

lead us to the inevitable conclusion that the trouble at Ladysmith would never have taken place but for the strike of the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees at Vancouver; that it originated in the intrigues of a few men, who, in part consciously, in part unwittingly, allowed themselves to be used as instruments to serve the desires and ends of a handful of dictators residing in the United States, and who are not in any way amenable to the laws of this country or responsible to those of its inhabitants whom they succeed in enlisting in the forces over which they hold sway.

Re Compulsory Removal of Wellington Colliery Company's Employees from Extension to Ladysmith.

Reverting to the allegation made in the statement filed by the miners, that their forced removal to Ladysmith was one of the grounds primarily responsible for the trouble, we think that this was a small factor, if a factor at all, in the promotion of the organization. The removal had taken place more than six months before many had moved over a year before, and there is nothing in the evidence to show that this was a subject of discussion in the agitation leading up to the organization. Moreover, the majority seemed to be satisfied to live at Ladysmith, as that place is much to be preferred as a place of residence to Extension. The former is on the main line, and the town site overlooks the sea, is easily

drained, and good water is available; the latter lies in a depression in the hills, and is badly situated from a sanitary point of view.

At the same time, there is no doubt that the removal was effected in an arbitrary way, and caused more or less loss to a number of the men, which has not been recouped. The order was given verbally to the foreman, who passed it on to the men, and some few who persisted in disobeying the order were dropped out of employment. The company charged nothing for carrying the men's effects and what houses were pulled down to Ladysmith, but did not pay the cost of their re-erection, or recoup those of the men whose houses were left, the losses as sworn to, ranging from \$150 to \$300.

Although about 200 families were removed by virtue of the order, the contention of the company was that its intention to establish the miners at Ladysmith was made clear shortly after starting up the mines, while a good many of the miners maintained that the decision was not finally arrived at or announced until after they had leased ground and erected their houses. However this may be, the dissatisfaction of many seemed to be not so much with the removal as with the way in which it was brought about, and it is just such arbitrary and inconsiderate dealing that antagonizes employees to their employers, and is at once a provocation and justification for the formation of unions.