1/2s City Reporter

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LARKIN AND WORKERS FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS ON STREETS OF DUBLIN

POLICE BATON CHARGE TRADE UNION MEMBERS

Over 300 workers presented in Jervis Street Hospital with head wounds, cuts and broken bones. These injuries were as a result of members of the police charging at trade union members locked out of their places of work. The members gathered on the streets of Dublin to protest at the actions of company bosses. To break up the protest, police officers used wooden batons while charging at the crowds. One injured protester said:

*‘They came straight at us, no stopping them, swinging their batons, pushing and pushing.’*

Earlier this year, workers from the Tramway Company were called to a meeting by company boss, William Martin Murphy. At this meeting, the workers were warned that the Tramway Company did not recognise trade unions and any worker found to be a member of such a union would be sacked. In the weeks and months after, William Martin Murphy sacked hundreds of workers who were found to be members of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union (ITGWU).

In August workers demanded pay rises of 1 or 2 shillings. The Tramway Company refused to pay these rises, and on the 26th of August, tram drivers stop working, beginning a strike. Later that day, a mass meeting took place outside Liberty Hall, where Jim Larkin addressed the crowd.

Larkin made claims that workers were effectively being ‘locked out’ of their jobs by Tramway bosses not willing to pay workers fairly.

It is reported that even to this day, William Martin Murphy, has been provided with personal protection by the Dublin Metropolitan Police.

Larkin has vowed to continue the fight for better pay for trade union members and urged them to stay strong in the face of this unfair treatment by the Tramway Company.

*Read more on page 4.*

**Questions:**

1. What was the name of the company that William Martin Murphy owned?
2. Do you agree with his decision not to recognise trade unions? Give at least two reasons to support your opinion.
3. ITGWU stands for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. If you were William Martin Murphy or one of his company’s bosses, would you award the pay rise?
5. Who was the leader of the ITGWU?
6. Can you find evidence in this article that indicates that William Martin Murphy held important status in the city of Dublin?
7. According to the article, how were some trade union members hospitalised?
8. List some of the injuries caused.