

# LABOR WILL HAVE TICKET FA IN NEXT CIVIC CAMPAIGN

## Hours and Pay of Civic Em- ployees Again Discussed by Ratepayers' Association

### "FIRE COUNCIL," SAYS ONE

### Ward Aldermen Surprise the Meeting by Their Absence— Graft and Straw Bosses.

The Central executive of the Ratepayers' association will be asked to consider the enforcement of the letter and spirit of the plebiscite for an eight-hour day with a nine-hour pay for civic employees. These will exceed this summer 1000, receiving from 25 to 30 cents an hour according to the nature of their work.

An announcement by Mr. R. P. Pettipiece that labor would for the first time have a straight labor ticket in the next municipal campaign was a feature of the meeting.

The Ratepayers' association of Ward Five last night in Oddfellows hall, Mount Pleasant, discussed the subject of the work and pay of civic employees for an hour, first favoring a resolution to be sent to the city council, but finally agreeing that it should come from the central executive.

"The aldermen will see in the press the result of this meeting and perhaps they will pause before flagrantly violating the people's mandate," said Mr. Pettipiece, who, on behalf of the Trades and Labor council, attended the meeting. There were only twenty ratepayers present and not a civic employee among them.

"They are afraid to come, afraid of losing their jobs," was one member's explanation of their absence.

"I think the trouble is largely due to the wording of that plebiscite," said Mr. Frank Harris. "It read: 'Are you in favor of an eight-hour day for civic employees?' There was nothing said about pay. But now it seems to have become a question of pay and not day, nine hours' pay for eight hours' work. That is how the council and the men are looking at it, and it may as well be discussed upon that basis. It seems to me to be a question whether, after all, the council is violating the people's wishes. Did the people understand that they were voting for it in that form, when nothing was said about pay in the plebiscite?"

But Mr. Pettipiece and Mr. L. D. Taylor and a number of members of the Ward Five association believed that the electors meant this and nothing else. It was the whole tenor of the speeches in the municipal campaign, and of the reports in the press, they declared.

#### "Fire the Council."

"Why you can get an eight-hour day for eight hours' pay at any time and without a plebiscite," added Mr. Pettipiece. "Just knock off work at the eighth hour. But that is not what the men want. They should have the nine-hour pay and that was the view of the electors. I asked Mayor Douglas in this very hall if he were in favor of the nine-hour pay for the eight hours. He declared he was. Now I am wondering what kind of a story he will have to tell us when he returns. I was also anxious to hear at this meeting tonight the explanations of Ald. Morton and Ald. White-side. But I see they are conveniently absent."

Mr. Harris thought the council was acting wisely in first making up the estimates before giving its answer to this question. These estimates would be completed in a few days and no doubt the city would then state its position.

"It is dodging the whole question," returned Mr. Taylor. "Simply coercing the men until they are afraid they will lose their jobs. It is overriding the will of the people and trying to snuff out the question. It doesn't care a continental. But there is a time coming, and if the labor men return the present council next year I will be greatly surprised."

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"Did the question first come from the Trades and Labor council?" he was asked.

"No, from the Civic Employees' union, and the Trades and Labor council asked for a plebiscite upon it."

"Was the union's request just for an eight-hour day without any question of pay?"

But in the view of Mr. Pettipiece there was no doubt that the men looked for nine hours' pay.

"And fully 80 per cent. of the electors so understood it," said Chairman R. A. McCullough.

"If the nine hours' pay had been mentioned in the plebiscite," returned Mr. Harris, "there would never have been this discussion."

### Watch for Labor Ticket.

"Why, even sleepy Victoria is up to date enough to have the eight-hour day and nine-hour pay for its employees," continued Mr. Pettipiece. "And Winnipeg, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Calgary, and almost every city but this. Even the Municipality of Burnaby. I think a good way to settle it would be to fire the whole council, a council that works men as this does, working its stationary engineers not eight but twelve hours."

"This matter is getting to such a pass that next year you will see organized labor taking an active part in the municipal campaign for the first time. We have come to the conclusion that the only way we can get redress is to have some of our own representatives on the council; at least we are going to try."

It was explained by Mr. Harris that the engineers referred to were attending the boilers at the incinerator, and were on duty each for twelve hours, but at their own volition. The work consisted practically of nothing more than watching the boilers. They were not members of the Stationary Engineers' association.

"The city should have three men there no matter how light the work is," said Chairman McCulloch.

There were frequent references to graft, lazy foremen and straw bosses in the hour's discussion of the subject.

The dangerous speed at which automobiles tear down the Westminster avenue grade at all times, and the unseemly conduct of some of the convivial occupants returning from Westminster direction on Sunday evenings will be brought to the attention of the chief of police.