

March 9

# 'No Magic Wand,' Daley Complains; Raps Union Tactics

Censure of labor unions and employees for ignoring constituted labor relations machinery, taking the law into their own hands in strikes and sit-downs and then coming to him to settle their differences with employers "as if I had some magic wand" was voiced by Labor Minister Charles Daley in the Legislature yesterday.

Mr. Daley was replying to a question from R. H. Carlin (C.C.F., Sudbury) as to why he had not yet sent a conciliation officer into the Brockville plant of the Phillips Electric Works, Ltd., where he said 700 were idle. He asked also what action he was taking to settle the "lockout" at the Rogers Electronic Tube Co. in Toronto, from which a deputation had come to Queen's Park Thursday.

Mr. Daley said that Monday or Tuesday was the earliest he could get a Labor Relations Board officer into the Brockville plant, and stated that he didn't have men "sitting on the sidelines" awaiting such calls.

Mr. Carlin said that the Electrical Workers' Union had tried to negotiate with the Toronto company for six months and that 110 workers were "locked out." At the Brockville plant 700 had been "locked out" since Feb. 26 despite a request to Mr. Daley for conciliation. He claimed this "unwarranted delay" was common practice.

## Dispute Over Bonus

"I am fully conversant with both industries," replied Mr. Daley. "At the Rogers plant there was a dispute due to the cancellation of war orders. It was deemed necessary to discontinue the bonus. It was referred to the Region War Labor Board." The board had ruled that the bonus be "permitted," with negotiation on amounts "varying as high as formerly." The workers had taken the ruling to mean that the bonus had been reinstated, which was not the board's intention. The board had favored re-adjustment.

"The employees decided that the bonus was not forthcoming and staged a sit-down strike," he went on. This had lasted an hour, and when the employees refused to return to work they had been discharged.

Mr. Daley said that in the case of the Phillips employees at Brockville, an agreement was still in force that eliminated sit-downs. The sit-down had occurred. The company believed that the agreement had been violated and discharged the personnel.

## Procedure Established

"We have a constituted authority in this Province to handle this sort of thing," said Mr. Daley. "No one is more familiar with the proper procedure in use than those heading these two groups. Proper authority and procedure has been established. If employees decide that, despite agreements, they are going to sit down, then I can't decide that the employers are locking them out.

"Some think there is nothing to do in the Labor Department. Handling strikes is overtime for me. When I am advised that there are prospects of trouble, we try to contact the parties and arrange a settlement. In most cases we are successful," the Minister went on.

"In these cases, because of delay, they bar themselves out and instead of coming to me beforehand, they come to me later as if I had some magic wand.

"If they're going to take the law into their own hands, it becomes increasingly difficult to be of service. Until there is some indication of compromise, it is difficult to do anything. No matter what is the cause of a strike of sit-down, legal or illegal, you still have strikes."

Mr. Daley said he would see the Brockville workers today and, as soon as possible, would have a conciliator there, but that Monday or Tuesday was the earliest date he could set. He had talked to the company, he said, and the management was "willing to talk" settlement. He did not disclose whether he was sending a conciliator into the Toronto plant.