

Union, which took place within the next month.

Organization followed by Strike in May.

As had been anticipated by some of the miners at the time of organization, and as already mentioned, one after another of the officials of the newly-formed union found themselves out of employment very shortly after the organization was formed. By the end of April all of the officers, with the exception of two, were out of work, and had reasonable grounds for supposing that their connection with the union was accountable for the fact. On May 1 a committee of three of the dismissed officials interviewed the manager of the company, and asked for the reinstatement of all officials in the order in which they had been dismissed. The manager's refusal of this demand was followed by a strike on the next day.

Relations of the Ladysmith and Union Strikers.

The demand and the strike can only be rightly understood in the light of what transpired on the preceding days. The events point to one conclusion only, namely, the desire on the part of Baker and others to bring about a sympathetic strike of the miners at Union with the men who were out at Ladysmith. On April 10 Baker had sent from Nanaimo to the several locals of the Western Federation a letter telling them of the formation of the union at Union on April 5, which organization, he says in these letters, was effected 'in the face of stern opposition.' He states that the men at Union were 'well united, and thoroughly in interest with their brothers at Ladysmith.' He asks that all encouragement possible should be given the brother workers at Union, because they have to encounter the competition of so large a number of Chinese and Japanese. On April 13 the secretary of the Ladysmith union wrote a congratulatory letter to the men at Union, in which, on behalf of the Ladysmith union, he says in regard to their

having formed an organization: 'We feel you have strengthened our hands considerably in so doing.' On April 15 he also sent a communication to Shenton, at Nanaimo, stating that he and the president of the Ladysmith union would attend a meeting of the Nanaimo union on the 18th instant, to lay before that union the situation of the men at Ladysmith in regard to their need of financial assistance. Having heard these delegates on the 18th, the Nanaimo executive board recommended to its regular meeting that an assessment be levied on its members to assist the men at Ladysmith, and that an arrangement should, if possible, be effected whereby a joint executive meeting of the Union, Ladysmith and Nanaimo unions, might take place. In furtherance of this recommendation the recording secretary of the Nanaimo union, on April 20, informed the secretary of the branch at Union that representatives from Ladysmith had been at a meeting of the Nanaimo union on the 18th, and that from their representations it was evident that assistance was greatly needed; that the Denver executive could not recommend aid until there had been a full meeting of its board. Meantime it was advisable for local unions of the Western Federation of Miners to assist Ladysmith. With a view to making some suitable arrangement a meeting was being called for the 25th instant to go into the matter, and it was requested that one or more delegates from Union should attend this meeting.

What representations, other than those relating to the need of financial support, were made by the delegates from Ladysmith at the meeting of the Nanaimo union on the 18th, the Commissioners were not informed. All the witnesses, without exception, however, who were asked in regard to the relations between the Union and Ladysmith organizations were emphatic in their denial that the subject of a sympathetic strike at Union was so much as hinted at by any persons in authority. Furthermore, those who were questioned on the matter denied having had any conversation or discussion in regard to it with Baker.