

Indianapolis. It is one out of 99 other organizations having locals in Canada. Eighty-eight per cent of the workmen of Canada who are members of a union belong to a union that is international. The United Mine Workers is one of the strongest of these, having a membership of over 400,000 men. The remarkable growth of this organization is due solely to its excellence as a union. Each Local practically controls its own local affairs. No strike can be declared without the consent of the local involved, nor can a local union declare a strike without the sanction of the executive except by forfeiting its right to assistance. The object of the union is to avoid strikes and maintain its agreements inviolate. The other union mentioned—the Western Federation of Miners—exists solely at present among the metalliferous mines.

According to a provision laid down in the Coal Mines Regulation Act the miners employed at Extension in June, 1912, elected a Gas Committee to examine the mine for gas. This committee forms the miners own guarantee of safe working conditions. The Government have their Inspector of Mines, the companies have their fire-bosses, the men have their gas committee, elected by them and paid by them. These two men, in June, reported gas in dangerous quantity. This report was corroborated by the mining inspector. (See Inspector's report.) One of these men shortly afterwards was dismissed by the company, and on going to Cumberland got work only to find later he was black-listed. In the opinion of the miners he was discriminated against because of this report. The union protested through a committee but the manager refused to see them. On the following day, September 16th, the men took a holiday partially in protest, chiefly to collectively consider the matter. As the