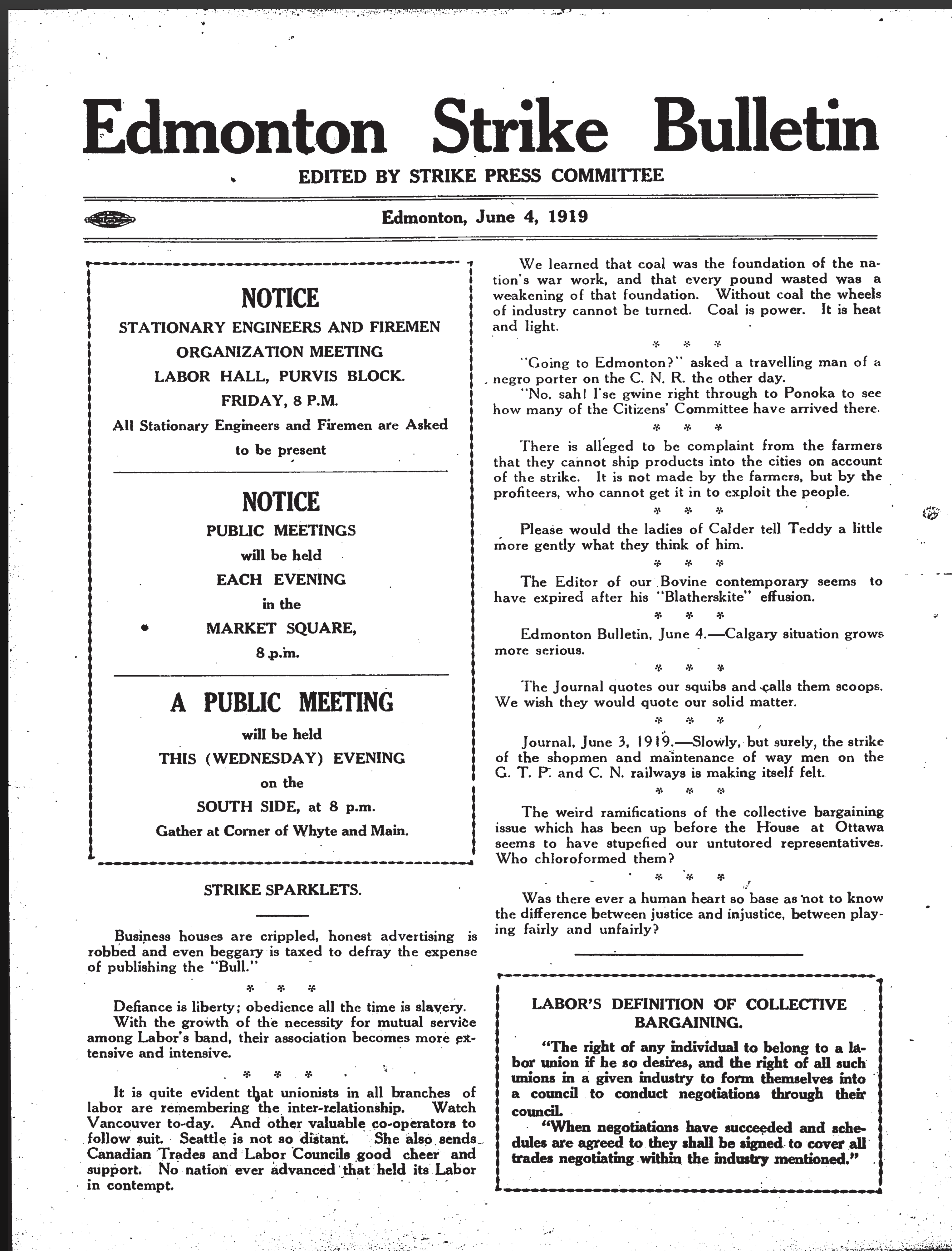


Winnipeg's request to labour councils across Canada to stage sympathy strikes struck a chord with unionized workers in Alberta.

34 of the 38 locals in the Edmonton Trades and Labour Council (ETLC) agreed to call a strike. The city's mine locals, railway locals, and most trades voted overwhelmingly to strike. Though the ETLC had done little to endear itself to non-white workers, the city's Chinese laundry workers decided to join the strike.



Edmonton Strike Bulletin (4 June 1919): 1.

2,000 workers walked off the job on 26 May. During the first week, strikers gave temporary power over city services to the Strike Committee. They agreed to permit full water services only to hospitals and to people on the first floor of buildings.

Articles in the *Edmonton Strike Bulletin* emphasized the non-revolutionary aims of the sympathy strikes but reported on the progress of the OBU and expressed sympathy for the Bolshevik government in Russia.

As in Winnipeg, a Citizens' Committee formed to oppose what they regarded as workers' seizure of power. Mayor Joe Clarke, who had earlier expressed support for the workers' cause, declared that civic workers who did not immediately return to work would lose their jobs. On 31 May, utility workers and other city employees, except street railway workers, abandoned the strike.

On 1 June, railway workers voted unanimously at a mass meeting to remain off the job until the Winnipeg strikers' demands were met. Most strikers in Edmonton stayed out until 25 June, the day the Winnipeg strike was called off.