

claims is not his partner—and I do not intend to insinuate that the minister has any pecuniary interest in Mr. Price's affairs, when he was making out that report, chose to saw it off on the 14th day of August, just on the very eve of bloodshed on Vancouver island? Why did he not continue it down a few months later? Why did he not give us, in the form of his report, the actual condition of affairs, that bloodshed was going on, that so many men were killed and so many men arrested?

Mr. CROTHERS: Simply because nobody had been killed or injured and there had been no riot up to the time he completed his report.

Mr. CARVELL: The day after. It is a most significant suspicious circumstance that the commissioner's report was dated on the 14th of August, just the very day before the real, critical fight commenced, and no report is made of the real trouble. Any elector in Canada who read his report would think: Oh there was not a very serious condition of affairs after all; Mr. Crothers appointed his former law partner, who went out there, had a nice time, and did not do anything; he investigated and found that there was not very much wrong, nothing to investigate, there was a strike and it was not altogether settled. He sawed his report off right there. The electors, by reading that report, would not know the true condition of affairs in British Columbia nor would he by reading the Labour Gazette. It would be interesting to make a few references to the reports in the Labour Gazette upon this strike. Here are a few of them:

October 12, page 400: Cessation of work occurred on September 17 in the Cumberland coal mines. Work in the Extension mines and at Ladysmith ceased on the same day, the number of men idle being about 3,000. At the close of the month the dispute still existed.

November, page 555: No termination was reported to the department during the month.

December, page 652: The dispute continued throughout the month. It was reported to the department that one of the mines had closed down, but that the men had mostly returned to work to those that are now carrying on operations. About 1,000 miners were still out at the end of November.

Not a very serious condition of affairs.

January 13, page 773: No termination of the dispute which commenced on the 17th of September was reported to the department during December.

April, page 1138: Dispute unsettled at the end of the month. It was reported, however,

[Mr. Carvell.]

in the case of the coal miners on Vancouver Island that the output was increasing daily.

People reading the Labour Gazette would get the idea that the strike did not amount to anything. The output of coal is increasing and therefore all is peace, there is no danger ahead, there is no trouble, there is no reason why the department should worry itself, there is no necessity of the department sending an official to the scene; it is working out all right and there is more coal being mined than previously.

May, page 1299: The dispute at the mines of the Canadian collieries at Cumberland and Ladysmith, proclaimed in September, 1912, was still in force at the end of the month, though some of the mines of the company have been worked for some months. The department was informed at about the end of April that the United Mine Workers of America authorities had announced their intention of calling out for May 1 all men employed in and around the mines at Nanaimo, South Wellington and Jinglepot until a joint agreement had been reached between the United Mine Workers of America and the Vancouver mine owners.

June, page 1415: The strike was called on the first of May and about 2,500 men ceased work. Mr. J. D. McNiven, a fair wage officer of the department was in conference with both parties, but at the end of May no settlement of this dispute had been reached. The companies directly affected were in addition to the Canadian Collieries at Cumberland and Ladysmith, the Vancouver and Nanaimo Coal Company, the Western Fuel Company, Nanaimo, and the Pacific Coast Company at South Wellington. At page 1416 the number of miners alleged to be on strike was given at 3,000.

July, page 87: No change in conditions in regard to this dispute was reported to the department during the month.

August, page 197: No change in conditions in regard to these disputes was reported to the department during July.

September, page 354: One of the companies affected by this important dispute, namely, the Vancouver-Nanaimo Coal Company, operating at East Wellington, came to an agreement with its employees during August; otherwise, the strike continued. Considerable disturbances occurred during August within the area of the dispute and several persons were injured in the course of riots at Nanaimo.

Elsewhere, in the same number, on page 305, is a special article dealing with the Vancouver Island coal strike. It contains the following interesting reference:

The Minister of Labour visited the scene of the dispute during the month of July, but the respective colliery proprietors and their former employees could not be persuaded to come to a working arrangement. Mr. Samuel Price, of St. Thomas, Ont., was appointed a Royal Commissioner to inquire into the disputes, and the commissioner visited the ground during July. Considerable disturbances occurred during August within the area of the industrial strike, and in the course of rioting at Nanaimo several persons were injured. Military aid was called in and it was considered necessary to station troops at various points.