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Morrison of Glace Bay, this suggestion was rejected at the meetings of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. In 1925 differences also emerged over tactics for the settlement of the strike. By the third month of the strike the union appeared to be near defeat. At this stage many citizens hoped the coal miners would abandon their union and accept compulsory arbitration in order to end the dispute: "No decent union man wants to break up his union and swallow his hard fought for principals (sic)," wrote McCawley in the Glace Bay Gazette, "but a mighty lot of them are hoping for somebody to start something of that kind so there will be a clean-up." These tensions appeared at the Glace Bay town council in the form of a resolution to apply for the use of compulsory arbitration under the province's new Industrial Peace Act. At first Mayor Morrison and the labour councillors were able to block discussion of the resolution. On 15 May, however, the debate was renewed. Visiting spokesmen from the union locals and "the Business portion of the citizens" were also heard in the debate. In the absence of one of the labour councillors, the controversial resolution was endorsed by a six to five vote. For their part, the coal companies left no doubt as to their attitude to the town councils during the 1920s. In Glace Bay, Dominion and New Waterford, town finances were thrown into chaos in 1925 when the coal company refused to continue the collection of poll-taxes through the company check-off; in Sydney Mines, where this method had not been used, the company refused to introduce it. In the Fall of 1924 there were reports that the company planned to name candidates for the Glace Bay town council in the spring elections. Most dramatically, in 1925 the Besco Bulletin, an official company publication, called for the virtual abolition of self-government in the coal towns. In most municipalities, the Bulletin noted, the coal companies paid "a very large proportion of the whole tax, and in none of them have the Companies any representation on the Councils." In Glace Bay the company's share of taxes was stated to be 49.0 per cent, in New Waterford 68.9 percent, in Dominion 66.6 percent, in Sydney Mines 42.5

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