

(Exhibit IV.)

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—DISTRICT 28.

SEATTLE, WASH., April 30, 1913.

Mr. ROBERT FOSTER,

President District 28, United Mine Workers of America,
Nanaimo B.C.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—

A number of months ago Mr. John P. White, President of the United Mine Workers of America, invited the mine owners operating on Vancouver Island to attend a conference to formulate a joint agreement covering working conditions in the mines on Vancouver Island. This invitation received no response from the mine owners. Instead, the Canadian Collieries Company forced the men of Cumberland and Ladysmith into a strike which has now lasted more than seven months. During this strike the men of Nanaimo and South Wellington have not been called upon to suffer any personal inconvenience or financial loss. However, the other companies operating on the Island are co-operating with the Canadian Collieries Company in a hopeless effort to defeat the men of Cumberland and Ladysmith.

Therefore, using the authority given me by President White, and in order that we may combat solidarity with solidarity, I hereby instruct you to call a strike of all the men employed in and around all the mines at Nanaimo, South Wellington and Jingle Pot, the strike to begin May 1st and to continue until a joint working agreement between the United Mine Workers of District 28 and the mine owners on Vancouver Island has been secured; said agreement to carry increased prices for labour and improved conditions of employment.

You will please see that a force of men sufficient to protect mining property is permitted to work so long as the companies do not attempt to ship coal. All other men should be urged to join the strike.

You should also exert every effort to prevent unlawful or abusive tactics by the men during this contest, and you will also make a diligent effort to secure the names of all men who refuse to respond to the call to strike so they may be published throughout Canada, Great Britain and the United States.

The men involved, union and non-union, will receive the financial support of the International Union as long as the strike lasts.

This decision has been reached only after months of mature consideration. The time is now here for the men of Nanaimo and South Wellington to prove their worth. If they show the same fighting spirit as their brothers of Cumberland and Ladysmith, May 1st will see the dawning of brighter days for the mine workers on Vancouver Island.

Yours fraternally,

FRANK FARRINGTON,

Representing International Union, U. M. W. of A.