

did not state for what purpose it was being called.

The day that the strike was declared the secretary wired to Baker at Nanaimo: 'Cumberland Miners' Union No. 156 decided by unanimous vote to-day to come out on strike. Come up if possible.' Baker, on May 4, wired in reply: 'Will come to-morrow evening.' Owing to the fact, however, that the Commission had commenced its sittings at Ladysmith, Baker did not go to Union, but in the course of a few days sent Shenton in his place. On May 11 he addressed a letter to the executive board of the miners' unions at Ladysmith, Nanaimo and Union, stating that he was obliged to leave owing to pressure of work. He recommended co-operative arrangements among the three boards and means of speedy communication, stating in his letter that for all the unions this was a common cause. On the day following, the 12th, on board the steamer taking him from Nanaimo, he wrote a personal letter to the secretary of the union at Union, giving his reasons for not having been able to go there, and explaining that he had sent Shenton in his place, as he regarded the men in Union as 'too new in organization to be secure against bombardment.'

Movements largely directed from Denver, Colorado.

With the exception of the telegram, to which reference has been made, and one or two other communications, it was not possible for the Commission to secure information which would throw any further light on the nature of the correspondence which took place between Baker and the executive officers of the Western Federation at Denver. However, such evidence as was produced would indicate a continuous correspondence between the organizer for Canada and the chief executive officers at Denver. For example, the mention in the telegram of April 22, from Moyer and Haywood to Baker—'Organize Japanese and Chinamen if possible,' when no mention of the subject

had been made in the telegram to which this was a reply, would indicate that the officials at Denver had been previously informed of one important element that would have to be taken into consideration in any efforts to bring about a successful strike at Union. The fact that in a letter to local unions Baker had spoken of the number of Chinese and Japanese at Union as a source of discouragement to the union members there, and this only after organization had taken place, and before a strike had been mentioned, would indicate that this difficulty had been present in his mind. These facts jointly considered make it fairly apparent that the Canadian organizer had fully informed his fellow members on the executive at Denver of the exact situation in view of a probable conflict.

Re the Organization of Chinamen and Japanese.

Evidence was given by the Rev. L. W. Hall, a Chinese missionary at Union, to the effect that while Shenton, whom he had not previously known, was there as the representative of Baker, he (Shenton) had called upon him and introduced the subject of organization among the Chinese, and that from his conversation he judged that Shenton was desirous of having the Chinese organized, and that the Western Federation would support any efforts in that direction. Shenton did not deny having had a conversation with Hall upon this subject, but contended that his visit to Hall's house had not been with the object of interviewing him on that particular subject, and that Hall had brought up the subject himself, and that all suggestions and propositions had come from him. He admitted that there had been some talk about guarantees being given by the Western Federation, and that he had mentioned this point to Baker on his return to Nanaimo. He adhered firmly, however, to the statement that he had in no way approved of, nor was he favourable to the formation of a labour organization among the Chinese and Japanese.