

C.P.R. TRACKMEN GET BIG INCREASE

Company Agree to Pay an Advance of Twenty Cents Per Day to Permanent Way Men on All Western Main and Branch Lines—Will Add Over Two Hundred Thousand Dollars Yearly to Pay Roll.

At a conference held in the city yesterday between the representatives of the maintenance of way men of the Canadian Pacific railway, and the officials of the company, the schedule on which the maintenance of way men are to work during the next twelve months was agreed on, and the final settlement effected.

The negotiations which were concluded during the afternoon have been prolonged over several weeks. The interests of the men were looked after by John T. Wilson, of St. Louis, president of the union of maintenance of way men, and by William Dorey, of Woodstock, New Brunswick, the general chairman. The company was represented by assistant general manager G. J. Bury.

The result of the negotiations is that the men will receive, as compensation for the increased cost of living, an advance of twenty cents per day. The increased wage will be paid on all the western lines of the Canadian Pacific, including all the branch lines. On these lines there are three thousand five hundred men engaged in maintenance of way department, and the advance in wages will mean a difference of seven hundred dollars per day, the aggregate for the year being over two hundred thousand dollars.

The wages at present paid to this class of employees range from \$1.50 per day to \$2.35 per day. In future the schedule will run from \$1.70 to \$2.55 per day.

From Winnipeg, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Dorey will go to Montreal, and negotiations will be entered on with the officials of the eastern lines for a similar increase. There is no doubt that a corresponding increase will be granted in the east, as there is usu-

ally no difference between the schedules for the different portions of the country. Both the representatives will leave for Montreal to-day.

In speaking to a representative of the Free Press with reference to the agreement Mr. Wilson stated last night that the men were very much pleased with the result of the negotiations.

Compliments C. P. R.

"The Canadian Pacific," he said, "has been as generous to its men as it has been progressive in its management. It pays good wages, and does its work well. Our dealings with the corporation have been uniformly satisfactory, and have terminated to the satisfaction of both the company and the employees.

"I may say that there was never the slightest danger that there would be any strike in this instance. Our men some time ago adopted the principle of arbitration, and it is our settled policy that the rights of the public shall be respected, and that the public interest shall not be sacrificed on account of the differences between the company and ourselves. We are wholly committed to the principle of arbitration, and if we cannot arrive at an agreement with the company in the ordinary way, then we will call in a third party, in whom both the company and ourselves have confidence as a trustworthy and competent judge, organize a court of our own, and settle the matter.

"The increase granted by the company will mean sixty dollars per annum to each of the men engaged on maintenance of way. There are in all about seven thousand men interested, counting both eastern and western lines, and the total increase in wages will amount to over four hundred thousand dollars per annum."