

May 12th. 1913.

PORT ARTHUR TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL
IN SPECIAL SESSION ASSEMBLED.

This special session of the Port Arthur Trades and *Fort William* Labor Council assembled at the call of the residents to consider - "What action shall be taken in regard to the Street Railway strike" respectfully place the following facts before the citizens of Port Arthur and Fort William.-

1st. The Trades and Labor Council is the only authoritative body that can express the unified ideals and aspirations of Trade Unionism in these Cities.

2nd. Trades Unionism stands for a living wage, sanitary work-shops, reasonable hours of labor and no discrimination against a workman because he is a Trade Unionist.

3rd. We have won the RIGHT BY LAW to ORGANISE, to make collective agreements and to insist on investigation in cases of bad management.

4th. All our great railroads are worked by organized men, recognized by the Railroad Commissioners and respectfully treated by the Railroad Managements.

We assert, that in Port Arthur and Fort William the Trades and Labor Councils, - composed of delegates from the different unions have the welfare and stability of these Cities very much at heart.

We are not speculators in land or property. We have invested our all in our homes. We desire to live a clean life. We cannot live such a life on a wage below the living necessity. To make ends meet many of the working men's wives have to work hard as Boarding house keepers.

We further assert, that in view of these facts we have reached out helping hands to brother workmen not organized in Trade Unionism to become organized. By doing this we have incurred the displeasure of certain short-sighted business men and large property owners who run the affairs of these Cities.

We are sorry they have set themselves out to break International Trade Unionism. We ask them in all sincerity to desist, but if they will persist in bringing in professional strike breakers, let the result of such action be upon the men who take such a course.

Our Brother Unionists the Conductors and Motormen of the Municipally owned street railway of Port Arthur and Fort William have found it necessary to go out on strike.

1st. They are asking that officers of their union discriminated against and discharged shall be reinstated.

2nd. That they should be accorded fair treatment by the Management.

3rd. That they should receive an adequate wage or salary for their work.

The Commission governing the road for the Citizens are five in number, two of whom only are elected, and these are elected on a property qualification which disfranchises most of the Wage Earners who are the greatest patrons of the road.

There are many Wage Earners who are not Trade Unionists but who stand for the principle of fair play and a living wage.

Taking into consideration these brief facts, the Trades and Labor Council of Port Arthur urge the Citizens of these Cities not to degrade themselves or the fair name of these Cities by riding

on street cars if operated by professional or amateur strike breakers resident or brought in to break a legitimate organisation of fellow Citizens who are resident rate-payers of these Cities for the following reasons,-

1st. Care for their own safty.

2nd. The certainty that if the present organisation is broken and same managment continued the whole question will have to be lived over again, for men must have a living wage.

3rd. If the Board must eventually pay a living wage, as we claim they must then why not pay it to our own Citizens at once and reinstate the men who have served the City faithfully for years?

4th. Trade Unionism cannot be broken although a single union may be, but this will engender bitter class hatred which will have a disastrous effect on the Civic Life of these Cities.

We ask the Citizens to trust their fellow Citizen workers who are here to stay in building up a clean and prosperous City, unified and strong.

In submitting the fore going to the Citizens in general this Trades and Labor Council in special meeting assembled ask the Trades Unions of the Twin Cities and all working men not directly affiliated to take into consideration the desirability of going out on strike in sympathy with the Street Car Men if the Joint Board of Street Railway Commissioners persist in ignoring the two City Trades and Labor Councils and bring in Strike Breakers to run OUR MUNICIPALY OWNED STREET CARS, and report themselves at the regular meeting of the Port Arthur Trades and Labor Council on Thursday next May 15th. 1913 or earlier if called by the President.

That a copy of this statement be sent to the press with the request that it be printed in its intirety; to the Mayor of each City; the Chairman of the Commissioners and the Port Arthur & Board of Trade.

Port William

Signed on behalf of Joint Councils

Sid Wroore Secy.

SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL
MAY 19 1913

5-12-13.

May 13th. 1913.

355.

M. C. Wilson, Esq.,

Secty. Treas. Joint Board,

Port Arthur, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

The following resolution has been adopted by the
Council of the City of Port Arthur:

"That the Council of the City of Port Arthur desires to place itself on record as in complete accordance with the position taken by The Joint Street Railway Board in connection with the present demands made by the Conductors and Motormen before going on strike and agree to render to them all the support necessary to preserve law and order and to protect the citizens own property represented by the Street Railway, believing as we do that the stand taken by the employees is not only unfair and illogical, but contrary to the terms of their own agreement and also contrary to the law of Canada because they have not called in a Board of Conciliation under The Lemieux Act. This is the citizens Street Railway and should be controlled by them and not by their employees, who, under their proposed agreement assume practically the control of its management. Discipline must be maintained and only men who treat every citizen with respect can be retained in our employ.

Therefore we urge every citizen in the interests of the City at large to put up with inconvenience for a time without a murmur and to every person we would request that the law and order be respected."

Yours truly,

City Clerk.

To Mr J Driver
Mayor of Port Arthur

May 19th. 1913.

Dear Sir,

The following resolution was ~~unanimously~~ unanimously passed by a standing vote in a public meeting held in the Lyceum Theatre Port Arthur last night to protest against present method of running our Street Car service, and to suggest a settlement. The meeting was - packed from door to ceiling with an earnest, orderly and determined audience you will be interested to know.

I have the honor to remain

Yours Faithfully

E. H. Price

Chairman of said public meeting.

P.S. You will also be interested in knowing that the chair was supported by representatives of nearly all the Trades Unions in the City.

RESOLUTION.

Moved by Frederick Urry.
Seconded by George Bell.

Whereas by reason of disputes between our motormen and conductors and Joint Board and manager ~~of~~ of the Street Railway of Port Arthur and Fort William which has brought about a strike,

And Whereas hundreds of citizens for conscience sake are compelled to walk and the reputation of the Cities are suffering, therefore,

Be it resolved that the Councils of both Cities, the Joint Board of Street Railway Management and the Street Railway Employees through their chosen representatives agree together in writing,

- 1st. That the vital questions in dispute be referred to the Electors by referendum vote.
- 2nd. That the Street Railway Employees, including Conductors Enright and Muldoon, resume duty at once upon the execution of said agreement.
- 3rd. That said vote shall take place sixty days from the resumption of duty by the said employees.
- 4th. That both sides shall bind themselves to abide by the decision of the Electors.
- 5th. That both sides shall bind themselves to place the facts before the Citizens in both Cities, to the end that an intelligent vote may be taken and everything possible done to restore and preserve harmony.
- 6th. That copies of this resolution be furnished the Joint Street Railway Board, The Street Railway Union, and the Mayors and Councils, and the Press of both Cities.

SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL
MAY 19 1913

.....19

To Mr J Oliver
Mayor of Port Arthur

May 19th, 1913.

Dear Sir,

The following resolution was unanimously passed by a standing vote in a Public Meeting held in the Corona Theatre, Fort William, yester afternoon, Mr. F. Barraclough presiding, to lay the facts before the citizens in relation to our Street Railway service, the Theatre was filled with an intensely interested audience.

I remain,

Yours respectfully,

B. W. Smith

Secretary Street Railway Men's Union.

RESOLUTION.

Moved by Mr. L.L. Pelletier .
Seconded by Ald. A.H. Dennis.

WHEREAS a quarrel between our Motormen and Conductors and the Management of the Street Railway, including our Joint Street Railway Board and our Manager, has brought about a strike, and,

WHEREAS both parties to the dispute have brought in outsiders to settle a question of right and wrong, of simple justice, by brute strength on the one side, instead of consulting the people themselves, meanwhile hundreds of citizens for conscience sake are compelled to walk and the reputation of the Cities are suffering, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Councils of both Cities, the Joint Board of Street Railway Commissioners, and the Street Railway Employees, through their chosen representatives agree together in writing,

- 1st. That the vital question in dispute be referred to the Electors by referendum vote.
- 2nd. That the Street Railway Employees, including Conductors Enright and Muldoon, resume duty at once upon the execution of the said agreement.
- 3rd. That said vote shall take place sixty days from the resumption of duty by the said Employees.
- 4th. That both sides shall bind themselves to abide by the decision of the Electors.
- 5th. That both sides shall use their influence in both Cities, to the end that the facts alone shall be circulated and everything possible done to restore and preserve harmony.
- 6th. That copies of this resolution be furnished the Joint Street Railway Board, The Street Railway Union, and the Mayors and Councils, and the Press of both Cities.

SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL

MAY 19 1913

.....19

5-19-13.

367.

May 20th. 1913.

B. A. Werret, Esq.,
Secty. St. Ry. Men's Union,
Port Arthur, Ont.

Dear Sir:

The following resolution has been adopted by the
Council:-

"That this Council having every confidence in the
Street Railway Management, therefore, do not deem a Referendum
necessary and all letters in connection therewith be filed."

Yours truly,

City Clerk.

City of Port Arthur

Bond Order

Meeting

Board of Control

That the Mayor be authorised to swear in at least twenty *191*
five men for the protection of public utilities and the
protection of the public in our *Resolution No.* city and the Chief of

Moved by Police is authorised to purchase what he
Seconded by requires to furnish each constable so sworn
in with baton, badge and other means of
protection to enforce the law.

*on file - but not in
minutes.*

Submitted to Board of Control
MAY 1 1913
.....19....

Chairman

*Filed
Lester Cain*

File

June 6th. 1913.

F. A. Acland, Esq.,

Deputy Minister of Labor,

Ottawa.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter that I am to-day sending to the Deputy Minister of Justice, which fully explains the conditions here. I would ask you to take this matter up with him and have a representative sent to this City to thoroughly investigate the statements and charges therein made.

You will recollect that the Joint Street Railway Board applied to you to have this done some time ago, but apparently you construed it to mean that ~~they wished~~ a Conciliation Board appointed. As the employees notified you that they would refuse to accept any Conciliation Board, it was unnecessary for us to appoint one. If your representative would go into this matter here thoroughly, he would, I am confident, find that the conditions of the working men here, are as good, if not better, than other Cities in the West, and that the cause of all the trouble here is a restlessness of the Socialists who are stirred up by a number of Agitators who will not work themselves and who make a living out of the other Unions that they can work. A number of our leading citizens have discussed the advisability of sending a Deputation to Ottawa on this matter. Hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain,

Mayor.

Submitted to Board of Control
JUN 12 1913
.....19.....

June 6th. 1913.

Edmund Leslie Newcombe, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Justice,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor call to your attention the continual state of unrest which has existed during the last three years among the laboring classes and more particularly among the Socialists here. This state of unrest is greatly retarding the Industrial growth of the Cities, and has been the cause of a number of Strikes in which rioting and disorderly conduct has taken place. These Strikes have apparently not been due to the condition of the working men alone, and their dissatisfaction appears simply to have been the result of a number of Agitators who keep continually holding meetings and delivering fiery speeches suggesting action.

I would call your attention to the Strike at Fort William some three years ago of the Dock Laborers, when a riot took place and the Regular Militia had to be called down from Winnipeg and The Riot Act read. Again I would call your attention to the Strike of the Canadian Northern Coal Handlers here last year and a Riot in which two men were shot and a number of the Officers badly injured. On this occasion the 96th. Regiment was called out and The Riot Act read. Again this spring at West Fort William, among the employees of the Canada Car Works, in which a number of violent engagements took place between the Strikers and the Strike-Breakers,

and quite recently the employees of the Municipally owned Street Railway have gone on Strike and a Riot took place in which one man was killed, one shot and the Police Station completely wrecked. There is hardly a night in the week that inflammatory speeches have not been made by several Agitators, who in the opinion of myself and the Crown Attorney, are undesirable characters, and something will have to be done to either remove them or check their actions.

In the first place, one, Mr. Fred Urry, who, it is stated, receives his mail from the Dept. of Labor addressed as its Agent here, has on all occasions during the past Strikes, did everything in his power to cause a General Strike and urged every Union to go on Strike and do Picket Duty. In addition, he made one very inflammatory speech in which he urged every laboring man to take his place on each side of the Railway so thickly placed together as to hold back or intimidate passengers from getting on the Cars and stating that if their boots wore out, there were plenty in the store windows; if their clothes wore out, there were plenty hanging outside the stores; and if they got hungry, that there was plenty to be got in the Grocers; without telling them directly to go and take the goods; in the opinion of one and all who heard him, he was leaving a suggestion that these goods could be taken.

There is another man named McGuire, who, in his address explained Picket Duty and told what a handy thing dynamite was and explained fully how it should be used by a man who wanted to make use of it, and also suggested how handy a thing nippers were,

stating what they were used for, namely, cutting wires for their telephone, telegraph or Electric Lines.

A number of other addresses along similar lines have been made by other individuals. I am unable to read Finnish myself, but I am told that the Finnish Socialistic Paper here called the "Toykansa" writes matter condemning the Governmental and Social conditions of our Country; condemning the standing and decisions of our Judges and Courts of Law and generally furnishing a lot of material which would warrant its papers from being admitted through the mails and perhaps warrant the closing of the paper.

Citizens in many quarters are carrying fire-arms to protect themselves from possible insult and assault, and almost every day some new incident keeps turning up.

I am writing a letter to the Deputy Minister of Labor enclosing a copy of this letter. I believe your Department would be wise if they send a representative to look fully into the cases here and report on these and other conditions that he may find. This condition is practically ruining the City and no man feels safe in making an investment here at present for this cause. If your Department can do anything to help us getting rid of this bunch of Agitators, who, by the way, appear simply to make a living off the working people, you would be giving us great assistance and help in keeping this condition from spreading to other places, as you are no doubt aware this City has a very large foreign population, of which the greater number are Finnish, and it is ~~possible~~ that three-

quarters of these are Socialists. If these people are allowed to become naturalized as they have been without ^{any} examination as to their character and past history, they will soon be in a position to control any elections or property votes that we have. It would be quite possible to go on and write you case after case for an hour, but I trust that I have said sufficient to warrant you to do something to assist us. For three weeks I have walked around with a copy of the Riot Act in my pocket, expecting every moment that it would have to be used.

The recent Strike, which by the way, I may say is practically over, was not a mere question of wages, but for the re-instatement of men who had been discharged and whose cases had been investigated by a Conciliation Board appointed by the Dept. of Labor and found that they were properly discharged, and the City has been put to a loss somewhere in the vicinity of \$10000.

I trust that you will take this matter up with the Minister of Labor and see that some prompt action is taken in the matter. I will be pleased to assist any representative that is sent here and try to prove to him conclusively that every statement that I have made herein is correct and true.

Yours respectfully,

Mayor.

(M. J. Oliver)

Mayors' private file



Ottawa, June 10, 1913.

Sir,-

I have the honour to acknowledge your communication of the 6th instant referring to industrial conditions in Port Arthur and Fort William, and enclosing copy of a letter which you are sending to the Deputy Minister of Justice. Your statements as to the prevailing unrest at Port Arthur and Fort William in industrial circles have been carefully noted. The Department has at times come into contact with the difficult conditions which you outline, and has done what has seemed possible to secure a settlement of industrial disputes by conciliation.

In your letter to the Deputy Minister of Justice you refer to Mr. F. Urry, who you remark "receives his mail from the Department of Labour addressed as its agent here," and mention the part which Mr. Urry seems to take in industrial agitation. The Mr. Urry in question is presumably the person who for some years has acted as correspondent of the Labour Gazette. In that capacity Mr. Urry is required to furnish the Department with certain specific information concerning industrial matters; also to forward a monthly statement of retail prices at Port Arthur and Fort William of the principal household commodities. So far as the Department is aware, the substantial accuracy of the information thus furnished has not been disputed. Of Mr. Urry's activities in other directions the Department has not had occasion to become officially aware. Apart from the duties above mentioned, Mr. Urry has been once or twice instructed to inform the parties to an industrial dispute which has come to the knowledge of the Department of the general nature of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, also to represent to these parties the desire of the Department to have its good offices exercised in any practicable manner, rather than that a strike should occur. To this extent, and to this extent only, has Mr. Urry been an Agent of the Department or has he been entitled to be so described. The work performed by Mr. Urry for the Department is not, therefore, as you will see, extensive, and the remuneration amounts only to \$125 per annum. The Minister's view, however, is that a person performing any duties which seem to connect him, however slightly, with the Department should act with discretion in matters which in any way touch the work of the Department, and your statements would suggest that Mr. Urry has not proceeded upon these lines. The Department is, by the Minister's direction, taking the matter up with Mr. Urry.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. Land
Deputy Minister of Labour

In any further
correspondence on
this subject, please
to quote Number
and Date of this
Communication.

HEADQUARTERS 96TH L. S. REGIMENT
PORT ARTHUR, ONTARIO

September 19th, 1913.

FROM Oscar Troostwyk,
Paymaster 96th L. S. R.,
TO The Corporation of the
City of Port Arthur,
Port Arthur, Ont.

see Rec 650

Sirs:

Armoury Guard. Re subject matter marginally noted,
I beg to enclose pay-roll covering services,
Armoury Guard, provided at the request of
the corporation during the strike of the
Street Railway employees in May, 1913, for
which I will be pleased to receive your
check.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Oscar Troostwyk.

OT/LB

SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL
SEP 22 1913

In any further
correspondence on
this subject, please
to quote Number
and Date of this
Communication.

HEADQUARTERS 96TH L. S. REGIMENT
PORT ARTHUR, ONTARIO

64I-00175
September 19th, 1913.

FROM Paymaster,

96th Lake Superior Regt.,

TO The Corporation of the

City of Port Arthur,

Port Arthur, Ont.

DRS. TO THE 96th LAKE SUPERIOR REGIMENT.

Armoury Guard.

Night of
May 12th/13th.

1 Captain	\$3.00	\$3.00	
1 Colour Sergeant	1.20	1.20	
1 Corporal	.95	.95	
4 Privates	.85	3.40	8.55

Night of
May 13th/14th.

1 Colour Sergeant	1.20	1.20	
1 Private	.85	.85	2.05

Night of May 14th
and May 15th.

1 Colour Sergeant	1.20	1.20	
4 Privates	.85	3.40	4.60

\$15.20

SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL
SEP 22 1913
19

1913

W. J. Gurney
St. Paul

September 23rd, 1913.

W.J.Gurney, Esq.,

Treasurer,

Port Arthur, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

The following Resolution has been adopted by the Council:-

"That letter from Oscar Troostwyk dated September 19th be received and filed and the Treasurer be authorized to issue a cheque for \$15.20 be being amount of account attached covering services of Armoury Guard provided at the request of the Corporation during the Street Railway employees strike in May of this year, cheque to be made payable to Oscar Troostwyk, paymaster 96th L.S.R."

Yours truly,

City Clerk.