vote should be construed as having voted in favor of both projects. The balloting proceeded and in May it was announced that there was a majority of unions in favor of the O. B. U., but that even on this basis the vote on the general strike was not large enough to justify action.

Review of the Strike

The general strike in Vancouver and the necessity for organizing to counteract its effects can be understood only by considering what took place in Winnipeg during the preceding few weeks. Upon the pretext of supporting a few hundred metal workers in their strike on the issue of collective bargaining, an organization called the Central Strike Committee succeeded on May 15 in paralyzing the city of Winnipeg. They called out on strike the employees in the fire department, the high pressure water plant, the health department including street cleaners, scaven-

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gers, etc., the light and power department, the telephone operators, the postal workers, all workers in the bakeries and dairies, the caretakers and passenger elevator operators of office buildings and apartment houses, the workers in retail and wholesale establishments dealing with the necessities of life, the carters and delivery men, the employees of the Winnipeg Electric Railway Company, sufficient newspaper workers to prevent publication of any paper in the city, and sufficient telegraph operators to cut off communication with the outside world. The strike committee then proceeded to issue so-called permits to certain individuals, purporting to authorize them to deliver bread and milk and to perform other perfectly lawful acts. At a mass meeting of strikers, this permit system was cited as proof that the labor organizations had taken over the government of the city.

Striking postal workers were notified by the Dominion government that if they chose not to return to work by a certain date they would be considered as having resigned from the Civil Service and their positions would be filled. This failed to bring about a return to work and the government carried out its pledge. Appeals were immediately made to other cities in Western Canada for an extension of the general strike. These appeals resulted in declaration of moderately wide-spread strikes in Calgary and Edmonton.

On May 27th the postal workers of Vancouver had a meeting at which they decided not to strike. Nevertheless, on May 28th a special meeting of the Trades and Labor Council of Vancouver was held in secret. Afterwards it was announced that it had been resolved to take a ballot on the question of striking. No specific issue was outlined in connection with the balloting, but on the following night the Council at a public meeting adopted a recommendation from the executive that the strike be continued until the following seven objectives were realized:

1. The immediate re-instatement of the postal workers on strike in Winnipeg.
2. Immediate settlement of the postal workers' grievances.
3. The right of collective bargaining through any organization the workers deem most suited to their needs.
4. Pensions for soldiers and their dependents on the basis laid down by the soldiers' organizations.
5. The minimum recognition for overseas shall be a grant of \$2,000 gratuity.

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6. The nationalization of all cold storage plants, abattoirs and elevators, with a view to obtaining control of food storage.

7. The enactment of legislation for a six-hour day in all industries where unemployment is prevalent.

It was also decided that the strike should begin on Tuesday, June 3rd, at 11 a.m., if a majority of the unions and a majority of the individual workers voted affirmatively.

How The Vote Was Taken

At a mass meeting of union men on the night of June 2nd, the strike committee announced that the necessary majorities had been obtained, but refused to divulge the figures. This attitude was maintained consistently throughout the strike and not until July were the results of the balloting revealed even to the union men themselves. When published they showed that out of approximately 16,000 union men in Vancouver, only 5,804 cast ballots. Of these 3,305 voted to strike and 2,499 voted against striking. Between 10,000 and 11,000 men were actually called out, although of that number only 3,300 or 33 per cent. of them had voted in favor of that course. One can hardly refrain from linking up this fact with the doctrine of the "active minority" described at the Calgary conference.

In calling the strike, the committee announced certain exemptions, among them being the policemen, firemen, bakers and milkmen, all of whom, however, had voted not to strike. The street car men failed to respond to the first call but of their own accord came out on June 5th. It was not until this day either that the metal trades council brought its membership into the strike for the single purpose of demanding the reinstatement of postal workers at Winnipeg and Calgary. Postal workers in Vancouver persisted in their refusal to join in the strike, but a number of the city employees quit.

The Strike In Vancouver.

The progress of the strike in Vancouver was marked by no serious disorders and by very little deprivation imposed upon the public. When the street cars quit running, the City Council took prompt action by making the operation of jitneys legal, and the transportation problem

was solved, the only handicaps being a ten-cent instead of a six-cent fare and no transfers. The most flagrant defiance of public welfare emanating from the strike committee was an ultimatum to the effect that if the jitneys were not legislated off the streets, the telephone service would be tied up. The City Council declined to be stampeded and a partial strike of telephone operators ensued. Through the activities of the Citizens' League, however, a sufficient number of new operators was obtained to supplement the reduced staff which remained faithful, and an adequate service on this important public utility was maintained.

Another blow at a recognized democratic institution was the attempted imposition of a printers' censorship on the newspapers. For several days this theoretical censorship did not seriously embarrass the editors, but on June 4 the Daily Sun closed its shop because the printers declined to set a certain editorial denouncing the strike as a revolutionary move. A few days later the "Province" also suspended over a somewhat similar issue, but the "World" succeeded in being able to continue. Owing to the difficulties which beset the newspaper editors, the Citizens' League began on June 16th to publish a daily bulletin reviewing the strike situation and exposing the underlying motives of those who inspired it.

Riots In Winnipeg.

In the meantime the strike in Winnipeg was proceeding to a violent climax. On June 17th the police arrested ten men including five prominent leaders of the Winnipeg strike, four foreigners and a Vancouver man, the president of the One Big Union. At the same time a quantity of literature was seized in the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Hall. Among the documents seized were letters proving the receipt of Bolshevist funds for the promotion of the strike and clearly showing that certain of the strike leaders were endeavoring to overthrow the existing constitution of the labor bodies.

After several riots and near riots, an armed clash was precipitated on June 21st, when several thousand strikers held a parade in defiance to an official proclamation forbidding it. Shooting occurred, a man was killed and several were wounded. The Riot Act was read and the military commander of the district took charge of the situation.

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The direct result of the rioting was felt three days later when the Winnipeg general sympathetic strike was officially declared "off." No conditions were exacted, although the metal workers, whose dispute was seized upon as the pretext for the mass demonstration of labor's power, remained out.

There followed during the next two days in Vancouver a series of edicts from the strike committee culminating in an open ballot at a mass meeting which resulted in a decision to remain on strike until employers waived the right to discriminate among those whom they were willing to re-employ. The loggers were called in from the camps and picketing of an aggressive nature began along the waterfront. After several assaults had been reported the mayor issued a proclamation forbidding picketing, but almost simultaneously the street car men voted to return to work and the civic employees took their negotiations out of the hands of the strike committee, with the result that most of them returned to work in short order. Finally, on July 3rd after over half the original strikers had returned to work and the city had completely resumed its normal aspect, the strike committee threw up the sponge and all strikers were ordered back to work.

The strike had lasted exactly 30 days, and wages estimated to total over a million dollars were sacrificed without a single objective being obtained.

Diary of Strike Progress

May 15.—General sympathetic strike declared in Winnipeg.

May 21.—Government's ultimatum to Winnipeg postal strikers expires.

May 27.—Vancouver postal workers decline to strike in sympathy with Winnipeg fellow-workers.

May 28.—Vancouver trades and labor council resolves to take strike vote.

May 30.—Vancouver trades and labor council fixes 7 point minimum objective. Mayor Gale wires Premier Borden for government's attitude to postal workers.

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- May 31.—Premier defines status of striking postal workers.
- June 2.—Strike call issued at mass meeting.
- June 3.—General sympathetic strike begins at 11 a.m. Street car men vote against strike.
- June 5.—Street car men walk out. Metal trades council declared strike for re-instatement of postal workers at Winnipeg and Calgary. Civic workers join strike. Citizens meet Mayor and offer to organize for preservation of law and maintenance of essential utilities. Police Commissioners authorize engagement of special police and prohibit sale of fire arms and ammunition of all kinds. Jitneys legalized by special by-law.
- June 6.—Mayor Gale publishes Premier Borden's wire that government not opposed to collective bargaining. Public meeting in O'Brien's Hall endorses Mayor's stand re law and order.
- June 7.—City Council issues ultimatum to striking employees to return to work by June 9 or consider themselves resigned.
- June 9.—Heads of city departments instructed to carry on all essential civic utilities. Citizens' Protective League promises support to city authorities and endorses mayor's attitude re city employees.
- June 10.—Sgt. Coppins, V.C., beaten up in Winnipeg riot.
- June 11.—Loyal Citizens' League and Citizens' Protective League announce amalgamation as CITIZENS' LEAGUE.
- June 12.—City Council ignores threat by strike committee that unless anti-jitney by-law is re-inforced, telephone service would be discontinued. G. W. V. A. Vancouver command passed resolution condemning strike.
- June 13.—Partial strike of telephone operators began at 7 a.m. Mayor issued proclamation asking public consideration of faithful operators.
- June 14.—Daily Sun suspends publication because printers refused to set editorial denouncing strike. President of Citizens' League issued statement outlining aims of League.
- June 16.—Railway brotherhoods in Vancouver decline general strike. Daily Province suspends publication because printers refused to set advertisement of Citizens' League. Telephone service improved by addition of 26 volunteer operators supplied by Citizens' League. Citizens' League issues first copy of daily bulletin.
- June 17.—Strike leaders at Winnipeg arrested and documents showing receipt of Bolshevik money seized.
- June 18.—Strike extends to New Westminster. Daily Province resumes publication.
- June 20.—Daily Sun resumes publication.

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June 21.—Further riots in Winnipeg. One man killed and thirty wounded in armed clash between strikers and military authorities. Riot Act read. At request of Mayor strike committee defines collective bargaining.

June 23.—Strike called off in New Westminster.

June 25.—Winnipeg strike called off unconditionally.

June 26.—Strike Bulletin announces Vancouver strike off. Later, strike committee issued announcement that a mass meeting of strikers had resolved to continue strike until all prisoners released.

June 27.—Another mass meeting of strikers vote to continue strike on discrimination issue by 3788 to 743. Strike committee announces that loggers are called in to Vancouver.

June 28.—Pickets assault several men working on Vancouver waterfront. Civic employees take negotiations with city government out of hands of strike committee. Metal trades council votes to return to work. Street car men vote to return to work.

June 30.—Street cars resume operation. Vancouver Labor Temple raided by R. N. W. M. P. and literature and documents seized. City Council consents to negotiate with civic employees' union. Mayor proclaims picketing unlawful assembly.

July 3.—Vancouver strike committee officially proclaims strike off. Last issue of The Vancouver Citizen appears.



Activities of the League

Account of Organization Methods and Work of Each Committee

What THE CITIZENS' LEAGUE did is indicated by what might have happened if the good citizenship of the community had not banded together as a bulwark against insurrectionary and disturbing elements. Only by relying on the organized good will of the members of a similar body in Winnipeg was the city government able to guarantee the maintenance of vital food supplies.

Serious attempts at seizure of vital functions of government did not appear on the surface in Vancouver, but it should be borne in mind that many of the most dangerous and revolutionary moves of the Winnipeg strikers had been met and overcome before Vancouver labor leaders made the plunge. It should also be remembered that Vancouver strikers went out in sympathy with the organizations which in Winnipeg employed these highly disorganizing and rebellious methods against the lawfully established governments. Never to this day has a single responsible officer of the striking labor organizations of Vancouver expressed disapproval of the methods of his fellows in Winnipeg. Never has one of them shown sufficient sense of perspective to recognize that collective bargaining, however defined, whether recognized or not, was an issue of minor importance to the maintenance of stable government resting on the consent of a majority of the governed. Not even when the great mass of workers in Winnipeg publicly repudiated the strike leadership and went back to work with the original issue unsettled did there arise a man from the Vancouver strikers' ranks to condemn the abuse of labor's power.

Can there be any doubt, then, that it was simply the impracticability of accomplishing some of the things attempted in Winnipeg that led the Vancouver strike committee to refrain from following the example of their comrades in the prairie metropolis with whom they sympathized?

That Jitney Protest.

The hand of the local strikers was most effectively disclosed when they protested against the jitneys as interfering with the success of the street car men's strike. As a matter of fact the presence of the jitneys helped the strikers as against the company, for the public, with its transportation guaranteed, would never have backed up the B. C. Electric company in employing strike breakers to run its cars. On the other hand if there had been no jitneys it cannot be doubted that hundreds of volunteers would have come forward to man the trams. The protest, therefore, clearly shows the motive of the strike as a demonstration of labor's power against the wishes of the vast majority of the people.

The value of the Citizens' League to the community at large was, therefore, in what was prevented. Most of the work that it did was by way of preparation for emergencies that did not arise. Working through a dozen committees, several of which also had sub-committees, the League accomplished much, however, the value of which will not be lost if any similar developments occur again.

How The League Came About.

The League originated at a conference called by the mayor on June 5. His worship appealed for some visible demonstration of the willingness of the people to back him up in maintaining law and order and protecting the citizens from deprivation and loss, such as had occurred already in Winnipeg. Two leagues had been partially launched but after a series of conferences they decided to merge their activities, as the purpose of the whole thing would have been sacrificed if the forces had been divided into two camps. Rivalry and competition would inevitably have grown up.

The Citizens' League actually came into existence on June 10, when a basis of organization was devised. Representing the membership at large, which already numbered several hundred in the two leagues, a general council of fifty was named with an executive council of twelve. This executive had a chairman and vice-chairman or general manager. Under him were twelve branch managers or committee chairmen, several of whom had vice-chairmen acting with them. A general headquarters was established in Dominion Hall, Pender street, and each committee was given an office. Each chairman organized his own depart-

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ment, and the general manager presided over daily conferences of the committee heads, when the whole field was discussed and new work planned as required in view of the day's developments.

Details About The Membership.

Most conspicuous of the departments was the membership committee which succeeded in enrolling over 7500 members, of whom over 6000 filled out pledge cards as indicated in Appendix A. Enrolment booths were opened at the Dominion Hall headquarters, the post office corner, the Bank of Nova Scotia Building, the old court house grounds, the corner of Granville street and Broadway, the corner of Main and Broadway and at Room 709 Dominion Building. Many women volunteers assisted in manning the booths and others made a systematic canvass of the down town office buildings and commercial houses.

The cards once obtained were classified by occupations so that when trained help of any kind was needed for the maintenance of a public utility the committee could locate it at once. Following is the classification as carried out to date:

Males			
Unemployed	60	Constables	158
Autos	183	General	3,574
Auto Drivers	101	Street Cars	2
Bakers	1	Total	5,069
Butchers	19		
Carpenters	60	Females	
Clerical	169	Autos	15
Medical	65	Drivers	19
Labor	103	Clerical	67
Special	28	Medical	45
Electricians	30	Phones	22
Electrical Engineers	58	Waitresses	1
General Engineers	132	Stenographers	127
Marine Engineers	72	Unemployed	6
Mechanics	128	General	860
Teamsters	23	Total,	1,162
Telephone	14		

How "The Citizen" Was Published.

Another committee whose work was visible was the Publicity Department. Beginning with a series of display advertisements in the daily papers appealing for membership and outlining the purposes of the League, the committee also issued statements to the press upon the

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activities of the League and its various committees, and, later when the Daily Sun was forced to suspend, followed by the Daily Province, undertook publication of a daily pamphlet. Fourteen daily issues were published, all being printed in a union shop. The objects of the League were kept constantly before the people, much of the dangerous propaganda of the "reds" was counteracted, and the progress of the citizens' fight against attempts to set up a rival government with headquarters at the labor temple was recounted. Thousands of copies were distributed daily on the streets and smaller numbers were mailed to other points where the influence of the strike was felt.

Distribution of "The Vancouver Citizen," as the League's daily newspaper was called, was effected by the Communications Committee. A number of volunteer ladies folded the sheets and boys and men distributed them at prominent down town corners. Suburban delivery was effected by motor cars covering certain routes and through the co-operation of local grocers and other stores. The number of papers handled varied from 10,000 to 25,000 daily.

This committee also handled all interdepartmental correspondence and all incoming and outgoing messages. Owing to lack of phone accommodation at first a messenger service was built up. Another service rendered by the committee was the furnishing to the B. C. Telephone Company of 20 former telephone operators and 50 volunteers willing to learn.

Transportation, Food and Protection.

The Transportation Committee obtained lists of motor cars, trucks, motor cycles and bicycles. Motor transportation for the League's purposes was supplied. Policemen and telephone operators were conveyed to and from work. The number of cars required varied from 45 to 87 daily, and over 1000 car owners co-operated. The number of operators assisted varied from 75 to 175 daily.

The Industrial Department compiled statistics showing the total amount and location of the city's visible food supply, and planned a scheme of distribution through 34 sub-stations in the event of the bakers and similar trades being affected by the strike. The meat, fish, bread, milk, canned goods and restaurant situations were all investigated and

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measures of overcoming any hardships that might be imposed were devised and prepared for operation in case of necessity. The committee operated through a series of sub-committees, headed as follows:

Mechanical—cold storage, canning factories, laundries, box factories, fuel oil, gasoline.

Food-stuffs—flour, grains and cereals, dairy products, meats and fish, bakers, biscuits and jams, hotels and restaurants.

Fuel—Coal, wood.

If everything had been tied up as in Seattle arrangements were completed to see that food supplies of all kinds were ready for the people at central food depots throughout all parts of the city.

The Protection Department made a thorough canvass of every member who on signing his pledge card indicated his willingness to do special police duty if required. Altogether 150 men were listed as suitable, and from other members who did not specifically volunteer for this duty a similar number of suitable men was found. Protection was necessary for only one industry and it was provided. By co-operating with the industrial department over 100 men were supplied for the manning of vital positions in important occupations whose ranks were depleted by the strike.

Volunteers able and willing to man the following public utilities in case of necessity were interviewed by the public utilities committee and organized into teams—water supply, street cleaning, sewerage, light and power, gas, telephones. Fortunately in the more vital of the foregoing utilities the authorities required no assistance from the committee, but in the ones actually affected by the strike, such as street cleaning, volunteers were provided. The organization of the committee was carefully charted and the various utilities were classified under two headings—publicly owned and privately owned.

Other Committees.

The Legal Department organized itself in such a way as to be able to advise any department on short notice on any situation that might arise. At least one member of the committee was in constant attendance at the League's headquarters.

The Finance Committee procured and disbursed such funds as were necessary.

The Ways and Means Committee obtained and furnished the League's headquarters. When the Dominion Hall accommodation proved inadequate, a splendid suite of nine offices on the fourth floor of the Standard Bank Building was obtained. Stationery and supplies were procured by this committee as required. Volunteer stenographers were listed for the League's purposes.

The Health and Sanitation Department consisted of a group of medical men who studied and prepared remedies for any conditions which might have arisen to menace the public health. One or two health bulletins were issued through the daily press in reference to care of garbage.



Appendix.

Facsimile of Citizens' League membership card:

Citizens' League

I make application for enrolment in the above League and make the following statement:—

Name in full Age

Residence Address Phone

Business Address Phone

Present Position

Nature of Business

Business or Technical Experience

In what way are you prepared to assist if called upon?

I declare myself to be fully in sympathy with the objects of the League, and agree to support it in every way in my power.

Telegrams between Mayor Gale and Premier Borden:

May 30th.

Sir Robert Borden,
Premier of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

For past two weeks almost my entire time and attention has been devoted to the work of endeavoring to avert a general strike or walkout in Vancouver in sympathy with Winnipeg, in which all classes of citizens are earnestly assisting. Postal employees appear to hold the key to the situation and with them, as far as I can judge, rests the entire matter. Postal employees in Vancouver are splendid group of men with high regard for constitutional law and authority and could, I am convinced, be

relied upon to remain loyally at their posts were it not for the fact that a considerable number at least feel that they must not desert their fellow-workers of Winnipeg, notwithstanding the fact that they may not approve of the principle of civil service employees, and especially those in charge of our great public utilities, participating in sympathetic strikes. In view of recent ruling made by Minister of Labor that all members of Postal Department now on strike are permanently dismissed our men here are face to face with a very perplexing problem. In view of the seriousness of the situation here, I would very much appreciate any information which you might care to impart regarding the severity with which the delinquents are to be treated

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by your Government and the Minister of Labor, which information would be treated in a most confidential manner if so desired. Reports to the effect that you contemplate calling a conference of labor leaders and others to discuss matters with you is being favorably commented upon and I would respectfully suggest that such action be taken immediately. Am strongly of opinion that only very best results will be obtained from such a conference.

Mayor.

May 31st.

Mayor, Vancouver, B. C.

Replying to your telegram the position of the Government with respect to persons employed in the civil service is perfectly clear. After postal employees in Winnipeg had gone out on sympathetic strike they were given a reasonable time within which to return to their duty and they were informed that failure to comply with this would be regarded as equivalent to their resignation from the public service and that their places would be filled. This policy has been carried out and will be maintained in other Western cities where strikes are apprehended; the Government gave public notice of its policy in similar terms. If public servants after full notice of the consequences deliberately desert their duty as servants of the whole people, defy orders issued by competent authority and resort to measures which must inevitably dislocate the whole public service they have no right to complain if their abandonment of duty is necessarily regarded as permanent.

R. L. BORDEN.

Resolution adopted unanimously by large public meeting in O'Brien's Hall on June 6:

That this meeting approve of the efforts made by His Worship, Mayor Gale, to prevent the calling of the sympathetic strike here; also, his statements as published that he intends to maintain law and order and cause to be carried on such utilities as are necessary to the

life of the community, and further that as loyal citizens we are at his disposal to the above ends.

Letter from Citizens' League to Mayor Gale:

June 9th.

At a meeting of the League held this date the following resolution was passed:

Resolved that we assure the Mayor and Council that we are ready to render our full support to all measures necessary for the maintenance of law and order, the continued operation of public utilities and the sufficient supply of the necessities of life to the citizens, and also the following:

Resolved that we endorse the stand taken by the Mayor and Council in regard to employees who voluntarily left the city service.

Resolved that we call the attention of the authorities to the dangerous seditious propaganda being carried on at the present time and to the urgent need for the suppression of same.

Yours respectfully,
Secretary.

Letter from Mayor Gale to Citizens' League:

June 9th.

Sir:—

In order that my position with regard to your organization may be made perfectly clear to the members of the same and the citizens generally, I beg to state that when your committee waited upon me this afternoon and informed me that the Citizens' League had been formed for the purpose of assisting me in carrying out the programme I had laid down in connection with the present "Sympathetic Strike" situation in Vancouver, I did not hesitate to announce to the committee that I would not only be pleased to avail myself of the valuable assistance capable of being rendered by such an organization but, believing as I do that the citizens who will ultimately be credited with having made

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the same possible, are, like myself, prompted only by an earnest desire to serve the best interests of the citizens as a whole, rather than any particular class, that I would be pleased to do anything in my power to facilitate and assure the perfecting of the organization.

The policy which, the day after the "strike" was announced, I was pleased to affirm as being the one which, as Mayor of the city, I would insist upon is neither spectacular nor elaborate. It is easily understood and, with the whole-hearted co-operation which I shall expect from every true and loyal citizen is one which can be and must be carried out to the letter. It is as follows:

1. The strict enforcement of law and maintenance of order.
2. The operation of all utilities and industries essential to the welfare of the community.
3. To avoid, as far as possible, inconvenience, loss and suffering to the citizens.

The members of your League, I know, will readily understand that, beyond the fact of considering the present "Sympathetic Strike" most ill-advised and totally unnecessary, the citizens of Vancouver have no quarrel with organized labor. There would appear, however, to be connected with organized labor individuals holding extremely radical views concerning our social and economic conditions and who, it is believed by some, would be prepared to disrupt by revolutionary or riotous methods, if necessary, all existing forms of government. If such individuals exist then, as Canadians and as Britishers who believe in constitutional government, it is our plain duty to adopt every precautionary means that will safeguard the community, and prevent chaos such as we are told exists today in the city of Winnipeg.

The present crisis in Vancouver is not because of any local issue. Whatever the issue may be it does not arise as the result of any local condition, and consequently is one most difficult to deal with in the way of settlement. Therefore, the only course for me to adopt is the one already set out in the programme above outlined.

While I know it is hardly necessary to mention the matter, at the same time I would ask you to caution the members of the League against anything but sane, sound and cool judgment in their every action.

I thank you for your offer of assistance. It is only in line with what I have always felt I could rely on from the citizens of Vancouver in any time of crisis, and the fact that your offer and your efforts are spontaneous makes them doubly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Mayor.

Letter from Mayor to Strike Committee:

June 6th.

Sir:—

On the occasion of my visit to the Labor Temple to ascertain from your committee the real issue that prompted the calling of the general sympathetic strike, and to see what could be done towards effecting a settlement, I was informed that the issue was simply that the Government had pronounced itself as opposed to collective bargaining, and that the strike had been called in protest.

At that meeting I stated that I was not aware that the state had taken any such stand, and in view of the fact I took it upon myself to wire to Sir R. L. Borden asking him for definite information as to the attitude assumed by the Government with respect to collective bargaining. A reply to my telegram came to hand last evening and reads as follows:

Telegram received, the reason given for the strike is utterly without foundation. I quote from my speech delivered in the House of Commons last Tuesday evening. Begins. As to collective bargaining I put forward the same view that conditions of labor and matters of that nature all come within the purview of the Provincial Legislature, but insofar as our influence and example are concerned we have encouraged collective bargaining in the sense in which we understand it. The Railway War Board, which was established by this Government about a year or a year

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and a half ago is one of the most useful examples of collective bargaining in its best sense that I know of. We meet our own employees at conferences and we have repeatedly brought about conferences between the employees and their men. We have taken every possible step toward a solution of these difficulties, by mediation and conciliation, and we are doing our best in composing these differences. Quotation ends. The Minister of Labor has always consistently advocated collective bargaining reasonably understood.

From the above it will be clearly seen that no pronouncement has been made by the Government along the lines suggested by you, and you are therefore laboring under a misapprehension, in which case it would appear that the necessity for your sympathetic strike has been removed and I would respectfully suggest and earnestly urge that the same be called off forthwith in order that inconvenience and consequent suffering may be terminated immediately.

Your decision in this matter will be anxiously awaited by the citizens generally, and I would deem it a favor if you will let me have a reply by twelve o'clock.

Yours truly,

Mayor.

Ultimatum dictated by Jack Kavanagh of Strike Committee to the Mayor's secretary in the presence of the below mentioned members of the committee and of Mayor Gale in the latter's office at the City Hall on Thursday, June 12, at 4:30 p.m.:

Messrs. Hill, Youngash, Kavanagh and Smith.

We consider that the action of the City Council in rescinding the Jitney By-law was done to harrass the strikers.

We have not up to this time considered stopping the telephone service. We now consider the time has come to give the City Council the option of putting the jitneys back to where they were prior to the strike or of having the telephone service discontinued.

If the Jitney By-law making the operation of jitneys illegal is not again put into operation the telephone service will cease 7 a.m., Friday morning, June 13th.

BY ORDER OF STRIKE COMMITTEE.

Proclamation by Mayor Gale on June 13:

In the present crisis certain young ladies have been sufficiently regardful of the claims of the sick and ailing in this city and of others to whom the continued use of the telephone is almost, if not altogether, a vital matter, to remain at their switchboards and maintain such service in the public interest as is within the limited power of their numbers.

I appeal to the general public to facilitate their efforts to the utmost possible by using the telephones for indispensable calls only, and by exercising patience and consideration. Thus each one of us may show our appreciation of the pluck and fortitude which have brought them from their homes at the call of duty in circumstances which, but for their spirit and conscientiousness, would for the time being have deprived the city of one of its most essential utilities.

Mayor.

Editorial which "The Sun" printers refused to set in type on June 14:

No Revolution in Vancouver.—Vancouver is now in process of reaping the reward of the weakness shown by the authorities some months ago when a coterie of extremists engineered a strike to show their approval of a dead poltroon. Had the wretched creatures who are responsible for that outbreak been imprisoned, as they deserved, the city would probably have been spared the effort being made today by the revolutionary element to impose its will upon the community.

Let there be no mistake. This strike is dishonest to its heart core. To attempt to explain what the trouble is about, would be a waste of time. It isn't about anything. Nominally it is an expression of sympathy with Winnipeg, but no man can give a rational account

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of how Winnipeg is to be helped by tying up the business and industrial activities of Vancouver. In cold fact this is a demonstration by the "Reds" who have taken Russia for their model and who hope to make their profit amid the general confusion and overturn of government.

Those who dream of revolution in Canada are like angry children beating their bare hands against a stone wall, but the chances for more or less public disorder are by no means negligible. Fortunately there are in Vancouver forces adequate to deal with any who may feel tempted to resort to violence.

The manner in which the strike has been brought about, should be a warning to the unions to clean house and get rid of the fanatics who have been so prominent of late in local circles of organized labor. What is the use of employers making bargains with their employees if the contract is liable to be flouted whenever a few extremists wish to exhibit their power? The most casual consideration should convince men that no progress can be achieved unless agreements are to be observed.

In Winnipeg the authorities, somewhat reluctantly but now with uncompromising firmness, have taken the stand that no concessions can be made to sympathetic strikers who have no grievance of their own, and that public services such as police, fire protection and the post office, must not be used as weapons in disputes with which they have no proper concern.

Vancouver has been treated to an example of swaggering insolence in the shape of stoppage, fortunately only partial, of the telephone service because the city council would not compel the withdrawal of the jitneys from the streets. This demand by the strikers showed a wanton disregard for the comfort or convenience of anybody but themselves. It was in substance an effort to exercise one of the functions of government, and the council in its refusal has been actuated by a fitting sense of public duty.

There is no means of knowing how much further the strike may spread, but in any event it must be fought to a finish. However many may become in-

volved, it must be beaten and beaten decisively. The mass of our citizens do not intend to let the government of Vancouver be conducted from a back room in the corner of Dunsmuir and Homer streets.

Resolution passed by Vancouver G. W. V. A., June 12:

That we, the Great War Veterans' Association, Vancouver branch, as an association do hereby go on record as follows:

That while this association is heartily in accord with the aims of legitimate labor as represented by the international unions and the American Federation of Labor, we are not in sympathy with the manner in which the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council organized the sympathetic strike in this city, withholding the strike vote from the labor unions concerned, both individually and collectively, and using methods of intimidation to force men not in sympathy with the strike to leave their employment.

Further, we realize that this sympathetic strike is inflicting a great deal of hardship on our newly returned comrades who are about to resume employment after returning from the front, and that the continuance of such strike will work considerable hardship on many innocent people.

And further, that we view any movement forwarded by the present leaders of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council with the greatest distrust, owing to many of their members being implicated in the disgraceful twenty-four-hour strike staged in connection with the shooting of a draft evader in August, 1918, and also in view of their utterances at the B. C. Federation of Labor convention and the Western Canada Labor Conference held in Calgary this spring.

Further, we realize that the promoting of better pensions and the \$2,000 bonus, as one of the objects

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of this sympathetic strike now being held, is merely a clumsy piece of political chicanery.

And furthermore, we reaffirm our determination, during this crisis, to uphold constitutional authority.

Letter from Strike Committee to Mayor:

June 21st.

Sir:—

Enclosed find definition, as we understand it, of collective bargaining, as requested by you in your letter of today.

Yours truly,
Secretary,
Central Strike Committee.

Definition of Collective Bargaining as Understood by Central Strike Committee.—Workers engaged in the various occupations necessary to the operating of any particular industry belong to various craft organizations.

These organizations in turn form a council comprising the aforementioned organizations.

Thus the workers engaged in the building industry form themselves into a Building Trades Council. The workers engaged in industries operated by organizations designated as metal trades form themselves into a Metal Trades Council.

In all disputes or negotiations between workers and employers in these different industries the council functions on behalf of the men as the medium through which they conduct their affairs.

This method of negotiating wages, hours and conditions of labor is what is known as "Collective Bargaining."

Proclamation by Mayor re picketing:

To the Citizens of the City of Vancouver.—It has been brought to my attention that, under the guise of "peaceful picketing" certain individuals have

assembled in the city of Vancouver during the past few days and that, as a result, peaceful citizens have not only been intimidated but have been assaulted in a cowardly and despicable manner.

Having avowed and firmly determined that a strict enforcement of law and order shall be maintained at all costs, I have this day proclaimed that, in future, all such assemblies shall be deemed to be unlawful.

Warning is hereby given that every member of an "unlawful assembly" is, under the criminal code of Canada, guilty of an indictable offence and liable to one year's imprisonment.

June 30th. Mayor.

Letter from Citizens' League to Mayor:

June 27th, 1919.

Mr. Mayor:—

This morning's "Sun" quoted Kavanagh as saying "The City Council holds to the resolution declaring all striking employees no longer in the employ of the city as from June 7th. This amounts to practically a refusal of the right of the employees of the city to organize." We interpret your attitude not as a refusal of the right of employees to organize but as a strong protest of the abuse by irresponsible leaders of the power acquired by the use of the right. Organized labor demands and deserves consideration, but it must also extend like consideration to the public, dependent upon it for service and must be held responsible for its failure to observe its obligations.

Our executive suggests that a reply from you to Kavanagh's statement along the above lines would be very effective at this time.

Yours very truly,
CITIZENS' LEAGUE.

Front page of last copy of *THE CITIZEN*:

THE VANCOUVER CITIZEN

PUBLISHED WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR BY THE CITIZENS LEAGUE

NO. 15

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1919

FREE

Thanks, Mr. Mayor!

With the strike practically over in Vancouver certain facts stand out in bold relief. As this is to be the last daily issue of the Vancouver Citizen, now is an opportune time to glance back and see what they are.

Of greatest importance is the fact that constituted government was wise enough and strong enough to continue all phases of the public service without friction. The Mayor carried out to the letter his promise made at the beginning of the strike—that law and order would be maintained and the public utilities continued in operation.

By the very simple expedient of repealing the anti-jitney by-law the Mayor and City Council met the transportation crisis within a few hours of the street car tie-up. When, a few days later, the strike committee endeavored to bluff him into a choice between jitneys and telephone service Mayor Gale wisely refrained from falling into the trap. Due to the co-operation of the Citizens' League his attitude was vindicated and volunteer operators joined with the faithful employees of the telephone company in maintaining an adequate telephone service for all parts of the city.

Law and order was maintained. Violent measures of the sort adopted by the strikers in Winnipeg were not resorted to here. The salutary lesson taught both in Winnipeg and here by the enrolment of thousands of citizens in leagues pledged to support the authorities made any serious attempt at rioting unlikely. The prompt action of the Mayor in swearing in special po-

lice for emergency use only was a factor in maintaining the peace second only to the calm and judicial way in which the city government headed by Mayor Gale administered its functions at critical moments. In his several interviews with the strike committee and their agents His Worship did not come out second best. He declined to be drawn into discussion of academic points. He kept always before him his duties to the citizen body and maintained a firm and dignified attitude.

No individual, be he mayor or messenger boy, can run a whole city by himself, and there is no doubt that the Mayor's ability to deliver the goods rested to a large extent on the loyal way in which the citizen body rallied to his support under the banner of the Citizens' League.

During the strike **NO REAL HARD-
SHIP WAS IMPOSED ON THE PUBLIC**. All the hardship was suffered by those who deserved it, that is, by those who imagined they could impose their will upon the whole community by unconstitutional means. Their hardship was self-imposed. It consisted of doing without the just fruits of the honest toil which they refused to contribute to the community's upkeep.

To the Mayor and City Council the Vancouver Citizen extends its congratulations and thanks in behalf of the eight thousand members of the Citizens' League. To the Mayor's firm attitude and wise leadership the city is indebted for much that averted the violence and deprivation that characterized the strike in Winnipeg.

The Red-OR-The Red, White and Blue?

Printed with Union Labor at the office of James P. Morris Co.