

Q. He was consulting with you from time to time? That is the evidence by this correspondence, is it not?

A. Well, if he took advice from any discussions that we had, of course I don't know anything about it.

Q. Well, he was discussing the matter with you anyway?

A. Yes.

Q. Who else did he discuss it with? I mean of the Nanaimo men?

A. He had a few conversations with the president; I cannot say how many times they met.

Q. This is Mr. Neave?

A. Yes.

Q. And I suppose you and Mr. Neave had discussions about the situation?

A. Yes.

Q. He is president, and you are secretary of the union?

A. Yes.

Q. When did Baker get to Nanaimo?

A. I don't remember the date of that either.

Q. About the 11th or 12th of March, was it not? Because he sends a telegram to Moyer on the 13th for Nanaimo, and you asked him to come on the 9th, so he must have come between the 11th and 12th?

A. Yes, somewhere between those dates.

Q. Were you at Ladysmith about that time?

A. No.

Q. How long before that were you at Ladysmith?

A. I don't know how long before that.

Q. You had a conversation with Mottishaw about the advisability of organizing the Ladysmith men?

A. He had a conversation with me regarding the matter, yes.

Q. When was that?

A. Previous, I think, to the time of organization; I cannot just remember the date. He had a conversation with me.

At this examination on June 3, Shenton was required to produce all documents in his possession bearing in any way on the situation. Among the papers produced was the telegram of March 6, from Moyer to himself: 'Use your best efforts to prevent Canadian Pacific from getting coal at Vancouver. Assist strikers all you can.' Asked if he received this telegram, he answered 'Yes.' Asked if he did not know of these telegrams when questioned in regard to the matter in his examination at Nanaimo, he replied, 'Yes,' and pressed as to why he had said nothing of them, gave, as an explanation, that the questions which had been put to him were not directly on the point.

#### Admissions that Organization of Ladysmith Miners would lead to Strike.

Questioned as to whether he did not know that if he got the Western Confederation organized at Ladysmith they would

demand recognition, and there would be a strike immediately, he answered that he believed these things were possible in the trend of events.

Q. Did not you think that was going to happen? Did not you think in your own mind that that would be the result of the action?

A. If the Western Federation was organized they would demand recognition, Dunsmuir would refuse it, and there would be a strike. Did not you think that was the course?

A. I foresaw that was possible, but we did not expect that.

Q. Will you swear that you did not expect that result?

A. Well, we were hopeful it would not.

After Shenton had admitted later in his examination that he knew Mr. Dunsmuir would not recognize a union, and had expressed himself over and over again to the effect that he would not have a union among his men, the question was put:

Q. Now, I ask you, if you did not expect when you organized the union at Ladysmith that they would demand recognition?

He replied:

Yes, I expected they would demand recognition.

Q. And did not you expect that Mr. Dunsmuir would refuse it as he had always done in the past? Did not you look for it?

A. It was most likely of course.

Q. You knew the kind of man Mr. Dunsmuir is, so you knew it would be refused, and did not you expect a strike would follow?

A. Well, of course I did.

Q. And would not a strike at Ladysmith shut off the Canadian Pacific Railway supply of coal, to the best of your knowledge and information?

A. Yes, it would.

#### Significance of Organization by W. F. of M. under circumstances.

Hardly less significant than the admissions contained in these statements are the circumstances under which the work of organization at Ladysmith was effected by the official representative of the Western Federation in Canada. On the 11th of February the strike involving all of the coal miners in the employ of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company at the company's mines at Fernie, Michel and Morissey commenced. The men in these camps had been organized as locals of the Western Federation of Miners some little time before; and the recognition of a joint committee of the officials of these unions by the company was, as has been pointed out, one of

the cardinal issues in the dispute. This strike had been in continuance for four weeks. Baker, who had organized these unions, and was particularly interested in bringing about a successful issue, was at Fernie with the union officials there at the time that Shenton wired the urgent request for his presence a Nanaimo, 'to come immediately if possible.' He replied to this telegram on March 10: 'Will leave here for Nanaimo to-morrow evening.' He arrived at Nanaimo on either the 12th or 13th of March. He had come to organize the Ladysmith miners as a branch of the Western Federation, but encountered, upon his arrival, a situation which gave the question of organization at Ladysmith a more serious aspect. The miners had struck on the 12th, so that to organize them under these circumstances meant that the Western Federation of Miners must assume at once the obligation of financial aid which, except for special and urgent reasons, was not to be lightly undertaken. Baker evidently felt the critical nature of the situation, for instead of going on immediately to Ladysmith he stayed at Nanaimo, consulting with Shenton and other parties there, and on the 13th of March wired from Nanaimo in cipher to Moyer, the president of the Western Federation of Miners at Denver: 'Can you come here; important; answer.' To this telegram Moyer replied on the following day: 'Situation such cannot leave; you have full powers to act for Western Federation of Miners.' With this authority from headquarters, Baker proceeded forthwith from Nanaimo to Ladysmith, and on the 15th of March organized the strikers into a local of the Western Federation, giving them full assurances that they now had the Western Federation at their backs.

#### Ladysmith Strike brought about by Intrigue of U. B. R. and W. F. of M.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into account, the nature of the organizations concerned, the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees and the Western

Federation of Miners, and their relations to the American Labour Union; the actions of the executive officers in the United States and Canada, and the known correspondence which passed between them; the request from the U.B.R.E. president that the supply of coal from Ladysmith and Union should be stopped, and the reply from the Western Federation officials that the request had been complied with; the command from headquarters to the Nanaimo local to prevent coal being supplied the railway, and to assist strikers all they could; the evident desire on the part of Mottishaw and Shenton to conceal from the Commission what they knew of the circumstances surrounding the establishment of organization at Ladysmith; the wilful misstatements and contradictions of each of these witnesses on material points; the fact admitted by Shenton that he knew a strike would probably ensue on the formation of a union at Ladysmith, and that he had conversed with Mottishaw on the matter; Mottishaw's denial that he had had any conversation with Shenton prior to the meeting; the hasty manner in which so important a step was taken by the miners at Ladysmith; the part played by Mottishaw in secretly posting the notice calling the meeting, and his being the secretary of the meeting; the joint action of Mottishaw and Shenton in the matter of the telegram sent to Baker urging his immediate presence; the denial of Shenton at the outset of having had anything to do in the sending of this telegram; Baker's further conversation after arrival at Nanaimo with officials there, and his communications with headquarters at Denver before taking final action; the incurring by the Western Federation of Miners of an enormous obligation at a time when its resources were already being heavily taxed in virtue of difficulties at other points in the Dominion and in the United States—all these facts and circumstances, coupled with the absence of any general desire among the miners at Ladysmith for organization at the time, or dissatisfaction with the wages or the conditions of their employment,