

Rossland (a purely gold-copper mining section) in ten years, ending June 30th, 1904, has paid the Dominion Government in

Customs duties\$893,055.58
Inland revenue 167,989.57

\$1,061,045.15

Who can say that this is not too much tribute to exact from one struggling mining district. In conclusion, defending the granting of a bounty on lead and justifying a demand for a bounty on copper.

It is plain that no uniform adjustment of the tariff can ever meet the inequalities (created by the tariff) between the mining and other industries, it can only be done by a refund or drawback, for suppose a tariff were imposed on copper coming into Canada, it would only increase the cost to the consumers without benefiting the producers in the slightest degree.

We have no copper refinery in Canada, and if we had, it would simply absorb the tariff, for unless it did it couldn't live in competition with refineries in the United States having a product of 307,610 long tons to handle in 1903, against our 19,322 tons. The beneficent effect of a bounty is finely illustrated in the pamphlet just issued by the Dominion Government, entitled "Mineral Production of Canada, 1904." (Copy enclosed.)

In the Schedule, page 9, showing increase or decrease as the case may be, you find as follows:—

Lead increased in quantity 109.49, and in value 113.05
Iron " " 62.41 " " 27.41
Copper " " .67 decreased in value 2.47

In the year ending June, 1904, lead received a bounty of \$195,284.22. Iron received a bounty of \$1,408,232.60.

Copper received nothing, has no protection, but the tariff extorted a contribution, greatly in excess of the other industries for protecting them, and helping to pay the aforesaid bounties; it is clearly an anomalous position, is it any wonder the mining industry is not prospering?

Crushed by the juggernaut of a tariff, hopeless for want of a champion, and a realization of our political importance, the mining industry is, indeed, dying an unnatural death, an example of statesmanship indifference, and neglect.

Rocked to sleep in the cradle of tariff ignorance, to the lullaby of indirect taxation, the people of this province, will one day wake up shivering, from being robbed of the clothes of protection, for their mines and timber, to which they are entitled, then there will be some attention paid to us by the Dominion Government, or secession will follow.

Yours truly,

JOHN DEAN,

Rossland, B.C.

June 3rd, 1905.

LABOUR CONDITIONS AT THE CROW'S NEST COLLIERIES.

An agreement has been signed between the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company and its employees, these latter being members of the United Mine Workers of America, by which it is expected that all danger of labour disturbances at these collieries will be averted for some time to come. The agreement provides that in any case where it may appear that an employee has not been treated fairly that the company will meet a pit committee, appointed by the U. M. W. of A., but before any of the men shall submit a grievance to the pit committee he shall endeavor, by application to the pit boss, to settle the matter. The pit committee is first to meet the pit boss, or mine manager, but in case of their disagreement, the matter shall be referred to the superintendent of the company, and from him to the manager of the company, but, pending these investigations, work at the mines shall be continued. The pit committee is permitted to have access to the mines, from time to time, to make examinations for the purpose of investigating any dispute between officials of the company and men employed in the mine. It is optional for the miners to work partners, but no individual miner is allowed more than one labourer to work for him. The company undertakes that an equal turn of cars is offered to each miner.

The company officially recognizes the United Mine Workers of America, and concedes the check-off system. All fixed expenses of the mine, in respect to rent, water, light, sanitation and domestic coal, remain as heretofore. Any miner failing to earn the minimum rate of \$3.00 per shift, owing to an abnormal condition of his working plans, is to be paid a sufficient amount to secure him the said minimum.

In every month, the Monday after pay day shall be a holiday. In case an employee is thrown out of employment, unless discharged, he is to be given preference over new men in other mines in the same camp operated by the company. Any employee absenting himself from work for two days, except through sickness, may be discharged. The company is to deliver all timbers as near the working face as possible, or at the mouth of the room. The company is to pay the wages of one man on the day "McGinty" is being moved. One man shall have only one place, and only one shift in such place, the single shift system being adhered to. This article, however, refers only to gangways, rooms and crosscuts. After levels are turned from slopes or inclines, to conductor car, the said gangway, or level, shall be turned over to other men. In the event of a contractor on incline or slope desiring a gangway, or level, he is to have the preference.

In an attached schedule, the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. agree to pay specified rates for mining and yardage to underground workers at the respective collieries.

The following schedule of wages for shift-men, agreed upon, may be useful for reference purposes:—

Blacksmith helpers (10 hours)	\$2.50
Mine carpenter (10 hours)	3.50
Mine carpenters' helpers (10 hours)	2.50
Power house engineers (8 hours)	3.00
Power house engineers (12 hours)	3.50
Fan men (12 hours)	2.50
Holst men (8 hours)	2.75
Box car loader engineer (10 hours)	3.00
Tipple engineer (10 hours)	3.00
Electric locomotive engineer (8 hours)	2.75
Electric locomotive engineer helper (8 hours)	2.50
Firemen (8 hours)	2.50
1 R.R. car handler (10 hours)	2.25
All other outside labourers (10 hours)	2.00
Fire boss	3.50
Shot lighters	3.00
Brattice men	3.00
Brattice men, helpers	2.50
Timber men	3.00
Timber men, helpers	2.50
Driver boss	3.00
Drivers	2.50
Tracklayers	3.00
Tracklayers' helpers	2.50
Mjners, in wet places	3.50
Motormen	2.75
Motormen helpers	2.50
Holst men	2.75
Rope riders	2.50
Couplers	2.50
Pushers	2.50
Labourers	2.50
Timber handlex	2.75
Switch boys	\$1.25 to 1.50
Door boys	1.00
Pumpmen	2.50

Shift-men above ground:—

Head dumper (10 hours)	2.50
Slate pickers (10 hours)	2.00
Slate pickers, boys (10 hours)	1.25
Car oller (10 hours)	2.00
Car ollers, boys (10 hours)	1.50
Tally boy (10 hours)	1.25
Teamsters (10 hours)	2.50
Blacksmith (10 hours)	3.50

Coke oven employees are to be paid as follows:—

Levelling and drawing (6½ ton charge per oven)	\$1.00
Levelling and drawing (5 ton charge per oven)80
Loading (when 200 tons or less a month loaded) per ton16
Loading (when over 200 tons a month loaded) per ton17

All charges to be large or small at discretion of coke superintendent.

Locomotive engineer (10 hours)	3.00
Larry men (10 hours)	2.00
Plasterers (10 hours)	2.00
Carters and cleaners (10 hours)	2.00

GOVERNMENT EXPLORATIONS IN ONTARIO.

The Ontario Bureau of Mines proposes to carry on active and systematic explorations during the present season in sections of New Ontario, and parties have been sent out as follows:—

(1) Into the Michipicoten mining division, to complete the investigation of the iron ranges, the party to be in charge of Dr. A. P. Coleman, who has already worked over part of the field.

(2) Into the region west and northwest of Lake Abitibi, under the direction of Mr. H. L. Kerr, Geologist of the University of Toronto.

(3) Into the district near Chapleau Station, on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

(4) Into the Loon Lake iron region, in and near the township of McGregor, east of Port Arthur, where Mr. L. P. Silver will examine and report upon the iron ore deposits, zinc ores and other minerals of the locality.

(5) Prof. W. G. Miller will meanwhile continue the examination of the rich silver-cobalt area on the T. & N. O. Railway, which has attracted so much attention, and will also institute a thorough inquiry into the clay and shale resources of the province, being assisted in the latter work by Mr. M. B. Baker, of Queen's University, Kingston, and also by Mr. E. T. Corkill, Inspector of Mines. In addition, the Bureau has made special provision for procuring particulars regarding the important development now going on in the petroleum and natural gas areas in southwestern Ontario.