

THE SPRINGHILL STRIKE.

What is the strike about? To one who has not had the opportunity of reading all the literature that has appeared on the subject it looks a little as if the strike was against the decision of a majority of the Arbitrators in the "Stone in Pillars" question. The following is a copy of the correspondence which ensued the two weeks previous to the strike, and Record readers can form their own conclusion as to what the row is about:—

Springhill, N. S., July 18th., 1907.

In the matter of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act 1907 and the cases between Pioneer Lodge No. 1, and the Cumberland Railway and Coal Co.

J. R. Cowans, Manager, Mines Department,

Dear Sir:—I have to inform you that the report of the Board of Conciliation and Investigation appointed under the above mentioned Act, was read at a largely attended special meeting of Pioneer Lodge last night, and that the Lodge decided by a very large majority (secret ballot) not to accept or abide by the finding of the Board in the "Stone in Pillars" case. I remain faithfully, Wm. Watkins, Secy, Pioneer Lodge, No. 1, P.W.A.

Springhill, N. S., July 22nd, 1907.

Mr. J. R. Cowans, Genl. Mang. C. Ry. & Coal Co.
Dear Sir:—I have been instructed by a meeting of Sub-Council held at Macan on the above date to notify you that unless you pay for stone in pillars at the rate of 4c. per inch as per agreement of 1890 that Pioneer Lodge has permission to cease work at the time decided upon by themselves. I remain yours truly,

Joseph B. Moss, Sub. Sec.

Springhill, N. S., July 23rd, 1907.

Joseph B. Moss, Esq., Gd. Sub. Secy., P. W. A.

Dear Sir:—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22nd. inst. and in reply would advise you that the report of the Board of Conciliation and Investigation in the matter of Local Stone states, viz.—"The agreement of the 19th. August, 1890, providing for compensation for stone in pillars, as modified by the subsequent oral compensation long acquiesced in, to the effect that the computation of the compensation for stone was to be made by taking an average width of 8 inches, where there was stone exceeding four inches, and allowing a flat rate of two cents a box, has not been violated by the Company nor has the said modification, but the same are being carried out. The claim and contention of the employees in respect to the local stone should be rejected." Yours truly, J. R. Cowans.

Springhill, N. S., July 23rd, 1907

Mr. J. R. Cowans, Mang. C. Ry. & Coal Co.

Dear Sir:—A large meeting of Pioneer Lodge No. 1, P. W. A. was held this evening to receive the Sub-Council report re "Stone in Pillars" case. In the report, permission was given the Lodge to take such action it deemed advisable; that is to cease work at any time unless payment for stone in pillars is made at the rate of 4cts per inch per lineal yard. After careful consideration it was resolved by vote that unless this demand is con-

ceded the men will cease work at the end of the day on July 31st, 1907. Also resolved that the Secretary notify you of this decision. Yours truly Wm. Watkins, Secy. Pioneer Lodge No. 1, P.W.A.

Springhill, N. S., July 29th, 1907.

Wm. Watkins, Esq., Sec'y Pioneer No. 1 P. W. A.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of 23rd. inst. duly received. Miners are already being paid for the claim therein made. This was determined by the Board of Conciliation, and it is needless to say that I am very much surprised and disappointed at the stand the Lodge has taken, especially in the face of the determination, which the company accepts to its fullest extent. The Board investigated this dispute, as you know, on the application of your Lodge. Yours very truly

J. R. Cowans.

DOMINION IRON AND STEEL PLANT.

A visit to the Dominion Iron and Steel plant by a Post man, ushered the scribe into a scene of activity that has not been surpassed since the inception of the big works. All the departments are working double shift, and tuned to the highest tension of their producing capacity.

The rod mill is averaging three hundred tons of material a day, and is taxing the billet mill its limit to meet its demands.

The rail department has for the past three weeks been working on the McKenzie & Mann order, and is averaging 900 tons of rails every twenty four hours. The yard outside the mill has a heavy stock of rails for this company on hand, and cars of the Canadian Northern are daily taking away consignments. The two Bessemer furnaces which have been giving complete satisfaction since their installation, are at present 'down' having new fire brick linings put in, they will be going full swing by the end of this week.

At the open hearths and blast furnaces everybody is as busy as can be, the four big melters being worked to their limit turning out metal.

Behind the blast furnaces thousands of tons of iron ore, dolomite and coke is stored ready to be put through the process at a moment's notice.

The piers are daily busy loading and discharging steamers, and it is evident to even the most casual observer that everything is moving along in a well oiled groove of business and discipline. Sydney Post.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

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Return tickets from all stations, Campbellton and East, including the Prince Edward Island Railway.

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