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Toronto, March, 1900.

Hon. David Mills,
Minister of Justice,
Ottawa.

Sir:-

I have the honor to transmit the evidence taken under Royal Commission bearing date the 17th day of November, 1899, to inquire into the conditions affecting the Mining Industry in British Columbia, together with my report thereon.

As a large part of the evidence is made up of documents, I have thought it proper to embody in the first part of the Report portions of the evidence, and documents relating to the matter so that a full understanding of the question may be had without continual reference to the exhibits. Where reference is necessary however you will find a full index thereto in the back of the volume containing the evidence.

Part II of the Report contains abstracts from the evidence of leading mine managers and others, fully expressing their views upon the situation, and which for convenience of reference I thought it also proper to include in the report.

Part III relates to the Coal Mines.

Part IV contains a summary of all the facts, with a full statement of the labor troubles, and the endeavor made to procure an amicable settlement.

PART V, contains appendices which will be convenient for reference.

-2-

Since writing the Report I have been advised that the trouble in the Slocan District has been settled, the miners having gone to work at the scale of wages contained in the last offer of the Silver-Lead Mines Association, but without formal recognition of the Union. I have no authentic information as to what has taken place since I returned, but am advised that a large number of miners have come in from the United States, whether under contract and in breach of the Alien Labor Law, I am unable to state.

I have pleasure in stating that Mr. Harris discharged the duties of Secretary to the Commission with entire satisfaction.

I await your further instructions with reference to the new conditions which have arisen since my inquiry, and beg to be advised if you deem further investigation in that regard, or a further effort to endeavor to promote a better understanding between employers and employees desirable.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. Blute

*Supplemental
Report*

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C O M M I S S I O N .

appointing

Roger Conger Clute, Esquire, Q.C.
a Commissioner under Chap. 114 (R.S.C.) re Miners
and Mine Owners in the Province of British Columbia.

Dated 17th November, 1899.

Recorded 21st November, 1899.

Lib. 120 Vol. 580.

(Sgd.) Joseph Pope.

Dep. Registrar General of Canada.

Ref. No. 48037.

(Sgd.) Minto.

C A N A D A.

VICTORIA by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, QUEEN, Defender of the Faith, etc., etc., etc.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, OR WHOM THE SAME MAY IN OTHERWISE CONCERN,.....GREETING.

WHEREAS it appears from a Report from Our Minister of Justice that it has been presented to him that there is a good deal of unrest and discontent among the miners in the Province of British Columbia, and a good deal of tension in the relations between them and those from whom they receive employment, in regard, amongst other things, to the hours of labor and the rate of wages, and the relations between Miners and Mine-Owners, and the importation by the Mine Owners of American Labor under contract, and that he deems it important and in the public interest that all available information should be had upon the following and cognate matters, that is to say:.....

(1) The present number of miners employed, whether they are British subjects or aliens, and the nationality of those who are aliens, and whether the number employed is increasing or diminishing, what number may find employment, and how far the necessary supply of mining laborers can be had at the present time in the country.

(2) The number of companies that have been

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III

Established in Southern British Columbia, that are actually engaged in mining, the character of the mining that is being carried on, the amount of capital invested, the number of men required to efficiently work each, and the influence of the present rate of wages; the present regulation of time, and how far the actual demand of the laborers will affect mining operations, either in the direction of preventing an adequate supply of workmen, or in stimulating mining industry, or whether, if at all, the effect of any demand made would be to materially interfere with mining development in the Province of British Columbia, the number of laborers imported from the United States under contract by the Mine Owners, the effect upon the working of the mines since the importation of miners, and all circumstances connected with the importation of foreign labor.

AND WHEREAS we deem it expedient that inquiry under oath should be made with respect to the matters and things afore mentioned and set out and cognate thereto;

NOW KNOW YE that We, by and with the advice of our Privy Council for Canada, do, by these presents, nominate, constitute, and appoint, Roger Conger Clute, of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, one of our Counsel Learned in the Law, to be Our Commissioner to inquire

IV.

into, investigate and report upon the said matters and things hereinbefore mentioned and set out, and cognate thereto.

And we do hereby, under the authority of the Revised Statutes of Canada, Chapter 114, intituled "An Act Respecting Inquiries concerning Public Matters", confer upon you Our said Commissioner, the power of summoning before you any witnesses, and of requiring them to give evidence on oath, orally, or in writing, or on solemn affirmation, if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters, and to produce such documents and things, as you, Our said Commissioner shall deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which you are hereby appointed to examine, inquire into, and investigate.

To have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office, place and trust unto you the said Roger Conger Clute, together with the rights, powers, privileges and emoluments unto the said office, place and trust of right and by law appertaining during pleasure.

And We do hereby require and direct you to report to Our Minister of Justice the result of your investigation, together with the evidence taken before you, and any opinion you may see fit to express thereon.

IN TESTIMONY whereof, We, have caused these

V.

Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed. - Witness:
Our Right Trust and Right Well-beloved Cousin, the Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot, Earl of Minto and Viscount of Melgund of Melgund, County of Forfar in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baron Minto of Minto, County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, etc., etc., Governor General of Canada.

At Our Government House in Our City of Ottawa, this Seventeenth day of November, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and in the Sixty-third year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

(Sgd.) Joseph Pope,
Under Secretary of State.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER IN RELATION TO MINES AND
MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

To the Honourable David Mills, O.C.,
Minister of Justice,
Ottawa.

The undersigned Roger Conger Clute having been duly appointed by His Excellency the Governor General in Council by a Commission dated the seventeenth day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, issued under the Great Seal of Canada and under the provisions of the Revised Statutes of Canada (Chapter 114, a Commissioner to make enquiry into certain matters mentioned in said Commission, which sets forth that there is a good deal of unrest and discontent among the miners in the Province of British Columbia and a good deal of tension between them and those from whom they receive employment in regard amongst other things to the hours of labour and the rate of wages and the relations between miners and mine owners and the importation

by the mine owners of American labour under contract, and that it is important in the public interest that all available information should be had upon the following and cognate matters, that is to say:-

(1) The present number of miners employed, whether they are British subjects or aliens, and the nationality of those who are aliens, and whether the number employed is increasing or diminishing, what number may find employment, and how far the necessary supply of mining labourers can be had at the present time in the country.

(2) The number of Companies that have been established in Southern British Columbia that are actually engaged in mining, the character of the mining that is being carried on, the amount of capital invested, the number of men required to efficiently work each and the influence of the present rate of wages; the present regulation of time, and how far the actual demand of the labourers will affect mining operations, either in the direction of preventing an adequate supply of workmen, or in stimulating mining industry, or whether if at all, the effect of any demand made would be to materially interfere with mining development in the Province of British Columbia; the number of laborers imported from the United States under contract by

the mine owners, the effect upon the working of the mines, since the importation of miners, and all circumstances connected with the importation of foreign labour;—

and your Commissioner having been instructed to report to the Honourable the Minister of Justice the result of such investigation, together with the evidence taken before him and any opinion which he might see fit to express thereon, has the honour to report as follows:—

That in the discharge of the duties imposed by said Commission I left Toronto on Tuesday the 26th day of November, 1899, accompanied by Mr. R.F.Harris appointed to act as Secretary and Stenographer to the Commission, and arrived at Fernie on Saturday the 2nd of December. There I visited the coal mines and examined nine witnesses in regard to the relations existing between the owners and the men, and left Fernie the following morning arriving at Nelson the same evening at 9.30. On the following day I had interviews with various persons in Nelson in regard to the situation, and having learned that a meeting of the Silver-Lead Mines Association was to be held the next day (Tuesday, 5th December) at Sandon, I proceeded there. That evening I met, by invitation, at Sandon many representatives of the Silver-Lead Mines Association,

and later in the evening attended a large meeting of miners assembled in the Hall of the Miners' Union, and there read the Commission and explained its purport and object. I received from the Miners and Mine Owners assurances that they would in every way assist me in obtaining the information desired. Evidence was taken and twenty-one witnesses examined at Sandon. Evidence was also taken at the following places:-

At Silverton 6 Witnesses (Representing
that section and also New Denver)

At Slocan City 4 Witnesses

At Nelson 18 "

At Kaslo 6 "

At a further sitting
at Nelson 4 "

At Rossland 26 "

At Nanaimo 1 "

At Victoria 3 "

At Vancouver 6 "

and at each place and on every occasion I had the ready assistance both from mine managers and miners to enable me to obtain the information required.

In order to get the fullest information I allowed any questions that were relevant to be asked of the witnesses by either the miners or managers with the result that differences were thus discussed in presence of both parties in a friendly

way--, and many points cleared up, and a better feeling created between them.

Before dealing with the Labor troubles however, it will be convenient first to refer to other matters covered by the Commission.

METALLIFEROUS MINES IN SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The principal metalliferous mines in Southern British Columbia are situated in the East and West Kootenay, the Boundary Creek, Kettle River and Yale Districts. The divisions of the West Kootenay district are Slocan Mining Division, Slocan City Mining Division, Ainsworth Mining Division, Nelson Mining Division and Trail Creek Mining Division.

(See plans Appendix A.)

In these divisions are situated the principal metalliferous quartz mines, of which forty-four have shipped more or less ore. Yale includes four mines that have shipped ore; East Kootenay one, and Illecillewaet one. There are many other locations and prospects, more or less developed. To indicate how numerous are the locations it may be mentioned that from October 5th, 1891 to December 18th, 1899, there were 5,557 locations entered with the Mining Recorder at New Denver, upon 4,576 of which certificates of work were duly recorded.

(See EXHIBIT "W")

At Nelson there were entered 9,640 since 13th March 1897.

(See page 416 of Evidence)

The total number of locations in the Trail Creek District is 8,664, of which 1,045 were entered during 1898 and 617 during 1899 and for which 500 certificates of improvements were granted.

(See EXHIBIT "A3")

PRODUCTION OF WEST KOOTENAY MINES.

The total production for Kootenay West for the year 1898 amounted to \$6,042,975 of which the Sloean division contributed \$2,619,852; Trail Creek, (including Rossland) \$2,470,811; Nelson \$694,680; Ainsworth \$159,801; Yale \$432,512; and other parts \$97,631. The principal producing mines in West Kootenay as appears in the returns to the Bureau of Mines, B.C., for the year 1898 are the following:-

Sloean Division 1898.

<u>Name of Mine</u>	<u>No. of Men</u>	<u>No. of Tons</u>
The Payne	130	14,000
Sloean Star	110	2,862
Ruth	45	3,250
Last Chance	45	1,700
Sovereign	10	160
The Reco	28	480

<u>Name of Mine</u>	<u>No. of Men</u>	<u>No. of Tons</u>
The Bluebird	8	65
Queen Bess Company	65	1,600
Idaho Mines	45	400
Rambles	25	530
Antoine	30	350
Vancouver	35	300
Bosun	27	420
California	15	40
Treasure Vault	25	20
The Miller Creek Company	6	400
The Dardenolles	14	75

and a large number of other mines upon which development work was being done and a considerable number of men employed, among which may be specially mentioned the "Noble Five" group.

Ainsworth Division. 1898

<u>Name of Mine</u>	<u>No. of Men.</u>
Charleston	10
Finnmark	8
Eureka	7
Fourth of July	5
Mollie Gibson	4
Jackson	30
Sunshine No. 1	20
True Blue	13
Tariff	24
Whitewater	40
Montezuma	33

Trail Creek Division 1898.

<u>Name of Mine</u>	<u>No. of Men.</u>
War Eagle	169
Le Roi group	230
Iron Mask	27
Sunset No. 2.	20
Cliff	15

Nelson Division, 1898.

Athabasca	50
The Hall Mines	180
Poor Man	14

It must be borne in mind that a large number of very valuable mining "propositions" i.e. prospects in course of development are not included in the Returns for 1898, for instance, the "Centre Star" at Rossland, one of the most valuable mines in the country, upon which has been spent a very large amount of money in development work, but which had not commenced to ship; and the "Hair Mine" in the Nelson District, the "Wakfield" and "Emily Edith" near Silverton, and a number of others some of which will be referred to hereafter.

At Camp McKinney there are about 150 men employed at the following mines, the "Cariboo" - the "Fontenoy" - "Waterloo" - "Minne-haha" - "Granite" - "Banner" - "Kamloops" - "Sailor" - "Nettie L." - "Shannon" - "Delepin" - "Mammoth" and "Pendera".

In the Boundary Country there are the Winnipeg-Golden Crown - Snowshoe - Gold Drop - Knob Hill - and Ironsides. Granby Smelter Company - City of Paris and Lincoln - Majestic - War Eagle (Boundary Country) Monarch - Last Chance (Boundary Country)- Crescent - Skylark - King Solomon - Big Copper - Morrison - Mother Lode - Buck Horn - Gallconda-Republic- King Mining Co.- Ruth Mullen - The Jewel-Enterprise and Anchor, and many other prospects and mining propositions, representing an investment of between two and three millions of dollars, and employing between five and six hundred men.

The following is a list of the principal mines giving an estimate of the amount invested and the number of men employed, covering the principal mining districts in Southern British Columbia.

<u>Name of Mine</u>	<u>Amount invested</u>	<u>No. of Men</u>
Le Roi (British America Corporation Limited, including the Le Roi, the East Le Roi, the West Le Roi and the Columbia Kootenay Mining Companies Limited) (Exhibit "W2")	6,198,751	523
War Eagle and Centre Star	3,500,000	590
The Hall Mines Ltd.	1,541,528	150
The Payne Mining Co.	3,000,000	130
London and British Columbia Gold fields	1,500,000	210

Duncan Mines Co.	452,102	137
The St. Eugene Consol- idated	800,000	20
The Idaho Mines	400,000	100
The Athabasca	100,000	125
The Mother Lode and Smelter No. 7	300,000	125
Canadian Pacific Ex- ploration Company	250,000	45
Emily Edith	125,000	shut down would require 45
Hastings Exploration Syndicate	100,000	41
Nelson Copperfields Ltd.	100,000	140
Wakefield	160,000	36 shut down will require 80
The J.H. Williams Syndicate	170,500	45
Utica group	850,000	
The Joker Mine	60,000	
The Mollie Gibson	200,000	50
The Ruth	600,000	shut down would require 100
Whitewater	600,000	120
Jackson	200,000	shut down 30
Antoine	150,000	shut down 30
R.S. Lee	150,000	shut down 40
Last Chance	500,000	shut down 70

The Noble Five	250,000	Shut down 32
The Slocan Star	175,000	87 when shut down
Minnesota Silver Co. and Sunshine Mine	450,000	shut down will require 125
Slocan Kilo Co. (including Skylark, Reindeer, Smuggler group, etc.)	100,000	81
Brandon	120,000	20
Winnipeg Mine	120,000	20
Arlington Mines	300,000	
Dundee Mining Co.	96,000	25
Snowshoe	50,000	20
Gold Drop	50,000	20
Knob Hill	500,000	125
Granby Smelter Co. including Smelter	400,000	150
Majestic	100,000	20
War Eagle (Boundary)	100,000	20
Merarch	75,000	20
Deninion Copper Co.	60,000	60 will employ 300

and many other mining "propositions" employing
from 5 to 20 men.

DIVIDEND PAYING MINES.

On the 12th June last when the 8-hour law came into force there were in British Columbia 22 dividend paying mines, of which 15 are in the Slocan. The following is a list:-

In the following list "S.L." means "Silver Lead"; "G" "Gold" "G. & C." "Gold and Copper" and "G.S." "Gold and Silver."

DIVIDENDS.

List of Dividends paid by the Mines of
SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA,
Compiled to June 13th, 1899.

MINE	DIVIDENDS PAID	DISTRICT
Antoine, S.L.	\$25,000.00	Slocan
Cariboo, G.	248,000.00	Camp McKinney
Fern, G.	10,000.00	Nelson
Goodenough, S.L.	35,000.00	Slocan
Hall Mines, S.G.C.	160,000.00	Nelson
Idaho, S.L.	292,000.00	Slocan
Jackson Mines, S.L.	20,000.00	Slocan.
Le Roi, G.C.	825,000.00	Rossland
Last Chance, S.L.	125,000.00	Slocan
Monitor, S.L.	65,000.00	Slocan
Noble Five, S.L.	50,000.00	Slocan
Payne, S.L.	1,075,000.00	Slocan
Peorman, G.	75,000.00	Nelson
Rece, S.L.	250,000.00	Slocan
Ruth, S.L.	120,000.00	Slocan

MINE	DIVIDENDS PAID	DISTRICT
Rambler-Cariboo, S.L.	\$50,000.00	Slocan
Slocan Star, S.L.	400,000.00	Slocan
Surprise, S.L.	20,000.00	Slocan
Two Friends, S.L.	20,000.00	Slocan
War Eagle, G.C.	300,000.00	Rossland
Washington, S.L.	20,000.00	Slocan
Whitewater, S.L.	194,000.00	Slocan.

It will be noticed that the Centre Star is not included in the above list, not having at that time commenced to ship. It may be convenient here to refer also, for the sake of comparison, to the dividend paying mines in Washington and Idaho. They are as follows:-

WASHINGTON.

MINE	DIVIDENDS PAID	DISTRICT
Deer Trail No. 2	\$32,500.00	Cedar Canyon
Republic Cons. G.	94,500.00	Republic

IDAHO.

Bunker Hill, etc. S.L.	705,000.00	Coeurd'Alene
Coeur d'Alene	340,000.00	" "
Tiger Poorman, S.L.	20,000.00	" "
De Lamar, G.S.	2,346,000.00	S. Idaho
Empire State, S.L.	146,233.00	Coeur d'Alene
Granite, S.L.	63,400.00	" "
Helena, Frisco, S.L.	475,000.00	" "
Standard, S.L.	1,745,000.00	" "

FUTURE OUTPUT.

The following is a list of mines with the tonnage which it is estimated they will yield in one year when the labor troubles have been settled and shipments have been resumed if no unexpected difficulty arises to again stop the work. This estimate is based in some cases on the statement of managers, usually reduced in order to be on a conservative basis and upon various information considered to be reliable, and is believed to be within the mark:-

Payne	12,000 tons
Slocan Star	4,200 "
Ruth	2,400 "
Reco	480 "
Sovereign	360 "
Ajax	240 "
Madison	240 "
Last Chance	3,000 "
Noble Five	1,800 "
Whitewater	2,400 "
Jackson	600 "
Antoine	240 "
Rambler	1,800 "
Dardanelles	180 "
Minnesota	500 "
Monitor	600 "
Queen Bess	4,800 "

Idaho - - - - -	3,600 tons
Yakima Sunshine - - - - -	350 "
Bosun - - - - -	1,200 "
Vancouver - - - - -	600 "
Wakefield - - - - -	1,200 "
Ncooday - - - - -	900 "
California- - - - -	480 "
Marion - - - - -	120 "
Galena Farm - - - - -	1,800 "
Lardo Dist. (Arrow Lake)	480 "
Ainsworth District - - -	1,800 "
Lard-Duncan District - -	600 "
Hollie Gibson - - - - -	3,000 "
North Star - - - - -	14,400 "
St. Eugene - - - - -	10,800 "
Lake Shore - - - - -	1,500 "
Miscellaneous - - - - -	420 "

Making a total of 79,200 tons.

The expenditure in connection with the mining of this ore would I am informed be over \$1,000,000, and if it were to be all smelted in Canada the expenditure, most of which would be for labor, either direct or indirect in the form of fuels and flux would be in the neighborhood of \$700,000. The above list refers to Silver-Lead Mines only, and does not include the Silver King nor of course any of the gold mines.

(See Exhibit "02")

For further particulars of the output of the Slocan Mining Division for the year 1909 see Exhibit "X".

CAPITAL INVESTED.

The amount of capital actually invested in mines in Southern British Columbia exceeds \$30,000,000. This I think a conservative estimate, and does not include the expenditure for Railways, Steamboats, Smelters, &c. All intimately relate to the mining interest.

NUMBER OF MINERS EMPLOYED.

The present number of miners employed in British Columbia could not be ascertained with absolute accuracy without visiting every individual mine and prospect in the Province, but from all the data before me I am of opinion that the number employed on the 1st January, 1900 in the mining district (coal mines excepted) including carmen, muckers and labourers in Southern British Columbia amounted to about 4,500 men (?) of whom two-thirds work underground.

BRITISH SUBJECTS OR ALIENS.

In endeavoring to ascertain the proportion of British subjects to aliens, the comparison of data

obtained from different sources becomes necessary inasmuch as it was impossible to ascertain from each individual miner his nationality. In the Rosland Mines the men stated their nationality to the foreman, and the result is given below. Information was received from the Miners' Union, where a record is kept of each individual member. I also ascertained the number of miners upon the Voters Lists and made inquiry of the various mine managers and other witnesses who came before me. The result of a comparison of the various statements and data obtained leads to the conclusion that at the present time in Slocan District about 60 per cent, and in the Trail Creek District about 45 per cent are British subjects. The President of the Rosland Union says that of the 1300 members 70 per cent are British subjects, but upon an actual count of the men working in the Le Roi group and in the War Eagle and Centre Star I am satisfied this is an over-estimate. In the Le Roi group (British-American Corporation) of the total number of men employed, when the count was made, 250 were British subjects; 248 American citizens, 1 Dane, Italians 10, Poles 10, Norwegians 2, Germans 1, Austrians 1, and Swedes 2.

In the War Eagle an actual count resulted in the following:- British subjects 265, United States citizens born or naturalised 281,

Italians 7, Germans 3, Swedes 2, French 2, Pins 2, Laps 2, Austrians 1, Swiss 1, total 57.

In the Kettle River country from 50 to 60 per cent are said to be British subjects. Mr. Francis Colwell Robbins, Manager of the Dominion Copper Company thought the greater proportion of miners in the Boundary Country were foreigners. He puts the number of British subjects as low as 10 per cent.

According to the evidence of Mr. Croasdale, General Manager of the Hall Mines Company, of the 126 men at the mines, 92 are British subjects and 36 are aliens. The result is that of the total number employed in mines less than one-half are British subjects, and this proportion must be very considerably reduced before it would apply to the skilled miners. Of aliens I should say that nine-tenths are American citizens, a considerable number of whom are not native born. Of aliens other than Americans, the larger number are Swedes, Pins and Italians. The number of aliens working in mines at present in British Columbia is much less than if the mines were working the full complement of men. As soon as the labour troubles commenced many of the men returned to the United States.

NUMBER OF MEN REQUIRED IN THE FUTURE.

There is no doubt that a very much larger number of men will be required to work the mines at their full capacity in the near future. As to the exact number so required only an approximate estimate can be obtained. In the witness the various witnesses differed as to the particular number of men required, some witnesses stating the number as high as 3,000, of whom 1500 at least would be underground; other witnesses put the number at from 1200 to 2000, with an increasing demand. One witness stated that in the Boundary Country four times the number of men now employed would be required within a year. Mr. Bernard Macdonald, Manager of the Le Roi group says :-

"I would say that the Josie and No.1 are now installing machinery and working a very small force on that account; after the installation of the machinery they will employ five or six times the force now on the pay roll.

Q. What do you say as to whether or not there are sufficient British subjects within the Province to supply the coming demand for competent miners ?

A. I am quite positive there are not enough men in the Province, competent miners to supply the demand; there are 2,000 needed at the Sandon region and I think next summer this camp can employ one-third more than at present. It takes a good many

years practical experience to make a miner.

Q. From where then would the supply come if the demand is to be met ?

A. From very many mining centres, from outside the Province.

Q. And could you say where particularly ?

A. Well the United States first, and a few might come from Nova Scotia and other small mining centres in the Lake of the Woods District, Ontario, and from Europe, and some from the Australian colonies.

Q. What effect, if any, would the restriction of trained miners being brought into the country have upon the development of the country ?

A. It would restrict the development of the country.

Q. To any great extent ?

A. Yes, I think it would seriously restrict the development."

In the War Eagle and Centre Star, where, until the recent shut down, 490 men were employed, the Manager stated that "in the future we hope to have work for from 750 to 1,000 men." Having regard to the large number of mining "propositions" under development, the preparations already made in many of the mines for an increased output, the rapid development of the Boundary Country and Kettle

Districts, and assuming that the set back occasioned by the labour troubles may be overcome within a short time, I think it may be safely stated that at least from 3,000 to 5,000 more men will be required within the next two years in the mines in Southern British Columbia than were employed on the 1st January 1900. This increase in the number of men who may find employment will, however, undoubtedly depend in no small degree upon the early settlement of the labour troubles.

PRESENT SUPPLY OF MINING LABOURERS.

I am of opinion that had all the mines been working their full capacity there would not have been a sufficient supply of miners and labourers to meet the demand on the 1st of January, 1900. Many men had left the Slooan at the commencement of the labour troubles and had not returned. Many of the mines had made provision for a largely increased output, and for that purpose would require more men. There would not have been a sufficient number of men for all the mines to have resumed operations at the same time within the Slooan District. Doubtless many of the miners would have returned, and many new miners would have come into the district on the settlement of the labour difficulty; so that if an agreement had been come to between the miners and the men in the Slooan

District within a comparatively short time a sufficient number of men would probably have come into that section of the country to meet the demand. It must be borne in mind, however, that there is a great expansion in mining development in the Western States. In reference to this point Mr. J.B. Hastings, until recently General Manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star and still consulting Engineer of the two Companies, and also of the St. Eugene Consolidated says:-

Q. Are there enough in British Columbia to meet the demand of all the mines, including yours ?

A. I do not think so.

Q. What is the remedy ?

A. They must come from somewhere, either the United States or Eastern Canada.

Q. All the miners that are so called, are they good miners or are they beginners ?

A. Many of them are beginners. The demand for miners in the Western United States, which is a source of supply, has been very brisk, so much so that in response to invitations that I sent to mining men in California and Michigan suggesting that good men could find steady employment at from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per day, met with no response for the stated reason that they found steady employment, though of course at lower wages than they would

have here.

Q. What were the wages they were receiving ?

A. The average, I think, was \$2.50 per day.

Q. Was that in California ?

A. I think \$2.75 in California and \$2.50 in Michigan.

Q. That is for hammermen ?

A. That is for machine men. In order to meet the growing demand we made a practice of taking the most active of the laborers or muckers and putting them on machines.

Q. To what extent has this custom been adopted or followed ?

A. In the War Eagle and Centre Star judging from reports of my foreman I think 200 have been thus advanced."

Mr. Kirby, the present Manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star says:-

"There has always been a surplus of unskilled labor and a shortage of skilled machine drill miners. These are greatly needed and for want of them it has hitherto been necessary to employ a number of men who are not competent for this particular work. This is because each smelter must have a certain minimum tonnage in order to operate at a reasonable cost. The mine's production must reach this minimum tonnage and, failing to do so, the smelter

and therefore the mine supplying it must shut down.

The mines have continued to operate in this uneconomical way in the endeavor to build up a complete force of skilled machine men. They cannot continue to do so and still less can they enlarge their operations without a supply of such men. It takes years of experience to make a skilled miner, and his work is worth good pay.

The mining companies here are anxious to secure such men and to make it worth their while to remain. It is well understood that the only source of supply is the United States. Eastern Canada cannot furnish them because of the distance, the limited number of mining districts and the fact that a withdrawal of men would injure these districts.

The alien labor laws make it impossible to bring in men, and yet as a matter of fact most of those secured have drifted in from the United States. The effect of this restriction therefore is to make a slow process out of what might be done quickly and the industry suffers from the delay. The mineral sources of British Columbia are the basis for a great Commonwealth which in the future will be self-sufficient and equipped with mining skill of every grade. At present, however, with a small population and a new industry, it is impossible to develop rapidly without the aid of

miners from the United States. Natural location has created a mutual industrial dependence which cannot be severed by a political line."

Mr. Wood, General Manager of the Last Chance says:-

Q. By reason of the mines being closed, could you say how many men were out of employment ?

A. In the Last Chance mine do you mean, or in all the mines ?

Q. We will first take up the Last Chance.

A. Well, I should say at least eighty men. I have accomodation for eighty men and intended to work that number when the mine started.

Q. And how many men all together in the Slocan District ?

A. Well, of course, that would be estimate on my part, I should say twelve to fifteen hundred.

Q. Would that mean miners and all men ?

A. Yes.

Q. That would take in what District ?

A. Well, when you come to figure out the men mines would employ you would have to go down as far as Whitewater and over as far as Slocan City, round about Sandon, Three Forks, New Denver, Silverton, and I believe there are some properties down the C.P.R. railroad near Nakusp. I am not acquainted over there and usually do not know how

many men the mines would employ, but I should say at least, if the mines were all running, that at least fifteen hundred men could find employment, probably more.

Q. Since the mines were shut down, how many, if any aliens were brought in under contract ?

A. None whatever.

Q. Of the men formerly in your employ you would ^{how many} say were British subjects ?

A. I could not say to that. I never ask a man his nationality nor his religion.

Q. Do you have any objections to aliens coming in of their own accord ?

A. I do not. I might say the Superintendent or Foreman of the East Chance mine was an alien and some men that worked there but I could not say as to the exact number.

Q. Do you know if any aliens were brought into the country at all since the mines were closed down ?

A. I do not.

Q. Would it be possible for enough aliens to have been brought in to have observedly effected the situation without you knowing it ?

A. I do not think it possible. I saw two men of my own knowledge on the train when I was leaving here to go to Seattle who had a copy of that recommendation from the employment agency of Seattle, who came here and were not engaged by

Mr. Tolmie and who were on their way to Rossland from here. I could not say whether they were aliens or not.

Q. What effect upon the mining interests in this section has the change as to the hours of labor had ?

A. Do I understand you to mean by that, the cost of production and the cost of mining ?

Q. I mean its effect in every way as far as you have observed ?

A. Well, by reducing the hours of labor it has increased the price of production and development by at least twenty-five per cent, providing the same wages were paid for eight hours as was formerly paid for ten. It has had the effect of keeping capital out of the country. That I know personally.

Q. To what amount within your personal knowledge. I don't mean personal or private interests.

A. About \$100,000.

Q. And in the meantime what effect upon the output of the mine ?

A. Well, the output has been greatly decreased.

Q. Have the shipping mines been producing any ?

A. All I can say is that one or two mines have been shipping a little ore. You can get the amount by referring to the custom office at Kaslo, Mr. McIntosh. I know so far as the Last Chance

Mine is concerned that we have not shipped a pound of ore since the first day of June, 1899.

Q. What were your shipments prior to that ?

A. Well, they averaged or they ranged rather from 100 tons up to I think about 600 tons, the most we ever shipped in any one month.

Q. High grade ore ?

A. Fairly high grade ore.

Q. Had you at any time any difficulty in obtaining the adequate number of men ?

A. At times. And at times again men seemed to be very plentiful and at other times seemed to be scarce.

Q. What is your opinion if you can form one as to whether or not if the mines were running full capacity there would be a sufficient supply of skilled miners of British subjects or Canadians to meet the demand ?

A. Well, I don't think there would be of British subjects. A great many of the miners have become naturalized the past few months but if they were the same as they used to be there would not be enough to work the mines. I don't think there would be ever enough."

Mr. J. M. M. Boncham, President of the Silverton Union says:-

*Q. Are you sufficiently conversant with the

number of miners in southern British Columbia, the Sloco District, to say whether or not, if the mines were all started up now, there would be a sufficient supply of labor to meet the demand?

A--If they were started up to their full capacity, I do not think there would be enough men.

Q. How many miners do you estimate would be required in the whole of this district, that is the Sloco District, including this district?

A--Somewhere between 1500 and 2000. I think if mines were fully worked, if they were all working their full capacity they would employ that number, probably as they ordinarily worked them they would not require more than one-half that number.

Q. And how many miners do you suppose there are now in that same district?

A. You mean taking in Sandon and Sloco City?

Q. Yes.

A. I do not think there are any less than 1,000 probably about 1,000.

Q. If more were required where would they probably come from?

A--Well there is a surplus of miners in Rossland and the Boundary County. I think a large supply would come from these camps. I think that in order that it would be necessary for men to come in from outside that they would have to work more fully than they have. If they did that

there might not be enough men in British Columbia to supply the demand but as all the mines have never been worked up to their full capacity at any one time I do not think that any special effort would have to be made upon the part of the mine owners to get men. If the men knew the trouble was over here they would come in of their own accord."

CONDITIONS AT NELSON.

The principal producing mine in this section is the "Silver King" of the Hall Mines Company. The output from 1st October 1897 to September 30th 1898 was 53,470 tons; from October 1st 1898 to September 30th 1899, 30,757 tons. The pay roll for the year ending 30th September 1898 was \$212,453; from 1st October 1898 to 31st March 1899, \$102,143; and from the 1st April 1899 to the 30th September 1899, \$85,220, a falling off of \$14,000 in six months. Mr. Crossdale, the General Manager, when asked to account for this falling off, says:-

"Q. How do you account for the falling off ?

A. Partly by the shortening of the hours of labor.

Q. What proportion do you attribute to the

shortening of the hours of labor, take first the output ?

A. We were not able to get a sufficient number of men to work; good men were very scarce.

Q. Although you were paying the same for 8 hours as for 10 ?

A. Although we were paying the same as we did before. The value of the output from the Smelter for the year ending 30th September 1898 was \$783,347; from 1st October 1898 to 31st March 1899, it was \$700,924; from 1st April 1899 to September 30th, 1899, it was only \$375,306.

That falling off is very nearly 50 per cent less for the last half year. That is very largely attributable to Sloan Mining troubles."

The wages paid at this mine were the same under the 8-hour law as formerly, that is \$3.00 for miners, and \$2.50 for carmen and other labourers. The trouble in the Sloan, shut out from the Smelter the custom ore went from there.

The Athabasca, situated a short distance from Nelson, is a gold quartz mine, and has a stamp mill with a capacity of 400 tons a month. Under the 10-hour day, miners were paid \$3.50 and other men at the mines \$3.00. The change at the time the 8-hour law came into force is described by Mr. Fall, General Manager, at page 390.

*Q. At the time of the change of hours would you give me an outline of what took place at your mill; how was the matter adjusted ?

A. On April 1st. I received a notice from the Mines Inspector at Rossland, to adopt the 8 hours system, and we did so, and made no change of wage. I had not really 24 hours notice about the change of hours, and we conformed to the law without any change in wages. Soon after that we were informed that the law was temporary and we returned to the 10 hour basis. Then we returned to the 10 hour basis about 25 men left but we found men to take their places without very much trouble. No announcement was made that the 8 hour law would come into force on June 1st. On May 29th I told the men that we were adopting the 8 hour system on June 1st; that the wages would be \$3.00 for miners, \$2.50 for laborers, and that we reduced the rate of board from \$7.50 to \$5.50 per week. The matter was discussed at a meeting between myself and all of the men in a conference and it was about June 12th that the announcement was made that several men would leave. They asked for a \$5.50 rate for board, and I told them that I thought \$3.50 was enough, and that at or within 24 hours practically the whole of the force came down hill. Four miners were left and some carpenters and other men. In about 10 days' time

applications for work began to come in. We kept the mill going with what men we had, and on 1st July we had about 25 men working in and about the mine. On the 1st August we had about 50 and from that time on we have had all the men we have wanted. "

Under the old law this mine worked two shifts of 9 hours each. The Manager is not able to state whether more or less work is done under the 8 or 9 hour shift. As to the supply of miners at his particular mine he says:-

"A. Our experience at present is that there is a large surplus of men, but of course conditions now are somewhat unusual. We have refused work to about 25 men in less than 3 days. There always has been in the summer time a scarcity of labor here. My experience is confined to the last two years and last year there was a scarcity of miners during the summer time.

Do you think there are enough British subjects in British Columbia to meet the demand ?

A. Well we never enquire as to whether a man is a British subject or not. I should suppose there were not enough British subjects."

It will be seen that by the reduction of board at this mine the adjustment made would be about \$3.25 per day for miners.

CONDITIONS AT ROSSLAND.

The rock throughout this district differs from that in the Slocan, in being harder and the ore speaking generally of a lower grade. The result is, that not only in development work but also in mining, machine drills are generally used, whereas in the Slocan, for stopping, hand-drilling is almost exclusively used, as the ore there is of high grade and requires to be picked over and separated from the rock, and unless this is done with great care a very serious loss results; so that while in the Slocan, except in development work, hand-drilling is necessary, in the Rossland district, at Ymir and in the Boundary country contract work is quite practicable.

At the time of my visit to Rossland in December all the principal mines were worked. The rate of wages was as follows:-

Machine men-----\$3.50

In shafts \$4 to \$4.50

Shovellers and carmen- \$2.50

Timbermen, \$3, \$3.50 & \$4.50

Mechanics \$3.50 to \$4.00

Engineers, \$3.50 and \$3.00

and \$3 for underground 8 hour work.

The present shift is 8 hours for all underground work.

Surface work is 10 hours, including time for lunch.

CONTRACT WORK.

During my investigation at Rossland I was surprised to find that the Miners' Union was opposed to contract work. The majority of the members of the Union held the view, as I gathered from the evidence before me, that the effect of contract work was steadily and continually to reduce the wages and create in fact a sweating system. This view however was not unanimous, many of the men holding a different view. I found no objection to contracts for development work at Sendon.

It appeared to me that the question of contract work was one of vital importance:- first, because it is a civil right, next in importance perhaps to the protection of person and property, and ought not to be interfered with, ^{without good reason.} Second, assuming that it could be adopted without unfairness to the men, it would afford a means of greatly lessening the friction arising from the dispute occasioned by the introduction of the 8-hour law. I, therefore, took special pains to ascertain what had taken place in regard to this question, and deem it of sufficient importance to quote the evidence at considerable length.

The Constitution of the Miners' Union of Sandon formerly contained this clause relating to contracts:-

"Article IV, section 2." "No member of this Union shall contract to work upon any shaft, tunnel, drift or stop, or contract to do any work whatever under ground without receiving an assurance from the company, corporation or individual granting such contract that in case the party or parties taking such contract do not make three dollars and a half (\$3.50) per day the company, corporation or individual letting such contract will pay them day's pay, at the rate of three dollars and a half (\$3.50) per day."

This clause was repealed, and no objection was made by the Sandon Union to contract work. But while certain development work may be done by contract, yet owing to the nature of the rock and the high grade of ore stoping cannot be economically done by contract.

In Rossland and other localities, contract work could be ^{employed} ~~applied~~ with advantage.

Albert L. Houston, President of the Rossland Miners' Union speaks as to contract work as follows:-

"Q. Have you worked on contract ?

A. I have not in this country.

Q. I was told in the Slocan District that the nature of the mines, the quality of the ore, etc.,

rendered it difficult if at all possible to do the stoping by contract ; that is the Silver Lead Mines; some of high grade require to be picked out in order to preserve the ore, what I want to know ~~was~~^{is} whether that would apply here or whether the nature of the ore and the width of the vein here would be such as that contract labor would be or might be used ?

A--I hardly think so in the stopes.

Q. Well for driving drifts, tunnels how about these ; could contract labor be used in them ?

A. Yes it could be used.

Q. I want to know whether the nature of the rock is such that contract labor might be used ?

A. Contract labor might be used in drifts, shafts, and raises.

Q. In your own experience in contract work have you ever found that to be to your advantage ; I mean would you make more ?

A. Occasionally would, and quite often less.

Q. Occasionally would make more and quite often less ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. I was told in the Slocan that a system was adopted there by the men; instead of a man taking a certain piece of work for so much, a certain number of men would take it, say two or four, or such number as would work to advantage and instead

of the contractor paying the men so much the men would divide up the proceeds themselves.

A. There has been work of that nature done right here in the mines.

Q. That is where the proceeds of the work were divided equally ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Does rock vary much here ?

A. It varies considerably.

Q. As to quality of hardness and softness ?

A. Quality of hardness and softness.

Q. Supposing, you say, two or three skilled miners looking at a wall having some knowledge of the mine from working in it, could they not tell pretty well what they could make ?

A. Rock changes so much they could not.

Q. Supposing you figured on hard rock ?

A. If you figured on hard rock prices you would be safe.

Q. What strikes me as strange is that one side should be hard and the other not.

A. If they take a contract and only do a portion of the work, the manager or owner cuts down all the work already done.

Q. But they could not do that if you carried out your contract ?

A. They could not withhold any part of the price if the contract was carried out.

Q. Ought not the contract to be carried out between the owner and miner as between anyone else ?

A. Well perhaps the miner would not have money enough to board himself.

Q. But is it not so that in such a case you find the owners willing to meet you: suppose you make a miscalculation, you go to the owner and say it is impossible for us to carry on the contract, except at a loss, are they willing to meet you or have you known cases of that kind ?

A. I have known cases in this country where the contractors could not make day's pay and they have put them on day's pay.

Q. That would show rather a disposition not to hold you down if you made a mistake ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Here are various instances in which there are two parties necessary to make a successful bargain, the one is the owner the other is the skilled miner, you both have your importance. Now I think there ought to be a way to meet any possible difficulty that might arise on a business basis, you see what I mean ?

A- Yes sir.

Q. Do you see any difficulty why that might not be done ?

A. Everybody has the privilege to do as they

"please in this matter and very often people who are unskilled are the ones to take advantage of this.

Q. Well would they not get left ?

A. They would.

Q. Well would that not cure them ?

A. It might.

Q. For instance you are working in a mine at so much per day; you say a contract is let and fellows come in who are not skilled workmen and they will tender low, they take the contract below ordinary wages, the result is that that has a tendency to shut out skilled workmen, is that not your idea ?

A. That is the general view of the Union.

Q. Supposing you take your incompetent men, they make a tender, they get left, surely that would work a cure on them.

A. It might, but then there would be others.

Q. Do you think that these incompetent men would be eliminated and it would leave competent men like yourself able to take advantage of any benefit that was to be derived from their own skill ?

A. It might be beneficial.

Q. Would that not be a good thing ?

A. It might if you live long enough for the unskilled men to have had a trial at it.

Q. Well from what I hear most of the men here are competent.

A. Yes, most of them are.

Q. Well do men who belong to your Union here take contracts that would not pay ?

A. I do not think they do, we have not had experience enough in this matter here to speak fully on that point.

Q. They stated in the Slocan that that country was not suitable for contract work, in the tunnels, etc. because the drifts which contain the vein were very small and the grade was high, that if you put in a blast you would blow the valuable part all over. In fact they take it out as I saw myself in the Payne Mine, by hand. What I want to get is your opinion as to what conditions were here .

A. We have had no contracting here for a couple of years.

Q. Do you see anything improper in working by contract if thought desirable ? Supposing I put it to you, supposing you say I want a contract, is there any reason why you should not get that contract ?

A. No reason that I can see.

Q--Would not skilled workmen be able to make not only ordinary wage but a margin beyond that ?

A. They might, if the men were good.

Q. Suppose you say with two or four men whom you know could you not do it ?

A. I hardly know.

Q. Speaking generally do men favor contract or day's labor ?

A. I could not say, but I rather think the majority oppose it.

Q. Then the majority would not be inclined to take contract ?

A. No. Well there is a principle I have always found in Montana and Utah, the principle among miners is usually to condemn a competitive system of that kind because it has a tendency to put man in competition with their fellow workmen.

Q. That would not take away the right, if you wanted to try your hand at that sort of thing and you would not say the Union had any right to stop that, would you ?

A. We never have.

Q. So in the Slocan or here you would consider that you have a right to do as you liked ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. I mean as to whether you work by day's labor or by contract ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Have you ever had any difficulty with the real question arising between the men and the management, and have you ever tried to get an

*opportunity of meeting the management ?

A. We have never had any difficulty here so far in any matter.

Q. The reason I asked that is that I seem to find a hesitation in regard to the management and the men coming together, which I do not understand. I do not know any reason why you as a skilled miner and the mine owners, why you should not approach him in a business matter. Have you ever had any difficulty in that way ?

A. No sir, but I should be in favor of settling it on those lines if possible."

Yet there was difficulty in letting contracts at the Le Roi as will appear from the following :-

"J. M. Long sworn."

*Q. What is your full name ?

A. John M. Long.

Q. What is your business ?

A. Superintendent of the Josie & No. 1 Mines and the Le Roi Mine.

Q. How long have you filled that position ?

A. Between three and four years; that is foreman of the Josie, the others have been added since.

Q. And do you occupy that position now ?

A. I do.

"Q. You have written out a statement which you wish to submit as part of your evidence ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. You state as follows:)

"IN THE MATTER OF THE STATEMENT OF JOHN M. LONG, Superintendent of the "JOSIE" and "NUMBER ONE" Mines regarding interference by the Miners' Union with certain of his employees.

I, John M. Long, of the City of Roseland, in the Province of British Columbia, Mine Superintendent do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:-

1. That I am the Superintendent of the "Josie" and "Number One" Mines at Roseland, and as such I did let a contract to drive an upraise in the "Number One" Mine in the latter part of July last, to Thomas H. Hughes and others at \$22.50 per foot, and guaranteed that they should receive out of their contract not less than Four Dollars (\$4.00) per day as wages. They worked one day in August last on this contract and Hughes told me that he had seen Devins, the Secretary of the Miners' Union in Roseland, who had told him that the Union had voted on the matter with the result of 250 in favour of and about 60 against a resolution forbidding them working by contract, and that he would have to stop the contract in consequence of the said Secretary telling in the Miners'

Union had forbidden working by contract. However, he asked me to wait a few days and he would see if he could get other men. I waited a few days and Hughes said he could not get other men to work by contract, and I put Hughes and others to work afterwards on day's wages to finish the work.

2. The wages paid for this sort of work, if done by the day, is Three Dollars and Fifty cents (\$3.50) per day, miners paying their own board. My guarantee of Four dollars per day was made as an inducement to obtain speedy work as it was necessary for our own objects that the upraise should be completed with as little delay as possible. The work was not in the wet nor such as required any unusual other than ordinary mining skill.

AND I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and knowing it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

Declared before me at the
City of Rossland, Province
of British Columbia, this
22nd day of December, A.D.
1899.

Jno. M. Long.

C.R. Hamilton,
Notary Public.?

"Q. You have made this in a formal declaration and you desire to put it in as your evidence, and I will mark it as EXHIBIT "U2". Have you endeavored to let any other contracts ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Was Mr. Hughes a competent miner ?

A. Yes sir, he worked for me before.

Q. Do you know the rest who were engaged in the work with him ?

A. I know, but they are not in the room; Hughes is here.

COMMISSIONER : Mr. Hughes will you kindly wait until after this witness is examined, I wish to ask you some questions.

Q. In letting contracts, how do you let contracts do you offer the work at such price or do you offer it at so much ?

A. In this case we agreed upon a price; there was no bidding on it or any tenders let.

Q. Was the price such as in your judgment they could make \$4.00 per day ?

A. I am satisfied that they could make more, and I am satisfied since the work has been done that they could have made more than \$3.50; I think more than \$4.00.

Q. You did not guarantee \$3.00 ?

A. I did guarantee \$4.00.

Q. You say you required the work done speedily ?

A. I did.

Q. What further instances are there of endeavoring to let contracts ?

A. I have been trying to let a shaft be contract for the last ten days.

Q. In what way did you try ?

A. Submitted the matter to some of the men now working in the mines.

Q. What took place ?

A. They stated that they would think the matter over and told the foreman they would let him know. That was the information I got. It was through the foreman the matter was submitted.

Q. Yes, what then ?

A. They discussed the matter, some three or four of them; at least they said so, and one approached the walking delegate of the Miners' Union.

Q. Was that Mr. Abell ?

A. I do not know his name; and asked if the Union allowed contracting.

Q. Now who is that man ?

A. John Keefe, he is also in the room.

Q. Yes ?

A. And the walking delegate told him that contracts were not allowed in this camp; that was Keefe's statement to me. Those are the only

*instances I can recollect.

Q. Are you a practical miner yourself; have you ever practiced mining ?

A. I began mining in '74-7 in Nevada and have followed it since.

Q. Is the nature of the country here suitable for contract work ?

A. I think so. I think it is more suitable here than in any place else. The ground is harder and requires more care.

Q. Here it is low grade ore ?

A. I consider it low grade but in this mine it is all prospecting and developing. We have not shipped any during my time.

Q. Would you tell me how you let contracts; that is where contracts are let, how is it done ?

A. Well I usually submit it to the men that are in the mine; I would rather do that than to strangers. I would select the best men in the mine, because in letting contracts it is my idea to hurry as much as possible.

Q. When you submit it do you make up an estimate of what it ought to cost, and then submit that, or do you say, how much will you do it for ?

A. I say, how much will you do it for ? In this case they were well acquainted with the work; they were employed in that part working.

Q. Do you think that contract work presents an advantage or not to the men and to the Company ?

A. I think it presents a decided advantage to good men, but poor men, I suppose, could do better on day's wages.

Q. Have you seen much contract work ?

A. I have never been in a place where it was not allowed before.

Q. Has it a tendency to reduce wages ?

A. I do not think so; I think it has a tendency to increase wages to good men."

"T.H.Hughes, sworn.

Q. What is your full name ?

A. Thomas H.Hughes.

Q. What is your business ?

A. Miner.

Q. Practical miner ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did you take a contract to drive an upraise in Number One Mine of the Jessie in the latter part of July last ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. At \$22 per foot ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Were you guaranteed that you should receive on that contract not less than \$4.00 per day ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How long did you work at it ?

A. For one day.

Q. Why did you stop ?

A. I understood the Miners' Union passed a resolution to the effect that contracts should be stopped .

Q. From whom did you get this information ?

A. From Mr. Devine.

Q. What did he tell you ?

A. He said the Union had passed that resolution, and he thought that it had done right.

Q. What resolution ?

A/ The resolution was that all contracts should be stopped.

Q. That is he told you the resolution was that all contracts should be stopped ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Where did he tell you that ?

A. On the street here.

Q. Whereabouts ?

A. Over there on the corner.

Q. How did you happen to meet him ?

A. I went down to see him about it .

Q. Why did you go to see him about it ?

A. I went to ask him about it and tried to find out for sure how the thing was.

Q. Then you went to him, and met him to you ?

He was in a barber shop and you waited until he came out ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Are you a member of the Union ?

A. In the Cosur de Alenes.

Q. That is you are a member of that Union now ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How long had you worked at the Josie mine ?

A. Since July 14th.

Q. Of what year ?

A. Of this year.

Q. Are you a British subject ?

A. No sir.

Q. American citizen ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Why did you go to see him ?

A. I wanted to see whether the contract would be
not and
allowed or/whether I should go on with it.

Q. Well you did not have to do that ?

A. No, there is no compulsion about it.

Q. What put it in your head to go ?

A. I do not know, somebody spoke to me about
it, I think.

Q. What was it that suggested to you to go, was
it what anybody said or did after you had taken the
contract ?

A. I went of my own accord more than anything
else.

Q. It was entirely on your own part that you thought you would go and see whether this was opposed to the views of the Union ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Then you were really not stopped in that contract ?

A. You are stopped if you cannot get men to work.

Q. There was no one went up there and told you ^{to} not work ?

A. No sir.

Q. And no one said anything until you asked ?

A. No. I had two partners in the contract and they both quit before I came down.

Q. When did they quit ?

A. 2nd August; the day after they passed the resolution.

Q. Were they members of the Union ?

A. I could not say that.

Q. Then it was on account of their quitting that you came down ?

A. That may have had something to do with it; it may have been partly on that account.

Q. But was it on account of that that you came down and saw the Secretary ? This is a very important matter Mr. Hughes, more important than you think. I want you to put your mind back to that occasion and tell me verbally what took

"place as upon your oath you are able to do.

A. I asked him if the Union had stopped contract. He said it had, and I told him I did not think it was quite right, as I had a chance to make five or six dollars a day. He said the majority of the boys voted that way, and he thought they did right. He said it might benefit two or three for the time being but he thought it would hurt us in the long run; that is about all I can remember.

Q. Now this is what took place as near as you can remember ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do you know what vote he referred to, was it a public vote or private vote ?

A. I do not know.

Q. Do you know of a vote being taken here asking the miners what they thought about contracting ?

A. I heard there was a vote.

Q. Do you know whether it was public or private ?

A. I do not know.

Q. I will read for you what you have stated and see if I have it right ? (Commissioner reads)

A. That is right.

Q. Did he say how many voted in favor of it, and how many against it ?

A. I do not remember.

Q. The result was 250 in favor and 60 against ?

A. I do not remember.

Q. Did you say that you would have to stop the contract in consequence of what the Secretary told you ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did you ask the foreman to wait a few days to see if you could get more men ?

A. Yes, I asked him to wait.

Q. Did you wait a few days ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Could you get other men ? A--No sir.

Q. Afterwards you went to work by the day ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How much do you think you would have made if you had been able to take the contract ?

A. Well I could not say.

By Mr. Houston:

Q. Do you think that you have a better chance to make better wages on a contract than if you were working for the Company ?

A. I think I would.

Q. Would you idle on the Company's time, or how do you explain that ?

A. I do not think that I would idle on it, but a person working for himself would naturally work harder.

By the Commissioner:

Q. That is the ordinary run of men ?

A. Yes sir.

By Mr. Long :

Q. Did all of your men quit before you came down to see Devine, and was work stopped ?

A. Yes sir.

By Mr. Houston:

Q. If you worked as hard as you have mentioned, would that not be as hard as a 10 hour shift ?

A. Well I should think so; a person can work harder for 8 than he can for 10.

By Mr. Devine:

Q. Did you take him by the collar and pull him to one side when he came out of the barber shop ?

A. No, I did not take him by the coat.

Q. Did you touch him ?

A. I do not remember.

Q. Was it a friendly intercourse ?

A. I guess we got pretty warm.

By the Commissioner:

Q. And when you speak of hot words, have I got them here ?

A. Yes you have them; they might have been said in a little higher tone.

Q. Did he tell you that it was poor business on the part of the Company to pay \$5 or \$6 when

"there were others who would work for \$3.50 ?

A. Do not remember him saying anything like that.

Q. Did Mr. Devine tell you that he understood that the boys had voted against the contract system ?

A. The way I understood him, he said they had stopped it.

By Mr. Devine:

Q. Did he tell you he had nothing to do with it as an individual ?

A. I could not say that, but he said the majority of the boys went that way.*

Mr. DEVINE, recalled.

Q. You are still under oath, Mr. Devine; tell me what your recollection is of what took place when the last witness, T.H. Hughes, spoke to you as you came out of the barber shop.

A. I did not know this gentleman, had never met him before. When I came out of the barber shop he took hold of me by the collar of the coat, something like this; he says, you have stopped me from making \$6 or \$7 per day. I told him I had nothing whatever to do with it. I told him it was poor business management for a Company to pay \$6 or \$7 per day when there were others willing to work for half that sum. He asked me if the

"Union had voted on the contract system. I told him I understood that it had, but I had nothing to do with it any more than any other individual. I believe that ended the discussion.

Q. Was the number of the votes mentioned ?

A. No sir.

Q. Was that voting public or private ?

A. It was a private vote.

Q. Was it made public at the time ?

A. No sir, not to my knowledge.

Q. Anything further ?

A. No sir.

MR. HOUSTON : How could you expect the contractor to make more under contract with a machine than when working a machine by the day ?

MR. LONG :

A. There are lots of things to be done in contracting other than running a machine. A man in contracting will take advantage of his work and do lots of things when the machine is idle. In this particular place there was two machines which have an equal number of holes to drill in the round, it is very seldom that they get done at the same time, or that they drill equal number of feet and unless a boss is with him, working day's wages they would not do anything until the other fellows are done, that is the rule generally; whereas by contract they get timber, run their dirt or a

number of other things.

Q. Do you mean to say that they may do more work by taking advantage of time than they might otherwise ~~make~~^{do} with the machine in 8 hours ?

A. Oh yes. A man working for himself will take advantage of numerous things which they would not when working for the Company. I will say that the reason for giving contracts is to get the very best men we can.

By the Commissioner:

Q. He says that a man working by contract with a machine would do more with the same machine *than* working by day, and therefore he says that do you not admit that a greater amount of work *may* be done than by day's work. "

"JOHN L. KEEFE, sworn.

Q. What is your full name ?

A. John L. Keefe.

Q. Was the matter of submitting to you a contract in the Josie Mine ^{mentioned} ~~made~~ in the last 10 days ?

A. Yes sir, by the foreman of the Josie No. 1 Mine. He asked me would I take a contract in the No. 1 shaft. I told him I would let him know after I had seen the Union.

Q. Did he mention the price to you ?

A. No sir.

Q. He just asked you that ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Yes ?

A. Me and a friend of mine a day or two after came down to the Union; we met the walking delegate outside the Union Hall.

Q. What is his name ?

A. I do not know, sir.

Q. Is MR. Abell here ? He is the walking delegate. Mr. Abell I want you to hear what the witness says.

A. We asked him whether the Union allowed contract; he said "no".

Q. What further ?

A. As me and my friend was members of this Union here we went back and told our foreman, we would not take any contract.

Q. Yes.

A. That is all.

COMMISSIONER : Now Mr. Long is there anything further from this witness ?

MR. LONG : No, nothing further.

Q. You have told me exactly what was said and exactly what took place ?

A. Yes sir.

* MR. ABELL, recalled .

Q. Are you the walking boss of the Union ?

A. I am.

Q. Do you remember a person speaking to you on the 2nd of August ?

A. Yes sir, although I could not say that he was the person.

Q. Now what did he say, just give the conversation.

A. He asked if the Union allowed its members to take contracts. I informed him that not that I knew of; a vote had been taken last summer and then it was decided that no members of the Union would take contract, by an overwhelming majority.

Q. Yes ?

A. That is all.

Q. Is your constitution the same as the Sandon constitution ?

A. I could not say.

Q. Have you a printed copy ?

A. I think there is, but I have not got one.

MR. HOUSTON : I can let you have a copy in a moment, Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER : Thank you, just give me a copy. You produce a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Roseland Miners' Union No. 38. Exhibit "V 2".

"Q. Now is there anything in this constitution dealing with the question of contract ?

A. There is not.

Q. That is, it is not referred to one way or the other ?

A. The only place where it is referred to is in the preamble; I am not sure that it is referred to there.

Q. Was there anything in the Constitution which prevented a miner from taking a contract ?

A. No sir, it is simply an unwritten law.

Q. Supposing a person took the contract, an apparently valid contract in the eye of the law, you do not assume to the Union the power to force him to break that contract ?

A. You could not do it under the law ?

Q. Well you do not assume it, do you ?

A. No, it is left to the man himself; we do not interfere with him.

Q. Would you like to say anything further with regard to what Mr. Keele stated ?

A. No sir, I do not think so."

Bernard Macdonald:-

"Q. You are General Manager of the British America Corporation, Limited, the Le Roi Mining Company, Limited, the East Le Roi Mining Company, Limited,

"the West La Roi Mining Company, Limited, and the Columbia-Kootenay Mining Company, Limited ?

A. Yes sir.

B. MACDONALD recalled.

"Q. Give me your views as to the contract system, if you have had any experience in that regard, Mr. MacDonald ?

A. As a working miner I have worked myself and done considerable contract work, and since I have had charge of mining properties I have probably let hundreds of contracts for nearly all kinds of mining work. I would say that this present year, and since the 8 hour law came into force, I have let probably 2500 to 3000 feet of contract work in the Slocan country to miners there, in the Sandon camp. Working on contract as a working miner, I think it was always the case that I made more than the ordinary wages, and letting contracts to men in the mine extending over the last 18 years, I have no recollection of one instance in which a contractor made less than the scale of wages at that camp, and referring to the contracts let in the Sandon camp this year the contractor always made from \$5.00 a day up and no man employed by him made less than \$3.50 per day. In letting contracts I would generally figure with the most skilful miners and it was never my policy nor that of any camp I

*worked for as Superintendent or Manager to be so hard or exacting in letting the contracts as to involve the probability of the men taking them making less than the usual scale of wages. The principal reason for mining Companies letting contracts is to attract the most skilful labor to the work contracted on account of the economic advantages to the rest of the mine and to the mining operations in general of having that work performed in a short time. To explain this I will say that it sometimes becomes necessary to ventilate the mine workings by raising a raise; after that raise connects two workings of different depths a circulation of air takes place in the mine and all the connected mine workings have thorough ventilation. The miners employed in these workings by reason of this ventilation are enabled to do more work, the mine is more healthy and the smoke clears away rapidly from their blasts. For this reason every day that such ventilation is secured is a very considerable economic advantage to the Company. Looking at contract work from the Mining Company's standpoint it has the same advantage of attracting skilled labor from other camps as high wages have. Miners that are thoroughly competent and skilful and have spent years in mining work go to that camp for the purpose of getting the benefit that is due to their skill,

"knowledge and practical experience. Referring to the method of having a uniform form of contract in the mine, I would think, from my experience, that that would be impracticable, that the conditions existing at each mine would demand special specifications plainly reciting those conditions and plainly setting out what the minor was expected to do and the supply the Company was expected to furnish him in doing this work. Some Companies have their air compressor and drill machinery, they then want the work done by compressed air machinery; others not having such machinery would want their work done by hand labor. In the case of change of rock in a contract from hard to soft and vice versa the specifications of the contract would provide for this change as far as possible. I would say if the ground is soft the minor would make more rapid progress, that is generally considered sufficient compensation for the time you would lose in timbering when ground required timbering, the Company nearly always furnishes the timber necessary for timbering. Is there anything else ?

Q. I think that covers the ground.

By Mr. Houston:-

Q. Would you, Mr. MacDonald, in the event of your employees not deeming it to their advantage or interest to submit tenders for their contract,

"would you have them discharged ?

A. I would not do such a thing at all, if they do not want the contract they need not take it. I would not do such a thing.

By Mr. Davine:

Q. If the contract system became universal would not the Company be in a position to regulate the price of labor; would not the effect of the introduction of contracting have a tendency to reduce labor to the price of the lowest ?

A. I would think it would have a tendency to heighten it.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Do you think, Mr. Macdonald, that the general tendency of contracting would be to lower the price of labor down to the least efficient ?

A. No, I think it would be the contrary."

Edward B. Kirby, Manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star Mines:-

"Q. I wanted to ask you for information upon this point. It has been suggested to me on more than one occasion in different parts of the Province since I have commenced taking the evidence, that the tendency of contract labor is to cut down prices. In this way, I mean, a certain piece of work is put up for tender, and if

"there is a surplus of men tendering might be low, even lower than the regular rate of wages and that goes on from time to time the effect is to steadily and greatly press down the price of labor. Give me your views upon that point, please.

A. I believe that is an error in logic and in fact. The whole essence of the contract system by which a man is paid according to the work he performs, is that there must be absolute freedom, both the man and the employer must be absolutely free to settle upon their price. If the average pay received for this contract work does not greatly exceed the general wage level men will refuse to take contracts, and that simply ends the system. The only inducement to a man to take a contract in preference to wages is in order to make more by working harder. If by this steady work he can only make ordinary wages he would rather go on the pay roll list somewhere where he can rest frequently and take it easy when the shift boss is out of sight. I know it to be true from my own observation and experience that pay under the contract system always averages above the average wage level of that locality. I think the reason why many people are led into that error is because there are parts of the country, especially in the East, or the older settled community, where

*contract mining does not pay as much as our Western scale of wages. If the contract system goes into effect here and the men do not average more than \$3.50 per day under it we will find ourselves unable to let any contract. There must be freedom however, it is utterly impossible to carry out the contract system if any organization attempts to interfere or influence bids in any way.

Q. Assuming that the contract system was that desired in any camp, could the management hope to continue it if they adopted a method by which the earnings would be reduced to or lower than the recognized rate of wages ?

A. It would be impossible.

Q. Is there any danger of it forcing down the wage level ?

A. Not in the least.

Q. What are the economic advantages then in the contract system if the wages are not in fact reduced ?

A. Because you get an honest day's work for the pay.

Q. I suppose the meaning of that is that while mining men, perhaps the most, are willing to give an honest day's work for an honest wage it is impossible to eliminate entirely those who are not, and is there a tendency that the average work descends to that of the least competent ?

A. That is always the way.

Q. When the advantage of the contract system is to eliminate that system?

A. Yes, because each man works for himself and if he is especially skilled or industrious he knows he will get higher pay for it.

Q. There was one other point that was brought to my notice, and that was it was said that the rock varied, that a man may strike a soft spot and again strike a hard place where the wages immediately dropped, what then?

A. Under the contract system he takes chances of one in a while being too low but he has the same chance of striking rock that is soft and easy and of getting high wages.

Q. From your experience do you recommend for contract a well settled recognised form of written contract?

A. That depends somewhat upon the way in which the contract system is operated. In some mines a form is used, and in others where the contract is shorter there is no written agreement but simply a verbal agreement.

Q. What would you say as to whether any common form of contract could be used by a number of mines operating over a number of districts?

A. I do not think it could.

Q. Suppose you take this district?

"A. That is something that I would not be able to answer, because it is one of the details that only experience with the system can decide; it is impossible to plan that beforehand.

Q. In taking a contract would there not be many things that the management would require to furnish, tools, light, etc.?

A. Yes. Would it answer your question to say that I have seen very few cases in underground contract work where there was any misunderstanding or difference as to terms; if such things did occur very often a mine would have to get out a printed form. In many mines this occurs seldom; where you have good superintendents these misunderstandings seldom occur."

I formed the opinion while at Rossland that the Union had made a very serious mistake, and one that ought to be rectified by a free recognition of the undoubted right of the men to take contracts; and I clearly expressed this view, both publicly and privately to the members of the Union. I believe *the* contract system would be found advantageous to the men as well as to the Company.

In this view I was confirmed by the evidence of Mr. Robbins the general Manager of the coal mines at Nanaimo, and Mr. Ralph Smith, the Secretary of the Miners' Union there, and the

President of the Trades and Labor Council of
Canada.

Mr. Robbins says:-

"Q. What is your full name ?

A. Samuel Matthews Robins.

Q. What is the name of your Company ?

A. New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company.

Q. You are the general manager ?

A. I am superintendent; equivalent to general
manager.

Q. How long has your company been in existence ?

A. We have been in existence since 1862. It
was then called the Vancouver Coal Company, but
as we changed our capital we had to add the word
"New" to it.

Q. What is the amount now invested, in round
numbers ?

A. 235,000 pounds sterling in stock and debentures.

Q. How many men do you employ now ?

A. About 1200."

"Q. How long have you been superintendent ?

A. 16 years."

"Q. In mining camps where unions exist and are
recognized, what is your opinion as to whether or
not contracts are upon the whole favourable to the

"men ?

A. I think the objectionable features of contract work are less pronounced in a union mine than in a non-union mine. In a non-union mine there would be no safeguard to work being done at starvation wages. In a union mine there is always sufficient union public feeling to prevent any reckless under-tendering.

Q. Do you think that the existence of a union in connection with any mining camp has a tendency to improve the average standard of miners or otherwise ?

A. In a well conducted union the tendency is to bring in a superior class of miners; it also has an undoubted beneficial effect upon the individual miner."

Mr. Ralph Smith, M.P.P. says:-

"Q. What is your name ?

A. Ralph Smith.

Q. What is your business ?

A. I am the general Secretary of the Miners' Union of Nanaimo, and the President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Q. How long have you filled that position ?

A. Four and a half years.

Q. What knowledge have you of mining ?

A. I have been a miner since I was eleven years of age; coal miner.

Q. Where ?

A. North of England.

Q. For how long there ?

A. I was there until I was 35 years of age.

Q. Then you came to this country ?

A. Came to Vancouver Island.

Q. What year ?

A. 1892.

Q. At that time the Union was already established?

A. It was organized."

Q. What is your view with regard to what may be called the contract system in mines, are you in favor of it or otherwise ?

A. I favor the contract system where the workmen are well organized.

Q. Do you know what views the men of your Union take ?

A. They take the same views. As a matter of fact they practice that every day.

Q. That applies to tunneling ?

A. Yes sir, the tunneling, prospecting for coal, or sinking shafts, and in getting coal.

Q. In the one case it is done by the yard ?

A. Yes sir, and with coal it is done by the ton.

Q. You say the men prefer that method to day's

"work ?

A. Yes sir. "

"Q. Are you somewhat familiar with the difficulties that exist in the Slocan ?

A. Yes sir, I have been through that district.

Q. With a view of acquainting yourself with the facts ?

A. With a view of acquainting myself with the facts.

Q. It has been represented to me that the difficulty now existing in the Slocan district is owing largely to the introduction of the 8 hour law, what do you say as to that ?

A. Well I suppose that is true. Without in any degree advocating a reduction in wage, which as a Union leader I would very much wish myself to retain, I think that two things would be better than keeping the mines closed, first, to adopt the principle of contract between Unions and the management as far as that were possible. I am speaking now of my personal views, and just what I said when I was up in the country, and rather than bring disaster to the mining industry of that section of the Province make a slight reduction in the wages paid. The Government in granting an 8 hour day initiated an important principle, the

"wage question not being any part of the agitation for a principle at the time. If it were necessary in order to sustain the principle that a reduction of wage would take place or it should be adjusted by contract between the parties, I would rather recommend that than that the principle should be impugned. If I was an active miner in that country I would be willing to be reduced 25 cents a day rather than bring disaster to the mining industries of the district which a prolonged strike will undoubtedly bring about."

MINERS' UNIONS.

The Miners have organized Unions throughout Southern British Columbia. The Sandon Union is incorporated under the laws of British Columbia and contains a present membership of 530, of whom 339 were at work in December last. They support a hospital, which has accommodation for 7 male patients and a ward was being prepared for female patients; the hospital has been in existence one year, and is supplied with a trained nurse and doctor, and each member is charged \$1 per month, which entitles him to its benefits.

The list of Unions with membership is as follows:

Sandon	520
Whitewater	110
Nelson	130
New Denver	50
Slocan City	48
Rossland	1300
Silverton	130
Phoenix	160
Greenwood	70

and other Unions were being formed the particulars of which I did not obtain. Probably the membership at present would aggregate 3,000 members in all. At Rossland the Union has built a Hall at a cost of \$7,000 and has a provision by way of sick benefit of \$10 per week, out of which the member would have to provide for hospital accommodation; ^{also} A funeral benefit of \$90. The sick benefits and funeral expenses for the last twelve months amount to \$3568. This does not include voluntary contributions where men have been badly injured or crippled, which, according to the Secretary of the Union "amounts to thousands of dollars".

The Miners Unions of British Columbia are affiliated with the Western Federation of Miners, with its Head Office at Butte City, Montana.

Exhibit "C" contains the Constitution and By-laws of the Sandon Miners' Union. Those of the other Unions are, I believe, substantially the same.

"Article 1, Sec. 3. The object of this Union shall be the practice of those virtues that elevate and adorn society, and remind man of his duty to his fellow man, the elevation of his position and maintenance of the rights of the miner."

Exhibit "D" contains the Constitution and By-laws of the Western Federation of Miners: its object is defined in Article 1, Sec. 2:-

"The objects of the body shall be to unite the various persons working in and around the mines, mills and smelters into one central body, to practice those virtues that adorn society, and remind man of his duty to his fellow-man, the elevation of his position and the maintenance of the rights of the worker."

The territory covered by the Western Federation of Miners is divided into the following districts:-

1. California, Nevada and Arizona.
2. Washington, Oregon and Idaho.
3. Montana.
4. Colorado.
5. South Dakota.
6. Territory north of the United States

Boundary.

See Article 3, section 10, Exhibit "O".

District No. 6 contains at present eleven Unions.

It will be seen from the above that the Western Federation of Miners extends its influence from Arizona to British Columbia, and represents a very important factor affecting the question of the supply of labor for the mines in British Columbia and probably accounts for the difficulty in procuring miners to come into Canada where any labour troubles exist, because it affords a ready communication with miners throughout the entire region over which its jurisdiction extends., and from which the larger proportion of miners must for the present at least be drawn.

The coal mines at Nanaimo affords a pleasing instance of a large corporation, employing 1200 men, all of whom belong to the Union, working in harmony with the Union.

The method adopted which has been in existence since 1891, is given in the evidence of the General Manager as follows:-

"Samuel Matthews Robins in his evidence says :

"Q. You are the General Manager ?

A. I am Superintendent; equivalent to General Manager.

Q. How long has your company been in existence ?

A. We have been in existence since 1862. It was then called the Vancouver Coal Company, but as we changed our capital we had to add the word "New" to it.

Q. How many men do you employ now? A--About 1200.

Q. Have you a Miners' Union here?

A. Yes, we have a Miners' Union.

Q. What proportion of the men belong to the Union?

A. Every one. The union is a miners' and mine laborers union. That includes the gunners. Whilst there is also an artisan's union including engineers, both above and below ground, locomotive drivers, mechanics, car builders, smiths, carpenters, and wharf hands.

Q. What is the general wage of blacksmiths?

A. From \$3 to \$3.75.

Q. Carpenters and timbermen?

A. From \$2.75 to \$3.50.

Q. How long have you been superintendent?

A. 16 years.

Q. And during what proportion of that time has there been a union?

A. Our union was started in July 1891.

Q. Does your company recognize the union?

A. Yes sir.

Q. To what extent, or would you state in your

"own way the method by which you meet the union, and how many differences that arise are managed ?

A. The Company recognizes the union as a body through whom any questions in dispute between operators and the Company are sought to be adjusted. If a difference arises as to the rate of wages or discipline in the mines the matter is first discussed between the mines manager and the individuals concerned. The mines manager has really the control of all the underground workings. (The man responsible for the safety of the mine must be a certified mine manager. I am not one). If no arrangement can be brought about the matter is brought to the notice of the union executive committee, and if they fail to adjust matters with the works manager then the business is brought before me by the Committee. The Union Secretary, who is an important officer in the union, at each stage of the discussion, is present, and uses his influence to bring about a friendly arrangement. A great deal depends upon the judgment and good sense and fair mindedness of the union secretary. If he is a man of sound judgment and good sense, he can remove an immense amount of friction. The union, ever since the formation of the association, have in the selection of their officers exercised the wisest judgment.

Q. Then if the question were asked you by a

miner, who was not a member of the union, whether he should join or not, what would be your advice ?

A. Join by all means.

Q. As a matter of choice do you prefer dealing with the officers of the union rather than with the men ?

A. Most assuredly.

Q. Why ?

A. Because matters that are brought to me through the union have gone through a process of sifting and revision, and all artificial grievances have in most instances, been eliminated before coming to me. That is one reason. Another reason is that in a well organized and reasonably well conducted union no countenance should be given to the airing of personal grievances between the men and the bosses. I think those are the principal reasons.

Q. I suppose the men would take no action now without deliberation and you always know whence the action comes ~~sure~~ ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Could you give me an illustration of how that was done before the union started ?

A. Previous to the existence of the union instances have occurred where meetings have been summoned by unsigned notices for the purpose of demanding an increase of wages, or to discuss a

"modification of other existing arrangements by parties utterly unknown to their associates and thereby brought about general dissatisfaction merely in revenge for individual slights they imagined themselves to have been subjected to, but such a thing could not occur now.

Q. I suppose you still have your difficulties sometimes ?

A. Well, yes. But so far we have adjusted every one of them without any disturbance of the friendly relations existing between the owners and the men.

Q. Then if I have apprehended you aright, far from dreading the unions, when properly officered, you regard them as a benefit to capital ?

A. Precisely so.

Q. And do the men ?

A. Most assuredly.

Q. You are good enough to let me have a copy of the memorandum of agreement between your company and the union. It is now produced and marked "Exhibit O 3."

A. Yes sir.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT entered into between the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, Limited, and the Miners and Mine Laborers' Protective Association of Vancouver Island, this

24th day of July, 1891.

1st. The Company agrees to employ miners and mine laborers only who are already members of the Miners' and Mine Laborers' Protective Association, or who, within a reasonable period after employment, become members of the Association.

2nd. The Company agrees to dismiss no employee who is a member of the Association without reasonable cause.

3rd. The Association agrees that under no consideration will they stop work or strike without exhausting all other means of conciliation available.

4th. The Association agrees that they will not interfere with the company in employing or discharging employees.

5th. The Association shall comprise all men employed underground, excepting officials and engine drivers, and above ground all day laborers, not officials, engine drivers or mechanics.

6th. This agreement can be terminated by 30 days' notice on either side.

For the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company,
Limited,

.....
Superintendent.

"For the Miners and Mine Labourers' Protective Association of Vancouver Island,

.....1
.....
.....
.....
.....
Committee"

"Q. I notice by the first clause that the Company agrees to employ miners and mine laborers only who are already members of the Miners and Mine Laborers' Protective Association, or, who, within a reasonable period after employment, become members of the Association? Is not that rather a stringent clause? Please give me your opinion?"

A. It was objectionable at first to a good many of the old timers, I call them, who had never worked in a union colliery and were inclined to kick at modern methods. At first many of these men declined to join the union or to contribute to its funds, but without exception, after being shown the unfairness to the large majority who were working in the general interest of all, resistance quickly disappeared.

Q. Then how did you deal with the clause providing for the discontinuing of any men who were not union men (within a reasonable period)?

A. There would probably have been some friction in carrying the last part of clause one into effect,

"had not the management brought a little gentle pressure to bear in individual interests.

Q. In these cases you mean that you would advise them to join the union ?

A. Yes, and in advising them to join the union they must see that I had no alternative but to enforce provisions.

Q. I suppose that in the introduction of a clause of that kind a reasonable amount of play was allowed on either side ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Then in Clause 2 the Company agrees to discipline no employee who is a member of the association without reasonable cause. Is not that in conflict with clause 4 ?

A. Yes. The one is corrective of the other.

Q. Is there any difficulty in reconciling the two ?

A. We have never had any.

Q. You adhered strictly to your rights under Clause 4 ?

A. Yes, with reasonable cause.

Q. Then what is reasonable cause ?

A. To disobey the orders of the Manager or of other officers, or irregularity in their attendance at work, or where incompetent. These would be the only causes.

Q. I notice that clause 3 seems to be a very important one, viz: "The Association agrees that

"under no consideration will they stop work by strike, without exhausting all other means of conciliation available". Have they adhered to that ?

A. I can say that that rule has been generally adhered to; in a few cases temporarily disregarded, but always acted upon when the Clause was brought to the attention of the men themselves. The men are very punctilious in carrying out the agreement.

Q. What is the usual day's work; how many hours ?

A. In the mine the miners work 8 hours.

Q. That is not by law but by custom ?

A. By custom.

Q. The 8-hour law has no application to coal mines ?

A. No sir.

Q. And other workings ?

A. All workers underground 8 hours.

Q. And above ground ?

A. Nine hours.

Q. Have you personal knowledge as to the usual hours of work per day in England ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What are they ?

A. In mines, 8 hours; not universal, but largely so throughout the mining districts.

Q. For underground work ?

"A. For underground work, that is for miners proper. The helpers in some English collieries work longer hours. By helpers I mean fillers. In some English collieries the miner does not fill his car.

Q. Do you consider it in the interests of the Company and of good citizenship that married men should be employed, and encouraged to get little homes, etc ?

A. Yes, I think it is wholly to be desired that a married man should have an opportunity of owning his home. There is another side to that, where the permanency of the mine is not certain."

(See pages 670, 672 to 678.)

The above statement is fully corroborated by Mr. Ralph Smith, Secretary of the Union, and President of the Labor and Trades Congress of Canada, who says:-

"I have been a miner since I was 11 years of age, coal miner in the north of England. I was there until I was 35 years of age and came to Vancouver Island in 1892.

Q. At that time the union was already established ?

A. It was organized.

Q. And the arrangement between the Union and the Company was existing ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. (Commissioner reads evidence of Mr. Robins)
You have heard now all the evidence of Mr. Robins.
So far as the same has regard to the relations
existing between the Union and the Company, what
have you to say?

A. I think it is absolutely correct; that Mr.
Robins practices every word that he has in that
evidence.

Q. You confirm what he says in regard to
the cordial relations existing between the Union
and the Company?

A. Yes sir. I confirm the whole evidence.

Q. You are the present local member for Kanaboa?

A. Yes sir."

(See pages 695 and 696 of evidence)

THE LABOR TROUBLE.

EXISTING AT THE TIME OF THE COMMISSIONER'S VISIT.

On arriving at Nelson I ascertained that all
or nearly all of the shipping mines in the Slocan
District were shut down. A number of prospects
and partially developed mines were being further
developed where a considerable number of men were
employed, but speaking generally very little if any
work was being done in the principal producing mines
in the Slocan District.

THE CAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY.

Prior to June 1898 the wages paid in the Slocan District were as follows, Miners \$3.50 per day, Carmen and muckers \$3.00 per day for a shift of 10 hours in the day and 9 hours at night, except a short shift on Saturday of 9 in the day and 8 hours at night. A further allowance was made where the mine was unusually wet or the air bad. There were slight variations in the length of the short shift but speaking generally this applied to the Slocan District. I could not find that there was any serious dissatisfaction either with the wage or the length of the working day as it existed prior to June 1899.

Board throughout the Slocan is \$1 per day, and the cost of living is generally high. I should say at least double what it is in the old settled districts of Ontario.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

By an Act to amend "The Inspection of Metalliferous Mines Act" and passed on the 27th February, 1899, it is declared that Section 13 of Chapter 134, Revised Statutes of British Columbia is repealed, and the following substituted therefor:-

"13. No person shall be employed underground in any metalliferous mines for more than eight

hours in every twenty-four hours". (See EXHIBIT "M2")

The Bill (No. 80) was introduced and read a first time on the 16th February; it received its second reading on the 20th February. At that time the amendment in question seems to have formed no part of the Bill. (See EXHIBIT "M2"). On the 24th February the Bill was "reported complete with amendments, report adopted, third reading tomorrow"; and the Bill passed its third reading on the 25th of February with the amendment as above mentioned. (See EXHIBITS "M2" and "N2").

At the request of the mine owners the Act was not put into operation until the 12th June. Prior to that date however, the Silver-Lead Mines Association of British Columbia, to which the principal mining Companies in the Slocan District belong, published the following notice:-
(See Exhibit "P")

NOTICE.

"OWING to the action of the British Columbia Legislature in enforcing the eight hour law in the Slocan, the Silver-Lead Mine Owners of the district consider that they owe it to their Employees, who are affected by the change rendered necessary by the operation of the Act, to place their intentions with regard

to it on record.

IN the first place, the mine owners of this district were not consulted in any way as to this radical change in the mining law, and on being informed of the passage of the Act, made every effort in their power to have the law held in abeyance until it could be carefully considered by those interested.

IT was pointed out that the standard rate of wages for miners, \$3.50 for a ten-hour shift, was as high as paid anywhere in the United States or Canada, and that this rate was satisfactory to both Mine Owners and Employees.

IT was further pointed out that by reducing the hours of work from ten to eight hours the wage earning capacity of the miner would be more than proportionately reduced as far as the Mine Owners are concerned.

To give greater force and unanimity to the expressed opinion of the Mine Owners, a meeting of the SILVER LEAD MINE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF B.C. was convened in order to get an expression of opinion about which there would be no uncertainty.

THE purpose of this Association is to foster and protect the mining interests of the Province, and it is not in any sense a

"combination of Employers against Employees, as the relations between the Wage Earners and the Employers have always been most friendly, and it is hoped will so continue.

THE Mine Owners were for their part quite willing to continue to pay \$3.50 for ten hours work, but the enforcement of the eight hour law having rendered this impossible, they now offer to pay Miners at the rate of \$3.00 per eight-hour shift, this rate being higher in proportion to the hours worked than the old rate.

TO give effect to this intention a resolution was passed at the meeting of the Silver Lead Mine Owners' Association held in Sandon on May the 8th, as follows:

"That it is the sense of the Mine Representatives of this Association that the standard rate of wages paid to Miners be in future \$3.00 per day of eight hours."

"THIS resolution was signed by the representatives of the mines whose names are hereto appended.

THESE mines wish to state that as the eight hour law is to be enforced not later than June the 12th, they are ready to hire

"miners on and after June the 1st at the above rate; And they further wish it to be understood that this change in the working hours and the consequent contraction of the wage-earning capacity of the Miner, was forced upon them by the Act of the B.C. Legislature and was entirely unsought for by them.

Queen Bess	Idaho	Payne
Noble Five	Antoine	Reco
Ajca	Ivanhoe	Jackson
Emily Edith	Lucky Jim	Goodenough
Wakefield	Washington	Last Chance
Canadian Group	Echo	Ruth
Yair Gold Mines, Ltd.	Monitor	R E Lee
Sovereign	Whitewater	Rambler & Cariboo
Bosun	Enterprise	Sunshine".

The men refused to work at the reduced wages and the producing mines in the Slocan District shut down. This occurred on or about the 12 of June 1899. The principal producing mines in the vicinity of Sandon that were affected were, the "Payne", "Last Chance", "Slocan Star" "Queen Bess" and "Idaho".

The position taken by the owners was that less work would be performed under the 8 hour law than formerly and in the Notice which they gave they

"were offering a higher wage per hour than the men had received prior to the 8-hour law."

The view held by the men was that the 8-hour law was intended for their benefit, to better their condition; that an 8-hour shift was a reasonable day's work underground, and that as much work could and would be done by a good miner in a shift of 8 hours as in one of 10. It will be seen that here were new conditions, the effect of which was disputed, ^{that it was} and clearly a case for conference with a view to compromise. In the case of the Slocan Star such an attempt was made. What took place with reference to that mine is given by the Superintendent, Mr. Oscar White, at page 168 of the Evidence; it is as follows:-

Q. And prior to June were you paying the usual wages?

A. Up to June 12th.

Q. Then what took place?

A. We closed down.

Q. Why?

A. Could not get men. The Manager, Mr. Myron N. White, came from Spokane and wanted me to arrange with the men to appoint a Committee and call upon the men to arrange with them a scale of wages.

Q. Well, what did you do?

A. The men at the mine met, appointed their

"Committee and the Committee called upon the Manager, and he made them an offer of \$3.25 for miners, \$2.75 for muckers for 8 hours work. The Chairman of the Committee said that they had no power to act but would refer the matter to the meeting of the Miners' Union at night, and they did, because the Union sent the Manager a letter of thanks, thanking him for the interest he had taken, etc., but did not accept the offer.

Q. Did they state, or do you know what the men asked ?

A. I do not remember, but it seems to me that they said they would not accept less than \$3.50. The Manager took the letter with him. He did not leave it at the office.

Q. What was the next thing that happened ?

A. He decided we would not afford to pay any more. The understanding was when he left that if the men would not accept that, we would have to close down. I, knowing that they would not accept less than that, on the morning of the 12th of June, let 27 men go, that left 62 that went to work all told, well and all. At noon that day, or about 11 o'clock I think it was, a Committee from the Miners' Union went to the Mine and told those men to quit. Or asked them to quit, and they all came down. Those men that remained were getting

"the old scale of wages for an 8 hour's work.

Q. When did they begin to work 8 hours ?

A. At 12 o'clock at night of the 11th.

Q. When you say they were getting the old scale of wages, did you intend to continue the old scale of wages ?

A. No sir.

Q. How long would that have continued ?

A. I do not know how long that would have continued; I think it would not have continued very long.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

*Q. Have you had any further conversation with the men or Union ?

A. No sir. I think it would be proper to say that I wanted to get some timbering done and after the mine closed down we intended to do ^{that} before we let the men go. Of course I had them at this work when they were called down.

Q. You were paying how much ?

A. The old rate of wages.

Q. Did you get your timbering done ?

A. Of course that stopped work for the present and one of the men an old miner that had worked for us three years came to me and wanted me to call on the Committee. He thought if I would call

on the committee we could make arrangements to go on and get the timbering done. I called upon the committee and presented my side of it and left the proposition with them, and ^{they} asked me to leave the room for a few minutes and when they arrived at a conclusion they would send for me. In a half hour or so they sent for me and told me to go ahead with the timbering providing I would take the same men back. Those, of course, were the men I wanted, and I took them back next morning and they finished the work.

Q. At what rate of wages ?

A. At the old rate of wages. \$3.50 for 8 hours.

Q. How long did that take to finish the work ?

A. I think five days.

Q. What has been done since ?

A. We have done nothing except development by contract work."

XX

"By Mr. Hagler.

Q. At the time the General Manager of the Sleean Star was here was not an offer made to him by the miners working in the Sleean Star Mine to give the 8-hour law a trial for one month ?

A. Yes sir.

"Q. And in case it was not a success or work done as cheap if not cheaper than under the 10-hour system, the men would probably consider the matter again ?

A. I do not remember that part of it. But I know there was an offer made but I don't remember about the considering afterwards.

Q. That was meant though at the time ?

A. It might have been but I cannot recall it."

(See pages 168-169, 170, 171 and 173 of Evidence.)

There was an informal meeting between Mr. Hagler, Secretary of the Union, and Mr. Hand, Manager of Payne Mine. As to this, Mr. Hagler says, "we both expressed a desire to one another as men that we would like to see it favorably adjusted and settled, and Mr. Hand assumed it upon himself as an individual to have a talk with me. I had several chats with him about the matter and it was understood that I would lay the matter before the Union, and he would speak to the Mine Owners and see if we could not get a Committee together. The Union appointed their Committee and we were ready at any time to meet.

Q. Was that ever communicated in writing to the

Silver-Lead Mines Association ?

A. No, we agreed that it was better for the Secretary to go direct to an officer of the Association and talk it over verbally".

No formal action, so far as I know, was taken at this time by the Mine Owners and nothing came of this interview. Nothing further was done towards an adjustment until the 27th November, when a deputation from the Kaslo Board of Trade was appointed to interview the parties to the labour dispute.

The report of the deputation is as follows:-

"Kaslo, B.C. December 15th, 1899.

THE KASLO BOARD OF TRADE-

Gentlemen-

A few days since I received a letter from Mr. H. Giegerich a member in good standing of this Board, written by that gentleman at Seaden while on his way to Vancouver. Mr. Giegerich expressed his opinion that the time had come for this Board to tender to the parties to the unhappy labor dispute in the Slesan its good offices with a view of bringing the disputants together and securing a settlement by Compromise or otherwise.

Mr. Giegerich's letter I have placed on file with the Secretary. After personal consultation with all the members of the Council of the Board of Trade who were at the time in Kaslo, it was

"decided that we should act upon the spirit of Mr. Giegerich's suggestion.

Accordingly, I solicited the co-operation of Messrs. O.T. Stone and John Keen and these gentlemen very kindly having consented to accompany me, we visited Sandon on Monday Nov. 27th.

I have the the honour to append herewith the report of the deputation.

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) G.O. Buchanan,

President."

"Kaslo, B.C. December 15th, 1899.

THE KASLO BOARD OF TRADE

Gentlemen:-

We your deputation, appointed to interview the parties to the Labor dispute in the Slocan Camp, beg to report that we visited Sandon on Monday Nov. 27th., and solicited conferences with the executive of the Miners Union of Sandon, and with the executive of the Silver-Lead Mine Owners Association.

Mayor Pitts and Alderman Buckley of Sandon accompanied us on our preliminary call upon the Officers of the Miners Union.

Messrs. Smith, Hazler and Davis, on behalf of the Union received the delegation and while somewhat

unyielding in their attitude, declared that they were ready at any time to meet the Mine Owners.

In the evening a meeting of the following Mine Owners and Managers was secured, viz: Messrs. Hand, Wood, Hughes and Wright, and at the suggestion of the visiting deputation an invitation was sent to the officers of the Miners Union, who came to the room of the S.L.M.O. Assn. Mayor Patts also, by special invitation, being present.

The case having been started for their respective sides by Mr. Wood and Mr. Hagler a general discussion followed participated in by all present. The scale of wages was gone over and it was found that the points of difference were in regard to Hand Drillers, \$3.00 offered, \$3.50 demanded - Cawmen \$2.50 to \$3.00 offered, \$3.00 demanded, Laborers and Shovellers \$2.50 offered, \$3.00 demanded.

The Officers of the Miners Union stated that there was nothing else in dispute. - The third parties present suggested that the parties compromise by splitting the differences.

The Mine Owners present seemed disposed to agree, the Union men to refuse. After much discussion two of the Mine Owners present made the following offer; - That they would recommend to the Association at its next meeting that the rate

*to Carmen, Shovellers and laborers be made \$3.00 per day and the rate to Hand Drillers \$3.25.

The Officers of the Union said that they would report this offer to the Union but that they could hold out little hope that it would be accepted. - It was understood, that a special meeting of the Union would be held as soon as possible to consider the matter, and that an intimation would be given to the representatives of the S.L.M.O. Association before the date of its next meeting, Dec. 5th, as to whether or no such a basis of settlement would be accepted by them.

Mr. Wood and Mr. Hand agreed that on receipt of notice from the Miners Union that the men had decided to accept the proposed settlement that they would prepare a recommendation to be put before the S.L.M.O.A. at its next meeting, in accordance with the terms outlined, and they expressed their confidence in their ability to secure the acceptance of the same. Among the statements made were these:-

1st. That the great difficulty in the way of acceptance of the \$3.25 rate was the fact that it would lower the rate of wages of men who are now at work at a higher rate.

2nd. That there were about 200 idle men in the Sleean District.

- 3rd. That Italians, although not popular with the Union, were admitted to membership.
- 4th. That the men whom the Union would supply would be of all nationalities.
- 5th. That the Union in event of a settlement would not interfere with the management of the mines.
- 6th. That the uniform scale of wage could not be departed from, That Mine Managers could and should protect themselves by discharging inferior men.
- 7th. That the two alleged Italians at the Payne Mine claimed to be Austrians by Birth and Naturalized Citizens of the United States, and that they had been sent by an employment agent in Seattle, whose only warrant for sending them was the advertisement of the Mine Owners Association.
- 8th. On the other hand it was asserted that these men could not converse with Austrians but only with Italians, and that they had with them the tickets of an employment agency.
- 9th. It was also stated by the Mine Owners present, that they had a standing offer of 2000 miners who were British subjects at the Association rate of wages -

"Your deputation therefore report that they succeeded

- 1st. - In interviewing both parties to the dispute.
- 2nd. - In getting the disputants together in friendly conference on the subject.
- 3rd. - In getting a statement of the actual points in dispute.
- 4th. - In getting one of the parties to come more than half way toward the ground held by the other.
- 5th. - In leaving the parties in friendly communication, and we trust mutually desirous of terminating the period of idleness and bringing about the speedy resumption of work.

We trust that the public may soon have the satisfaction of hearing that this has been accomplished.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

(Sgd.) G.O. Buchanan,

O.T. Stone,

John Keen."

(See Exhibit "H2".)

In the meantime an effort had been made on the part of the Silver Lead Mines Association to procure miners at the prices offered, and with that object a notice had been sent to various labour centres, with a view of inducing miners to

come in? The notice is as follows:-

THE SILVER-LEAD MINES ASSOCIATION

Of British Columbia.

Sandon, B.C.

.....

.....

Dear Sir:

The mines of the Slocan Mining Division of British Columbia having heretofore operated on a basis of \$3.50 per day of ten hours for miners, and the Government of British Columbia having reduced a day's labor (underground) to eight hours, the following wages per day of eight hours will hereafter be paid to competent men by the above Association:

Hand Drillers	\$3.00
Machine men	\$3.50
Miners in shafts	3.50 to \$4.00
Carsen,	2.50 to 3.00
Laborers,	2.50
Shoveliers	2.50
Blacksmiths	3.50 to 4.00
Timbermen,	3.50 to 4.00

From which \$1.00 per month will be deducted for hospital fees; \$1.00 a day will be charged for first-class board. Comfortable bunk-houses are

*free, but men furnish their own blankets.

NO TRANSPORTATION WILL BE FURNISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

Seven days work in the week.

Yours truly,

The Silver-Lead Mines Association of
British Columbia.

.....Secretary*.

(SEE Exhibit "E").

They also advertised for 2500 miners, as follows:-

* W A N T E D :

2,500 MINERS

To work in the Metalliferous Mines of British
Columbia, at the following prices per day of eight
hours:-

Hand Drillers	\$3.00
Machine men	3.50
Miners in Shafts	3.50 to \$4.00
Carmen	2.50 to 3.00
Shovellers	2.50
Laborers	2.50
Blacksmiths	3.50 to 4.00
Timbermen	3.50 to 4.00

Apply to THE SILVER-LEAD MINES ASSOCIATION

Sandon, British Columbia.*

(See Exhibit "O")

Mr. Frank A. Wood and Mr. W. W. Wright, on behalf of the Silver-Lead Mines Association went to Seattle, and he describes what took place as follows:-

Q. Well, were you in Seattle securing men ?

A. I was in Seattle.

Q. To secure men ?

A. To secure men to come to Slocan of their own accord and pay their own fare. I was there merely as an advertising agent of The Silver-Lead Mines Association, telling the men whom I met the actual condition of affairs here as near as I could and the wages that were being offered for certain classes of work. Told every man to whom I spoke that I was not there to contract with them at all. The Silver-Lead Mines Association advertised for them under a certain schedule of wages. We had several communications from Seattle from individuals and from employment agencies there, asking about the condition of affairs here. It was thought best by the Association to send Mr. A. W. Wright and myself to the Coast to explain matters fully to all the men we met. If they saw fit to come here of their own accord and pay their own fare we guaranteed them that they would not be harmed which guarantee on our part was not necessary to be made, as there ~~was~~ no violence being used here, but men in different towns had formed an

idea that wherever there was a strike there was violence. That is about as plain a statement as I can make.

Q. With reference to any men that you saw at Seattle it was said as I remember it that Mr. McDonald was informed that you had said that after they had crossed the line you would pay their fare.

A. No sir, I did not say so and had no instructions from anybody to make that offer. I had several men come to me on the street and come to my hotel, telling me that they would come here. That they were out of employment and were broke. That they would come here if I paid their fare. I told them all no, that I could not pay their fare and would not. That that was not the class of men we wanted in that country. Men we had to pay their fare into the country.

Q. Then you and Mr. Wright were the two that were authorized by the Association to act in the matter ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Mr. A. W. Wright ?

A. Yes sir, Mr. A. W. Wright.

Q. This you may answer if so inclined. Did you enter into any contract for the importation of alien labor ?

"A. I did not.

Q. Was there any contract made or entered into by or with the authority of Mr. Wright to your knowledge ?

A. Not to my knowledge. Of course while in Seattle I gained an audience with most men I saw there through the employment agencies. I found at Mr. Monger's employment agency, at 206 Washington Street, that he had a schedule of wages upon the board on the outside. He acquainted the men that came into his office, that I was there and if they would talk with me I could tell them fully about the conditions that existed in this country, and could assure them if necessary that those wages were really being offered, which I did to the best of my ability.

Q. With what result ?

A. I have not seen any of the men that came from Seattle. I believe there was one man came to me as the train pulled out Sunday morning and told me he was going to Sandon. I don't know whether he ever reached here or not."

(See Evidence Pages 123-125)

To counteract this action on the part of the owners the Sandon Union sent Mr. Angus J. McDonald who arrived at Seattle on the 7th November last. He saw the Notice above mentioned, posted at an employment agency there, and in order to

the effect of
counteract, the same caused to be posted up and distributed among the men the following notice :-

*) LABORING MEN {
ATTENTION:

BEWARE of all agents and advertisements for the employment of men in the Slocan Country, British Columbia.

The trouble between Miners and Mine Managers is not yet settled and you are requested to stay away.

You will be notified when matters are adjusted.

Nov. 8th
1899

Executive Committee,
Sandon Miners' Union.

Nov. 8th
1899

(Sgd.) J.A.J. McDonald,

Room 16 Brunswick Hotel."

(See Exhibit "G")

He also explained to the men the situation in the Slocan District and advised them not to ~~come~~ in. ^{Nevertheless} A certain number of men did come in. The action taken by the Union is described in the evidence of Mr. Davidson, as follows:-

"Q. I think I understand where the whole trouble is. Then I suppose the next step was the owners were desirous of getting in men and the Union desirous of persuading men to stay out ?

A. There is no use denying, that is the fact.

Q. Mr. Davidson, would you give me a word picture of the fight, of the contest. First tell me the methods of the owners as you understood it. We have had it on their side, then tell me the methods of the Union from your side.

A. You want me to tell the methods of the Union?

Q. Well, you might tell me from the other side as you understand it.

A. Well, the Companies certainly tried to get men to work for their ~~same~~ wages that they offered.

Q. I suppose you did not blame them for that ?

A. Not at all.

Q. Were their efforts described by Mr. Angus McDonald before me the other night ?

A. About the Alien labor, yes.

Q. Was it part of your duty under the Union, to counteract their efforts ?

A. It certainly was.

Q. Now, let us see how you set about it ?

A. They advertised for men and sent men as we believe as Agents, and we advertised the fact that there was a dispute here over wages and also circulated those posters over the country as much as possible, and also sent Agents to explain the situation fully to working men in all parts where

"the Owners were trying to get them, believing if everything was represented in its true light that all intelligent men would sympathise with us and stay away.

Q. Where did you send your agents ?

A. We have had Agents in Seattle, Tacoma - Coast cities, and we also had an agent in some of the mining districts in the Eastern Provinces. The reason for sending agents to explain this matter was that several men had come in from various points, and upon finding out how things stood here in regards to the wage question they would not go to work. Sympathised with us and would not go to work for less than we would. So we came to the opinion that the thing should be explained fully before men left their home to come here at all, because it was much better for them to stay at home than to come here and find things as they were, not satisfactory.

Q. How many men do you think you have prevented coming in altogether ?

A. That is a very hard thing to estimate.

Q. Just roughly. Say from the States so many, from the East so many and so on ?

A. There is no doubt that we have prevented 100 coming from Seattle and no telling how many

"might have come.

Q. And how many from the Coast ?

A. You mean from the Coast of British Columbia ?

Q. Yes ?

A. I could not form an estimate.

Q. Or from the East ?

A. I don't know, there are plenty of them to come.

Q. Where did you have your agents in the East ?

A. In Sudbury.

Q. Well, how many do you think arrived, not perhaps only in Sandon but Slocan District all told ?

A. Well, I tell you, I could probably give you that figure later on.

Q. Could the Secretary give me that ?

A. I believe so. I can tell how many came from Seattle, to my certain knowledge.

Q. How many ?

A. Ten men came from there all told.

Q. How far did they get ?

A. They came to Sandon.

Q. And how long did they stay ?

A. Well, the first two that came went to work.

Q. Yes.

A. And the next two that came, when they found out how things stood here they turned round and went back on the train the next day.

Q. That is four ?

A. And two more came on one day and I believe there is one in town yet and one in Roseland.

Q. And of the rest ?

A. There is two more, they are working now at the Sovereign Mine I believe.

Q. At what wages ?

A. \$3.50 per day.

Q. Did the Union assist any of these people in getting away ?

A. Yes, we did.

Q. To what extent ?

A. We paid their fare as far as Roseland, three of them.

Q. Are those all that reached Sandon so far as you know ?

A. That is so far as I know personally, the ten that I referred to .

Q. Were any threats or violence used in any way?

A. None at all.

Q. How were they induced to to go back ?

A. We simply stated the state of affairs here regarding wages and they told us they would not work for any less than we would."

(See pages 145-146 147 and 148 of Evidence)

On the 11th November the Sandon Union sent the following telegram to Sir Wilfrid Laurier:-

*Sir Wilfrid Laurier,

Ottawa;

1000 Canadian miners of the Slocan, with their wives and families, are being driven out of Canada by the importation of labor from the United States. Mine owners of the Slocan are importing men to take our places. Our wives and families and all others dependent on our labours, as well as we ourselves, appeal to you. We ask you to assist us in securing the enforcement of the Alien Labor Law. As British subjects we naturally resent the circumstances which are driving us from our native land. Will you, as First Minister of the Crown, secure for us the protection which the Alien Labor Law provides? Please assure us by an immediate reply that we will have your co-operation.

(Signed) W.L.Hagler,

Sec. Sondon Miners' Union.*

(See Exhibit "H")

Mr. Smith, the President of the Union, says as to this:-

"Q. Did you see the dispatch published in the paper sent to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by Mr. Hagler ?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you consider that a fair statement ?

A. Yes.

Q. I believe it stated that 1000 miners with families were thrown out of employment. Do you consider that a fair statement ?

A. Yes. That is not only in this district but includes Whitewater, New Denver, Slocan City, Silverton and Sandon."

(See Evidence page 114)

Mr. Davidson, a member of the Sandon Union, in regard to this says as follows:-

"What I wish to state is this, that it has been intimated that every one of those 1000 men were married men, and it is not necessary that each one of those men should be married according to the way the dispatch was worded. There are a great many men in this country who have been in the habit, to my positive knowledge, of sending money to other parts of Canada to help their parents and others. By that is meant all dependent on them, so it is not necessary that all the 1000 men

should be married men, as is generally referred to by the dispatch.

Q. You mean that it is not the idea as commented upon ?

A. Yes, and I wish to state it right, and also I might state that when these men came in from Seattle, the first two of them reached here, we were told they (Association) could get 2000 men or more to take our places and upon the arrival of those two we made up our minds that this was probably the starting point for this threat to be put into execution. Threat is probably not the right word there. So we considered, as Canadians, that it was high time to protest against Alien labor coming in to British Columbia. We have no objections to any American citizens, who are good, intelligent men, who may happen to come in on their own accord and take equal chances here with us, but we do object to any individual Company or Corporation trying directly or indirectly to bring in foreign labor into this part of Canada or any other part of Canada. I believe that is about all I have to say on the matter."

(See Evidence page 151.)

and to Mr. Wood he said:-

"By Mr. Wood:

I would like to ask you Mr. Davidson, that if in your opinion you believe that telegram to be true; that there were 1000 Canadian miners of the Shocan with their wives, children, etc., being driven out ?

A. Well, I will tell you I believe that is true and will tell you the reason for so thinking.

Q. Then, I believe you just stated in your evidence that there were about 1000 miners employed here when the mines closed down, were they in your opinion all Canadians ?

A. No, not in this immediate vicinity, they were not all Canadians.

Q. How many men in your opinion were being employed here at the time this message was sent ?

A. Well, I will give you a little explanation in this matter. The Silver-Lead Mines Association covers the Shocan country and Nelson. They extend that far, don't they ?

Q. Yes, Shocan and East Kootenay.

A. And Nelson ?

Q. No, there is a different Association there.

A. Now, the idea is simply this. The Association covers this scope of country, for East Kootenay and all. We are not fighting this thing strictly for

"Sandon alone. We also have interested in East Kootenay, members of our Union are in East Kootenay and so we also take in the same scope as The Silver-Lead Mines Association.

Q. I only wanted to know if you believe this message is true ?

A. Yes.

Q. And I believe you said in your evidence that the main reason that this telegram was sent was that because you had understood or the Union had understood that The Silver-Lead Mines Association were about to bring in 2000 men ?

A. We were told that by an individual member of the Association."

(See Evidence pages 155-156.)

Mr. Hagler, the Secretary of the Union, also said in regard to this telegram :-

"That telegram has been criticised a great deal and when I sent that telegram we had men coming in from Seattle, alien laborers, and men were coming in here at the rate of two a day and we wanted to use all legitimate means to stop that importation of alien labor, and it was natural that we should apply to Sir Wilfrid Laurier to see that the law was enforced, and as to 1,000 men with their families wives and families, there is no

"exaggeration.

Q. Anything further in that regard ?

A. No I do not think so.

Q. Or any other subject or matter you would like to bring before me ?

A. I wish to say in connection with the exhibits in the evidence of A.J.McDonald and I may state that Mr. Hand also stated in the presence of Mr. Wood, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Wright, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Smith that he could get 2,000 working men from Europe by using the cable to come to British Columbia. I think Mr. Keen was also present, and also Mr. Bucheran, members of the Board of Trade of Kaslo. Mr. Hand had told me before that they would undoubtedly get men in , they had agents in England to get men in for the mines, they would get a class of men in here from any source. I have letters in my possession from men in the United States asking if it was true that the Silver-Lead Mines Association wanted 2,000 men. I wrote and told them that they did not, I did not know where they could put them if they had them.

Q. I suppose the Union does not deny the right of the Association to advertise for men ?

A. No sir, but we looked upon it as being hurtful to us."

(See Evidence page 224.)

From the foregoing it will be seen that on my arrival at Sandon on December 5th. the conditions were as follows:- Owing to the introduction of the 8-hour law the Silver-Lead Mines Association had given notice that they would pay \$3.00 instead of \$3.50 per day for miners. The miners refused to accept this offer, and on the day the law came into force, 12th June, the men ceased to work and the shipping mines were practically closed. An effort was made on the part of the Association to induce miners to come in, but I do not find that there was any breach of the Alien Labour Law. Ten men did come in, of whom only two remained in the mine, and the attempt up to this time on the part of the owners to obtain miners in place of those who refused to work at the wage offered failed. The effort of the deputation sent by the Board of Trade of Kaslo to promote a settlement also failed, and the result was that production in the Slocan District ceased.

THE EFFECT OF THE TROUBLE.

The injury caused to all parties by this condition of things was very great. The wages in that district dropped from \$60,000 per month to \$10,000 per month.

The output of the mines in the Slocan Division as recorded at Kaslo for 1899 fell short

of that for 1896 by \$772,178; whereas it ought to have doubled.

The Kootenay Railway and Navigation Company for the months from June to November inclusive showed a decrease in tonnage of 5,383 tons and a decrease in earnings of \$3,126. Mr Robert Irving, Manager, states that "had we not experienced present conditions the year 1899 would have been the banner year of the camp. The representatives of Smelters interested in the matter estimated an output in excess of 56,000 tons during this year". The falling off in freight and earnings on that portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway running into the Slocan District was even more marked. For a period of six months ending November 1898, and the same period for 1899, the inward traffic decreased for 1899 by 953½ tons and \$10,032, and the outward tonnage decreased for the same year by 7,476 tons and \$110,363, or a total decrease of 8,429 tons and \$120,395.

CAPITAL DETERRED.

The labour troubles have undoubtedly had a serious effect in deterring capital from coming into British Columbia and in delaying development. The evidence upon this point is unanimous and overwhelming. A few quotations may here be given.

George Alexander, who represents the "Ruth", "Whitewater", "Jackson", "Antoine", and "R.S. Lee" mines says on page 52:-

Q. What effect in the development of the country would the changed conditions have by reason of the new law ?

A. There is no doubt that the country has been very much injured by the stoppage of work. The introduction of capital has been very seriously affected. That I know very well.

Q. Could you be more definite with regard to that point ?

A. Yes I can. I know of large investments of capital in England which would have been made within the last six months but which have been entirely put an end to by this trouble. British Columbia had a very favourable position upon the London market; investors were well disposed towards British Columbia; that is now stopped entirely.

Q. Can you refer to any instances which have come to your knowledge ?

A. I know instances, but would rather not mention them?

Q. What was the amount of capital that you have knowledge of ?

A. £1,000,000.

" Q. What effect had these changed conditions in regard to the increase of the ordinary output of the mines that have been developed. I mean where they in such a healthy condition that an increased output was expected ?

A. The mines in this camp have never been in so good a position for large output. Any one who had means of knowing felt confident that the output of this year would far exceed the output of former years. I may give you the following figures :

	1896	1897	1898
Columbia metal output	\$4,816,955	7,567,551	7,322,766
Lede Mines	4,257,179	7,052,431	6,529,420
West Kootenay	4,022,735	6,765,703	6,042,975
Slocan District	1,854,011	3,260,696	2,619,852 "

(See Evidence pages 52-32.)

C.H.Hand, Manager of the Payne Mining Company says on page 62:-

"Q. What knowledge have you of any particular instances where investments would have been made had it not been for the labor trouble ?

A. I am not permitted to specify. It would not be right. But I am permitted to say under oath that I believe that if the conditions were restored, if this eight hour law had not been passed,

"yes I think that, I have been informed that there would have been an introduction of capital of from four to five millions/ before the present time. This is the only investment within my knowledge.

Q. Do you think that investment would still be made if the trouble was settled ?

A. I think the same investment would be made if the trouble was settled between the mine owners Association and the Miners' Union; I believe that that investment would come in inside of six months."

H.E.Croasdale, General Manager of the Hall Mines Company, Nelson (Silver King) says at page 386:-

"Q ~~XXXXX~~ What effect upon the investment of foreign capital has the strike or shut down had in your judgment ?

A. I think it stopped capital coming into the country.

Q. To any great extent ?

A. I am not in a position to say how much ; I have been told that it stopped large amounts coming in. "

Perhaps the most conclusive proof of the effect of the labour trouble on the investment of

foreign capital is found in the evidence of T.J. Duncan, Manager of "The Duncan Mines, Ltd.", and two subsidiary companies with a capital stock of \$150,000 sterling, who have already spent \$455,102:-

"Q. At the time this company was formed and arrangements made to bring out this capital, was there any trouble in mining districts in British Columbia in regard to labor ?

A. I left here for London about a year ago last September or October and at that time everything was going on satisfactorily in the mining way. I heard no complaints from any of the men, they generally worked 10 hours shift in the day time and 9 at night. When we were working in a bad place, such as a wet drift or where the air was bad, we only worked 8 hours shift and sometimes less than that, but it was left altogether to the discretion of the Mine Manager or foreman, as the case might be. During last winter I sunk a shaft on the Granite using a machine with steam power and paid the men \$3.50 for an 8 hour shift.

Q. That was before the 8 hour law came into force ?

A. Yes before the 8 hour law was heard of; and when the drifts were working 10 hour shifts we

"paid the same wages, viz: \$3.50 for miners, and \$2.50 for muckers. When here in London forming this Company the fact was pointed out to me by many that we were paying a higher rate of wages in British Columbia than in many other parts of the world. Consequently operating the mines cost a good deal more, but I answered this by saying although we do pay more wages than other parts had to pay, still we had a better class of men than they had in the Argentine Republic, South America and different places in which this argument would be brought to be in favor of. A better class of men, and this was under the British flag, was ⁱⁿ our own country where the mining laws were good and life and property were respected and protected, and as a general thing the men saved their money, went prospecting, found other claims partially developed ^{then} by themselves and got them to such a stage as they could be offered to capitalists for investment, and many of the best mines in this country have been found and operated in the same way. Above everything we had no labor troubles as they had in other countries.

Q. What effect did that have upon the capitalist?

A. Well it had great effect upon him. In fact I have more to thank that argument than anything else for my success last year in the Old Country. I got

only succeeded in raising money for the floatation of the Granite Gold Mines Limited, but also got the full amount subscribed for the Nelson Electric Tramway.

Q. How much ; what was the full amount ?

A. The British Electric Traction Company is the parent Company and all that is subscribed at present is \$250,000. There is no stock sold, everything is held by the British Electric Traction Company, but that was the amount set aside for this piece of work and they can be called upon for same if necessary.

Q. Has that work been going on ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How near completion ?

A. Well only for an accident in the power house they would have been in operation on Monday; the road is completed now for this year.

Q. That was your experience in the English market ? What was the total amount subscribed for the British Electric Traction Company ?

A. I do not remember.

Q. Is it a British Company ?

A. Yes sir. It is the largest Electric Company in the world. I believe they operate at some 40 places throughout the world. Sir Charles

"Rivers-Wilson is the Chairman of the Board.

Q. Well then you returned from England ?

A. Yes sir, I ran right up against this Legislation which has crippled us all summer.

Q. You mean the 8 hour day ?

A. Yes sir. It makes it all the more aggravating as I had been trying to explain to them that a strike was one of the things that could not happen here; in fact it never had before.

Q. What effect do you think this trouble in regard to wages between the owners and men will have upon investment of foreign capital ?

A. Well of course they had obligated themselves in a way before I left, to spend this money, in these definite schemes. We had the Granite and Royal Canadian groups under bond and all but the last payment had been made. Therefore we had to go on with the work or else the money that we had already spent would have been lost; so they instructed me to go on with it and do the best I could. We had two very large properties under consideration; our engineer had examined them and reported favorably to London and I was advised by our London Board not to touch them until this trouble was settled, and then as soon as possible to go down to California and reopen a mine that we have down there which has been shut down

"for a year. They also told me to do as little work as possible on the several properties we have all over the country, some in Ymir and in other parts, and for that reason I paid the \$100 for the assessments of a good many of them into the Government office."

(See evidence pages 427-430).

See also the evidence of J. Roderick Robertson, General Manager of the London and British Columbia Gold Fields ^{Company} Limited, London, England, who have invested \$750,000 in cash at Nelson, and ^{made} other large disbursements (probably as much more), who are now employing 75 miners, 130 men in construction work and could employ 200 more miners without acquiring any more properties. He says at pages 489 and 490:-

"Money has to our absolute knowledge been diverted in other directions. Private and Company enterprise has in the past few years expended large sums of money in bringing before the investing public in Great Britain and elsewhere the prospects of British Columbia as a field for investment, and the efforts of these parties should have some, if slight, weight in consideration with the legislature and voters when dealing with mining legislation. Our Companies have assisted in opening

"up new districts, and indirectly helped and aided many miners and prospectors in this country by cutting out miles of trail, building many miles of good wagon road and keeping same in repair, not only in west, but in east and south Kootenai, practically at our own cost. Our Companies have not been favored with numerous or large subsidies from mutually interested individuals or from the Government. We do not regret that our expenditure in these directions have largely helped our friends and neighbors, the prospectors and owners of perhaps smaller properties, but we do claim that that the Government and our fellow voters should take these improvements into consideration when passing mining laws so seriously jeopardising our shareholders interests."

Samuel S. Fowler, Mining Engineer for the London and British Columbia Gold Fields Limited, operating the Ymir Mines Limited and the Enterprise Mine, Limited, and also Engineer for the Whitewater Mines Limited, says at page 404:-

"Speaking as to the effect of the present condition of affairs upon the introduction of English capital, I may say that I gave notice to the head office of our London and British Columbia Company that this law would probably be put into operation shortly after the time that I wrote, and what I

"thought the results would be. Their statement was to the effect in reply that they were very sorry the negotiations had gone as far as they had with respect to the purchase of the Enterprise Mine, but that they could not then draw back from the consummation of the bargain."

Mr. Bernard Macdonald, General Manager of the British America Corporation Limited, The Le Roi Mining Company, Limited, the East Le Roi Mining Company Limited, the West Le Roi Mining Company, Limited, and the Columbia-Kootenai Mining Company Limited, representing a capital of \$6,196,761 and employing between five and six hundred men, says at pages 630-631:-

"Q. Have you considered the effect of the 8 hour law on the development of the mining industry in British Columbia ?

A. Yes. I have had occasion to consider that since its enactment.

Q. And would you state your views; you have committed your views to writing, would you read them slowly ?

A. For about three years previous to my present engagement I had been employed as the Mining Engineer and Manager for Mining Companies composed of Montreal and Toronto capitalists. During this time I

"was commissioned to examine and investigate the mineral resources of the mining camp in British Columbia, and I examined and reported, among others, on the Le Roi, Centre Star and other mines in the Rossland Camp, the Payne and other mines in the Sandon camp, and the Republic and other mines in the Republic camp in the State of Washington. In the case of all the mines named my reports either have been the influence or the cause of the outright purchase or of the investment of large sums of capital in the mine and camps named. This business kept me in continuous touch with wealthy capitalists of Eastern Canada, or their agents. I know before the passage of the 8 hour law, these men showed decided preference for investment in mines within the territory of the Dominion, and particularly in the Province of British Columbia; in fact they would not listen to a suggestion for the examination of a foreign property. Since, however, the enactment of the 8 hour law, and the labor troubles incidental thereto, I know that Canadian capitalists are seeking foreign investments, in fact showing a decided preference for such. Quite recently there have been several hundred thousands of dollars of Canadian money invested in the Republic Camp in the State of Washington, and I believe large sums of money are

"also being invested in the mining camps of Oregon and California.

Q. That is all Canadian money ?

A. All Canadian money. And before leaving Montreal to enter upon the position I now hold, a wealthy Montreal syndicate was negotiating with me to accompany them to Mexico to examine and report on a mining proposition there, which they were prepared to purchase if my examination and report would corroborate the reports on the same property then in their possession. I cite these few instances which had come within my personal knowledge, as showing that Canadian capital available for investment in mining enterprises is now seeking opportunities in foreign countries, disregarding those of British Columbia, and I know this is largely, if not entirely due, to the enactment of the 8 hour law and the fear of further unfavorable legislation by the Provincial Government."

Henry Giegerich, General Merchant in Seaton since the camp was formed says:-

"Q. Have you any way of informing me of the effect of the shut down or strike ?

A. I have in my own business.

Q. Without going into detail could you inform me what the effect has been ?

A. Yes. I can give you a true figure and how it

"has affected me. We start our year in March usually. Take inventory the first day of March, and beginning on that basis my business for 1899 for the months of March, April and May averaged 38 per cent more than for the same months in 1898. For the months of June, July, August, September, October and November of 1899, my business shows a decrease of 42 per cent.

Q. As compared with the same months of 1898 ?

A. Yes, 1898. And taking the ratio of the increase of the three months prior to June first, as a basis of estimate I consider that my business has decreased fully 80 per cent of what I expected to do this year, and our fixed charges remained nearly the same as under the increased business, it means a very heavy loss to me this year.

Q. Was your business a large business ?

A. Well, I think so, about the largest in Sandon."

(See Evidence pages 178 and 179)

See also the evidence of John Dean, Broker of Roseland, page 663.

See also evidence of C.R. Hops, Manager of the "Bally Edith" mine, pages 703-740.

S. St. George Hamersley page 741.

L. Keyser, page 729.

G.D.Scott page 736.

Mr.T.B.May, Manager of the Bank of British Columbia at Sandon says:-

Q. Could you indicate the effect of the present shut down on the mining business ?

A. I knew definitely as to the reduction of the pay rolls. The pay rolls here I would consider if things were working satisfactorily would be a sum of from \$35,000 to \$60,000 a month. At the present time at the mines proper, I do not think that the pay roll is more than from \$12,000 to \$15,000 a month.

Q. By mines proper you mean the producing mines ?

A. The producing mines.

Q. I suppose there are certain prospects and different propositions as they call them upon which work is being done ?

A. Yes of course. The effect upon the town itself has been very marked. I gather this of course from my private conversations with my customers. There are practically only two kinds of stores here that are required, that is the hardware merchants and the grocer and dry goods. As regards deals that have been effected by the present situation I consider that that is problematic. In a mining transaction you never knew that the transaction is going to be completed until the money is paid. If

"this difficulty lasted 12 months the effect would be disastrous and several merchants who have good backing would have to remove.

Q. If the matter could be adjusted now ?

A. If the matter could be adjusted now I look for a better time and I look for a better time than we have ever had in the past and I think a good result would come from the present prices. I floated the City Debentures this Spring in Montreal, there is an indentedness upon the town of \$15,000, which I floated in Montreal. If this difficulty was prolonged there might be a danger arising from strong party feeling which would be injurious to many trades people, between owners, miners and business people."

(See Evidence pages 270 and 271.)

The effect of the labour troubles undoubtedly is to paralyse to a very large extent business in the Slocan District, except in those cases where development work had to be done.

REMEDY.

The remedy to be applied to this state of things must be either (1) for the owners and men to endeavour to reach an adjustment of their difficulties, or (2) for the owners to endeavour to procure other men to work the mines. The first

The first course was and is, in my judgment, to be preferred if a compromise reasonable and fair to all parties can be had. Having formed this opinion I took the earliest opportunity to impress it upon the Mine Managers and the men, and found that they both agreed with me in this view. Mr. Hard, the Manager of the "Payne" says:-
"Q?Do you hold any office in the Association ?

A. I am one of the Vice-Presidents; Mr.H.B. Alexander who is now absent, is the other.

Q. Is there any reason why a conference should not be had between the Mine Owners Association and the Miners Union ?

A. There is no obstacle.

Q. Is the Association willing ?

A. Well as a business man pure and simple, I should say that there would be no reason why as reasonable men the members of the Association should not meet the members of the Miners Union.

Q. As far as you are concerned you are ready to promote that ?

A. Yes sir."

(See Evidence page 63.)

The above evidence was given on the morning of the 6th December and on the resumption of the evidence in the afternoon I received a request both from the Silver-Lead Mines Association and

the Miners' Union to adjourn the sittings of the Commission and allow a committee of three from each side to meet, with the view of adjusting the differences, and I was requested to attend. To this request I acceded. The Committee met; the interview lasted three hours; the views on both sides were fairly exchanged, and while no agreement was reached, a distinct advance towards a settlement had been made. The meeting was cordial throughout and the difficulties arising out of the 8-hour law and the interests of either side, as they were affected, were very ably presented. The Silver-Lead Mines Association at this meeting offered to pay \$3.00 for carmen and other laborers and \$3.25 for miners. This I considered an important step on their part towards a settlement. While I did not presume in any way to force my opinion upon the miners I urged very strongly at a meeting called to consider the question that the overtures made by the mine managers should be very carefully considered before being rejected. I met many of the miners and officers of the Union from time to time and promoted, as far as possible, a settlement. At a meeting called to consider the matter a conclusion was reached by the miners, and further time was requested. There were difficulties in the way. A large number of miners, probably between two and three hundred were engaged on

different mining propositions at the old wage of \$3.50 per day of 8 hours, and these men were naturally reluctant to submit to a reduction of their wages. Each camp had to be visited, the situation explained, the necessity for a compromise laid before them and to do this required time and the expenditure of a considerable amount. I am pleased to be able to state that the officers of the Miners' Union exerted themselves to lay the matter fully before the men, and went to a very considerable expense in sending agents to the different camps. There were other Unions also that had to be consulted, namely those at New Denver, Silverton, Slocan City, and Whitewater.

The formal and final offer made by the Association is as follows:-

"Sandon, B.C. 23, 1899.

Sandon Miners' Union,

Sandon, B.C.

Gentlemen:-

The Silver-Lead Mines Association of British Columbia being desirous to effect a permanent settlement of the existing wage differences which prevail between said Association and the Miners' Unions of the Slocan for an eight hour day, is prepared and do now make the offer of a compromise on the following basis for underground

*work:-

Miners in shafts	\$3.50 to \$4.00
Machine Men,	\$3.50
Hand Drillers	\$3.25
Carmen	\$3.00
Laborers	\$3.00
Wh.ermen	\$3.50 to \$4.00
Blacksmiths	\$3.50 to \$4.00
Engineers	\$3.50 to \$4.00
Laborers on surface (10 hrs.)	\$3.00

N.B. (As formerly men working in ^{un}usually wet places and in bad air were compensated with shorter hours, we now offer under similar conditions \$3.50 per shift of eight hours.) In making the above offer of a compromise as to the wage scale for an eight hour day, the Association reserves the privilege of employing or discharging all men, whether Union or non-union, upon the basis of capability alone, and agrees that no discrimination shall be made against any man by reason of his affiliation with labor organizations.

The said Association is prepared to sign an agreement to the above effect for a period of one year from date.

We respectfully ask for a definite reply in writing as to your final decision in this matter on

"or before December 27th, the date set for the next regular meeting of said Association.

(Signed)

C.H. Hand, }
F.A. Wood } Special
A. W. Wright } Committee.*

To this communication, Mr. Hagler, the Secretary of the Union, replied as follows, enclosing the scale of wages proposed by the men:-

SANDON MINER'S UNION No. 81.

W. F. of M.

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, DEC. 5th, 1896.

Sandon, B.C. Dec. 27, '00

TO THE SILVER-LEAD MINES ASSOCIATION,

Sandon, B.C.

Gentlemen:-

Your communication of the 23rd inst. duly received and placed before our Union, and after giving it due deliberation we concluded that although we favor many of its points we cannot accept it entirely. The difference between your scale and ours is only in hammermen. We agree to your scale as to hammermen in stopes but we want \$3.50 for men in drifts, raises and winzes, and by us making this concession we believe we have

"done as much as we can afford from a wage that cannot be termed extremely high for this section of the country and the conditions as they prevail here of which I believe you are all aware.

In regard to a certain section of your communication referring to the right of the employer to hire or discharge whom he may please, is a privilege the employer has always and it would be foolish for any organization to interfere between the employer and employee in regards to the capabilities of the latter.

We submit to you our scale of wages which is the best that we can do under the circumstances.

(Sgd.) W.L.Hagler,

Fin. Sec. Sandon Miners Union,

By order of Union."

* UNION SCALE OF WAGES .

Shaft Men	\$3.50 to \$4.00
Machine Men	\$3.50
Hammermen in Drifts and Raises	\$3.50
Hammermen in Stopes	\$3.25
Cormen	\$3.00
Lacerers inside and outside	\$3.00
Timbermen	\$3.50 to \$4.00

Blacksmiths	\$3.50 to \$4.00
Engineers	\$3.50 to \$4.00

Recognition of the Union by the Mine Owners/
No discrimination to be made between Union and
non-union men.

Delegate from the Union to have the privilege
of visiting the various mines once a month.

The scale of wages not to be changed by
either party without thirty days' notice."

I believe that in an earlier communication
from the Union to the Association, the Union had
requested that "all non-Union men that are now
working that are termed "scabs" should be discharged
and all men should become Union men within thirty
days after starting work"; but in the last scale of
wages it will be seen that this demand was not
insisted upon.

It will be seen that the offer of the Assoc-
iation and the scale of wages submitted by the
Union are identical except in the one item,
namely "hammersmen in drifts and raises \$3.50".
That is not mentioned in the offer of the Assoc-
iation. In other respects the wages are the
same. To this last proposal made by the Union
the Association through their Committee replied
as follows:-

*Sandon, B.C., Dec. 29th, 1899.

Sandon Miners Union,

Sandon, B.C.

Gentlemen:-

Our communication of December 23rd was made by the Silver-Lead Association for the purpose of effecting a permanent settlement of the difficulties between us and was final on our part, as we consider we met you more than half way. In your counter proposition of the 27th inst. you do not agree to the compromise wage scale presented by us and decline to sign even your own scale for a longer period than thirty days without notice, instead of one year as we proposed. A thirty day scale will not inspire confidence in the permanency of the settlement as we or the public desire, but on the other hand will lead to the belief that a ~~similar~~ early recurrence of the existing differences is contemplated. The matter thus stands as it did before any attempt was made for a compromise.

(Signed) F.A. Wood, } Special
C.H. Hand } Committee. "

This ended the negotiations just at a time when it seemed to me that there should be no insuperable difficulty in the way of a settlement. Maintaining

this view I was exceedingly anxious before leaving British Columbia that a final effort should be made to adjust the differences, and with that view I requested through the Secretary of the Silver-Lead Mines Association and the Secretary of the Sandon Miners' Union that a further effort might be made to bring the Committees again together, and I also urged this view upon many others who were largely interested in the Slocan District. To this request I received a reply from the Secretary of the Union to the effect that they were ready at all times to confer with the mine owners. I was informed however by the Secretary of the Association that the Committee representing the mine owners could not be convened at Sandon owing to the absence of the Committee. I was therefore compelled to return without a further meeting of the Committees or another opportunity of endeavoring to promote a settlement.

On my return to Ottawa I reported the situation to the Honorable the Minister of Justice, and on the same day caused the following telegram to be sent to the Committee authorized to negotiate, and also to J. Roderick Robertson of Nelson and Frank Smith of Nanaimo, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, both of whom I know to be desirous of reaching a settlement:-

"Ottawa, Jan. 18th, 1900.

I have fully explained the position of affairs to the Minister of Justice, the Premier and other members of the Government being present. All exceedingly anxious for an amicable adjustment. Have deputed me to suggest and request a meeting of Committee of others representing both sides to endeavor to reach an amicable arrangement. I trust that you will assist in this endeavor. Please advise me by telegram here, if you will endeavor to get a meeting of both parties for further consideration of the points still in difference. Having reached so near a settlement it ought not to fail now. The Government have asked me to return. Will only do so if you think it helpful. I remain here awaiting your reply. Please answer as soon as possible.

Commissioner."

I received the following telegram in reply from Mr. W. L. Hagler, the Secretary of the Union :-

"Sandon, B.C., 18-19th Jan, 1900

R. C. Clute,

Ottawa.

Will try and arrange meeting between both parties. We are ready at all times to meet mine owners and will co-operate with you. Think your presence at this time will do much good.

W. L. Hagler."

and the following from the Committee representing the Mine owners:-

*Sandon, B.C., Jan. 19-1900.

R.C.Clute,

Commr.

Ottawa.

In reply to yours of eighteenth will say the Silver-Lead Mines Association offered to sign a scale of wages of three dollars and twenty five cents for hand drillers with the Union for a term of one year they refused to accept but submitted a counter proposition with conditions that meant the sacrifice of every faithful employee now working in our mines and refused to sign their own scale except to be terminated upon thirty days' notice. Twenty eight men arrived Sunday last to work at Payne Mine at compromise scale of wages offered the Union three dollars and twenty five cents. These men with the manager and friends were met at midnight by a mob of about twenty men headed by Mr. Hagler, Secy. of Sandon Union, who heaped the vilest abuse upon them, using epithets too profane and obscene to be repeated. Mr. Hagler saying among other things: "If you want dirty warfare we will give you all you want". Yesterday a gang of thirty-two Union men went to Payne Mine seeking to interfere with the peaceful pursuit of

"labor of men just arrived as a result of previous negotiations and those recent demonstrations we have lost all good faith in good intentions of the union with us to effect a permanent settlement.

H.J. Alexander, C.H. Hand, G.W. Hughes,
P.A. Wood, H.J. Hickey,
Executive Committee."

To which I replied:-

"Feb. 5th, 1900.

W.L. Hagler, Esq.,
Secretary Sandon Union,
Sandon, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

I received with much satisfaction your telegram of the 19th of January last, advising me that you would try and arrange a meeting between both parties and that the Union was at all times ready to meet the mine owners and would co-operate with me, and further that you thought my presence would do much good. I do not doubt but that if the Committee authorised finally to act for both parties would meet and exercise that moderation and good feeling which was manifest on both sides during my visit to Sandon that an adjustment of the difficulties could still be had. I rely strongly upon the assistance of yourself and other members of the Union to further this end, and have

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"complete confidence in you that nothing will be done on the part of the Union to retard a settlement so much in the interest of all concerned.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) R.C.Clute.

*Feb. 3rd, 1900.

C.H.Hand, Esq.,

Payne Mines,

Sandon, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

I received your telegram of the 19th of January last in answer to mine, suggesting a further meeting to re-adjust the differences between the owners and the men. I am satisfied, after obtaining the fullest information possible from both sides, that, having regard to the near approach to a settlement and with the intimate knowledge I have of the views of both sides, if a Committee duly clothed with authority were appointed and would meet, an adjustment satisfactory on both sides might yet be obtained. I am aware that you will regard this as too optimistic, but I venture to think that I am in a better position to judge, from my intimate knowledge of the views of both parties. I left the Province with a deep regret that a further interview could not be obtained,

"and sent the telegram in the hope that an effort would be made on both sides to follow out the suggestion of the Honorable the Minister of Justice. I regret that anything should have occurred since my visit that would have a tendency to lessen your confidence in the good intentions of the men. Delays in a matter of this kind always widen the breach, but I still hope that the suggestion contained in my letter may be acted upon. I write you that my views may be brought before the Committee and trust to their influence to promote a settlement.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd) R.C.Clute.*

There is still no sufficient reason in my judgment why the work of the Committee which so nearly resulted in a settlement, should not be resumed, with every prospect of ultimate success.

FEELING OF INSECURITY.

It is impossible to ignore the fact that a feeling of insecurity undoubtedly exists to a greater or less extent in many, if not all, of the mining centres of Southern British Columbia. This has arisen chiefly (1) from the labor troubles in the Slocan and from what has taken place in the Coeur d'Alenes in Idaho, (an account of which will be found in the letter of Governor Frank Steunenberg of Idaho to the

Secretary of War for the United States, (Appendixes "B" & "C" to this report). (2) From the fact that the Miners' Unions in this portion of British Columbia are affiliated with the Western Federation of Miners, and (3) from the friction caused by the 8 hour law.

A considerable number of the Coeur d'Alene miners it is alleged, are now working in the various mines in British Columbia ; and it is feared that the lawlessness which is said to have characterized the conduct of the miners in the Coeur d'Alene District will be renewed here. Upon careful enquiry at various towns in British Columbia of persons who have a wide knowledge of the present condition of affairs, I found that this feeling of insecurity was not generally shared outside the management. (I mean the danger to life and property as it existed in the Coeur d'Alene). In order further to acquaint myself with the conditions as they existed during the trouble in the Coeur d'Alene, I visited Spokane, and although the main outline of the trouble as given in the Governor's letter above referred to, was confirmed, I reached the conclusion that while many were charged with the outrages comparatively few of the miners were really responsible for the deeds of violence which were committed ; nor do I entertain any fear that such acts of violence will be

repeated in Canada, and this for two reasons:-
First, I took occasion to become acquainted with
very many of the miners and am satisfied that
if there are any among them ~~those~~ who would
entertain the idea of enforcing their rights,
real or supposed, (I do not say that there are such)
by violence, the number of those who would be
opposed to any measure of that kind is so great as
to make it exceedingly improbable that a resort
to violence to either person or property would be
had. Second, the administration of justice, in
Canada, is such as to introduce ^{factor} an element entirely
wanting in the conditions as they existed in the
Coeur D'Alenes. For these reasons the element
of danger to person and property in case of trouble
is I believe largely eliminated.

Referring to the Miners of the Sendon Union
more particularly, as the place where the trouble
existed, I found them a highly intelligent class,
officered by men of ability, nearly all of whom are
Canadian citizens, who, while tenacious of what
they claim to be their rights, showed a strong
desire to settle all differences amicably. In
justice to the men I beg to refer to the following
facts which support my conclusion. First,
although the troubles have now existed for over
eight months the police force, throughout the district,

required to maintain order, is merely nominal. At Sandon, the centre of the trouble, there had not up to the time I arrived been any convictions arising out of the labor difficulties.

Second, the number of convictions at Sandon for assault for the year 1899 was five, and the police magistrate certifies that the assaults were all due to drunkenness. At Kaslo there were only two convictions for assault. In fact, there were no serious acts of violence arising out of the labor troubles, although the men went perhaps to the extreme verge of their rights in "explaining the situation" to new men that were brought in. At the time of my visit to Sandon there was only one police constable, and he, I was assured, had nothing to do.

There is undoubtedly danger that where large numbers of men are associated recognizing their own power, they may abuse it by making demands which are impossible to be granted, and by unlawfully controlling or seeking to control those who are not members of their organization. But if this be so, it must not be forgotten that capital combines. If it is unlawful for capital to combine for mutual benefit and support it is equally lawful for men to do the same.

And I venture to think that where great enterprises can be profitably worked, as

in the case of mines, ^{only} by a large aggregation of capital and a large number of men, it is in the interest of both employer and employed that there be an organisation, through the officers of which any differences may be adjusted.

UNIFORM WAGES.

During the negotiations for a settlement of the Sandon difficulty it was suggested to me by gentlemen representing many large interests in not only the Slocan but in the Boundary, Rossland and Nelson Mining Districts and by leading members of the Unions that it was desirable if possible to agree upon a uniform rate of wages for British Columbia, on the lines of the settlement which was then thought to be assured in the Slocan.

A convention of delegates from all the Miners Unions was to be held at Rossland, and I arranged to be in Rossland at the same time. What took place is contained in a memorandum made at the time:-

Rossland, B.C. 20th Dec. 1899.

Memorandum:

On the evening of the 19th I saw Mr. Davidson and Mr. McDonald of Sandon Union on the

"advisability of the convention of all the Miners' Unions belonging to the Western Federation of Canada who were in congress assembled at Rossland discussing the question of a uniform rate of wages for Southern British Columbia. I suggested what had been already mentioned to me by many leading miners and by some mine owners, viz; the advisability of considering the uniformity of wages and they acquiesced in the view that it was a suitable time for the matter to come up. Today at 4 p.m. I was called upon by the Secretary and President of the Miners' Union at Rossland and asked to attend a meeting of the Convention and was asked to say a few words to them. I then brought the matter before them and retired and at six o'clock was waited upon by Mr. Kirby of Rossland and Mr. Douglas of Camp McKinnie and advised of the fact that the Convention had appointed a Committee of five, consisting of Mr. Kirby of Rossland, Mr. Douglas of Camp McKinnie, Mr. Davidson of Sandon, Mr. Tyree of Silverton and Mr. Albert Parr of Ymir to meet any committee that might be appointed by the owners association to confer and discuss the question with a view of promoting an uniform rate of wages for Southern British Columbia on the lines which were submitted at Sandon with a view of meeting the desire of

"both parties throughout the Province and the Committee are now ready at any time to meet such Committee from the owners association, and I am further authorized to give this information to any members of the Miners' Association, or to their Secretary."

Upon being advised of the ready acquiescence of the Convention, I placed copies of the above memorandum in the hands of J. Roderick Robertson, or Nelson, General Manager of the London and British Columbia Gold Fields, with the request that the matter would be brought before the owners association, and early action taken in the matter.

Mr. Robertson subsequently assured me that he had devoted over two weeks to the work and had either personally or by letter brought the matter before nearly every prominent mine representative in Southern British Columbia, and that while there were great difficulties in the way, he believed if the Slocan difficulty could have been settled on the basis proposed, a settlement for the whole of Southern British Columbia was attainable on the same lines, and I left him with the assurance of his earnest co-operation, which I regarded as of great value in promoting so desirable an object, one which I trust may yet be accomplished.