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A REFERENDUM AMONG MINERS

MEN ARE VOTING ON QUESTION OF STRIKE

Efforts Being Made to Enter Into Separate Agreements With Mining Companies.

Calgary, Alb., April 12.—The situation in the coal mining industry remains unchanged. The operators have taken the necessary steps, as laid down in the Trades Disputes Act, and have made the necessary application to the minister for the appointment of a board of investigation. Upon receipt of the prescribed request from the minister the operators will recommend the appointment of a representative from their side to act on the board of three appointed to investigate and adjudicate upon the merits of the dispute.

From latest reports there does not seem to be the danger of a strike which existed a few days ago. The miners are commencing to doubt whether, before a strictly impartial tribunal, they will secure as favorable an agreement as the one which was formulated and consented to by the joint conference.

Strenuous efforts are being made by the miners' delegates to avoid recognition of the operators' association, and President Sherman is now endeavoring to make separate agreements with each particular mining company on the old plan which enabled the union to use one against the other to obtain further concessions. The operators' union, however, which was formed as a result of the request of Mr. Sherman for a joint conference to arrange a uniform contract, having come into existence thereby as a mining company association, will not go back to the old state of affairs and make new agreements seperately. It is a case of uniform agreement for all of the mines now with them.

The United Workers' Association, of which Mr. Sherman is the president of the affected district, has issued orders for a referendum to be taken on the question, "Strike or no strike." This will be completed by the 13th inst.

The operators consider this a tactical move in the direction of forcing them into making separate agreements with the union. It is taken under subsection B of section 15 of the new act, which reads: "And whereas each of the parties are called upon to file, before proceedings under the act can go on, a statutory declaration setting forth that failing an adjustment of the dispute or a reference thereof by the minister to a board of conciliation and investigation under the act, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the declaration, a lockout or strike, as the case may be, will be declared, and that the necessary authority to declare such lockout or strike has been obtained."

This shows clearly that President Sherman must take the referendum in order to obtain authority to strike if extremes arises, and it follows as a noticeable fact that the taking of it reveals that up to the present time he has evidently had no authority for the strike talk.

CATHOLICS IN STATES.

Census to Be Taken—Plea For More Liberal Contributions Towards Funds For Vatican.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—A number of important matters of interest to the Catholic world were considered and disposed of at the concluding session last night of the Catholic hierarchy of America at the Catholic university of America here. Cardinal Gibson presided.

A committee consisting of Archbishop Ireland, Keane, Messner and Glennon was appointed to act with the census officer to obtain a more accurate estimate of the Catholics in this country.

A petition was received from representatives of the conference of Catholic schools and seminaries, the object of which was to bring about a unification of college curriculum, so as to bring in closer association parish and Catholic schools to the Catholic university.

A committee consisting of Archbishops Farley, Messner and Blenk will be appointed to meet a similar committee from the various Catholic colleges and seminaries to discuss the question of bringing about a closer union between them.

An urgent plea was made for a more liberal contribution on the part of Catholics towards the funds for the Vatican, and it was decided that contributions should be as ample as possible.

TWENTY ROUND BOUT.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 13.—"Cyclone" Thompson lost to Jimmy Burns in the twentieth round of a fight before the Pacific Athletic Club last night. Thompson put up a game fight, but Burns superior science and ability to avoid punishment won the fight.

Taken for the Times by Jones, Government St.

MEMBERS OF THE SECOND SESSION, ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT, OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

First row, from left to right: Hon. H. E. Young, provincial secretary; etc.; Premier McBride, minister of mines; Hon. D. M. Eberts, speaker; Hon. R. G. Tatlow, minister of finance, etc.; Hon. F. J. Fulton, attorney-general and chief commissioner of lands and works. Second row: J. A. Macdonald, leader of the opposition; Chas. Munro, Fred Davey, J. H. Schofield, A. H. B. Macgowan, L. W. Shatford, John Jardine, Thos. Gifford, A. E. McPhillips, W. Hunter, H. C. Brewster. Third row: John Oliver, H. G. Parson, W. J. Bowser, G. Grant, Dr. King, Thos. Taylor, Dr. Maguire, J. F. Garden, Dr. Hall, Mark Eagleson, Stuart Henderson, Dr. Kergin, R. G. Naden. Fourth row: H. F. W. Behnsen, W. Ross, H. B. Thompson, Harry Jones, W. Yorston, Neil F. Mackay, W. Manson, W. H. Hayward, Price Ellison, Thornton Fell, clerk of House; C. K. Courtney, law clerk. Fifth row: Parker Williams, J. H. Hawthornthwaite, J. McInnes, Col. Wolfenden, King's printer; E. O. Schofield, provincial librarian.

UNFAIR TO THE WORKINGMAN

VANCOUVER HAS THE ONLY NORMAL SCHOOL

Cost of Board Prevents Island Children Qualifying as Teachers.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

"It is absurd that the capital of British Columbia," said Mr. C. E. Redfern this morning, "should be the only one in the Dominion which has not a normal school located in it. Representations should have been made long ago to have this remedied, but as it has been neglected in the past, there is all the more need for instant action.

"It is, of course quite impossible for the children of the working man to cross to Vancouver and to bear the additional expense of board and lodgings away from home for an entire year. It is not fair to expect them to do so. Yet the condition of affairs in this province shows that it is absolutely necessary that more teachers should be provided.

"The remedy at hand is to institute additional schools and the natural location for them is Victoria, the capital, the ideal residential city of the province and the second largest incorporated centre.

"I am of the opinion that the matter should be taken up by the Mayor and aldermen if we are to obtain it. They should see that a strong deputation wait upon the government and forcibly point out the exigencies of the situation. Vancouver obtains $40,000 for this purpose. It is because Vancouver asks for it. It is only the apathy of our local authorities that has prevented our obtaining it. The school trustees and officials should co-operate with the Mayor and council in obtaining it."

Herbert Kent, manager of M. W. Waitt & Co., wa sof the same opinion: "We certainly require a school here, and I am only surprised that something has not previously been done to obtain one," he remarked. "I think that the Mayor and council should take action, and the four local representatives should be spurred into action. Victoria is the natural headquarters of education for the province. That being so, something should at once be done."

Beaumont Boggs, when seen anent the effort being made to secure the establishment of a normal school in Victoria, said:

"There is no doubt a very great hardship imposed on the parents of those pupils who are compelled to attend the school on the mainland. Apart from the disadvantages of being away from home, which in the case of students of that age are great indeed, the climatic conditions are so different as to make it inadvisable for our students to be sent there. There should be a strong effort made to secure a normal school here.

"You know," he continued, "the securing of the normal school in Vancouver was but the thin edge of the wedge toward getting the university. Our schools have stood higher than those of the mainland. Why should we not have a normal school?" In conclusion he said:

"I consider it very essential that a normal school should be established here."

Alderman Henderson, when seen in the same connection, said:

"Certainly I favor it. It would not only be a convenience to the students of Victoria but for the whole Island as well. We are now entering on a period of expansion which will render it more and more necessary. Victoria furnishes a large number of students who must go to Vancouver as things at present are. Add to this the ideal character of our situation and the case for a normal school is complete."

Mayor Morley also waxed eloquent on the question:

"This," said he, "is just the place for a normal school. The situation is ideal and the necessity is increasing. The Winnipeggers are coming here in great numbers and they are accustomed to having things up to date. Decidedly we must have a normal school."

OTTAWA NOTES.

Ottawa, April 12.—The committee on co-operative societies reported in favor of the legislation as such associations had been a great benefit in other countries.

Hon. R. Lemieux in the House promised a definite answer soon regarding increased pay to letter carriers and postmasters.

JAPS TO BE DEPORTED.

Seattle, Wash., April 13.—Eleven Japanese now at the detention station at Port Townsend will be sent back to their own country to-day. They are accused of being contract laborers.

FACTORY DESTROYED.

Sundridge, Ont., April 11.—The Venees factory of Mulholland & Co. was totally destroyed by fire last night. The cause of the fire is unknown. The value of the place was $6,000 and insurance $4,000.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE EAST

RAILWAY SERVICE NOT SUFFICIENT

T. W. Paterson Introduced the Matter at Session of the Board of Trade.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

The question of railway communication with the East was introduced at yesterday's session of the board of trade by T. W. Paterson. Owing to the gravity of the question, it was decided to leave the matter over until a session of the board when more time could be devoted to it.

Mr. Paterson pointed out that the need for immediate consideration of the question was great. If the population of the coast is to go on increasing as it is now doing, greatr railway facilities will soon become an absolute necessity.

"The prosperity of British Columbia," he pointed out, "depends to a large extent upon communication with the East. This is at present carried over a single pair of rails. They are already worked to their full capacity, and will be absolutely unable to handle the business in a few years' time.

"It had been hoped that the coming of the G. T. P. would have done something to relieve the pressure, but by present indications it looks as if that line will not be built through for years.

"Rumors have come from Prince Rupert of the stopping of all work there, and there is no saying when we shall get railway communication by this line. Even when we do, it will not do much to relieve the congestion in this portion of the province.

"The lack of railway communication has the effect of throwing all the trade of the new province to the East, which is just what the East desires. It, therefore, appears to me that the time is now ripe for action.

"There is an impression abroad in the East that British Columbia does not desire the Grand Trunk Pacific. This is not the case, and it is the duty of this board to assist in dispelling this notion. I think that the best manner in which this can be done is by means of a strong resolution to the Dominion government."

The members of the board agreed with this, and the matter will probably be taken up at a special meeting to be called later.

STEAMER GEORGIA AT ESQUIMALT

FIRST VESSEL FOR NEW STEAMSHIP LINE

Will Carry Large Cargo to Mexico on Initial Trip on 25th Inst.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

After making the run from Iquique to Esquimalt, a distance of 6,000 miles, in a little over three weeks, the steamer Georgia, Captain Henderson, pulled into port yesterday afternoon. The Georgia is a vessel which will make the initial trip between British Columbia and Mexico in connection with the Canadian-Mexican Pacific Steamship line.

The voyage from the Old Country was made through splendid weather, and the captain describes the passage as a record one. At Iquique the vessel was delayed for three weeks, owing to bad wharfage arrangements there. Captain Henderson further describes the voyage as an uneventful one.

The Georgia is a vessel of 1,788 tons net register, and 4,000 tons dead weight. She is classed 100 A1 at Lloyd's. Her appearance as she lies at anchor at Esquimalt would suggest that she is a splendid cargo carrier, and she will make a notable addition to the rapidly increasing amount of tonnage which is entered and cleared from the port of Victoria.

Captain Worsnop, the general manager of the company to which the Georgia belongs, stated this morning that the vesel would make the inaugural trip from Vancouver on the 25th inst. In the meantime she will lie at Esquimalt until Tuesday, when she will proceed to Comox for a cargo of coal. From there she will go to Vancouver and New Westminster and load with the cargo of general merchandise which she is carrying on her initial trip. About 2,000 tons of cargo has already been booked. This consists of lumber, wheat, flour, etc.

On the Georgia there is accommodation for about twenty first-class passengers. Some dozen have already booked passages, and among these will be a number of commercial men who are going to Mexico to find a market for their goods. On the initial voyage merchants and their agents will be carried on the round trip free of charge. Samples of the various merchandise which British Columbia has to offer to Mexico will also be carried free.

The ports of call on the Mexican seaboard will be Mazatlan, Manzanillo, Acapulco and Salina Cruz. The latter port is the Mexican terminus of the route, as well as the terminus of the Tehuantepec railway, over which much of the merchandise shipped from this province will be carried to various points in Mexico. Should the traffic which ensues warrant it, many other ports of call will be included in the schedule and goods from Canada can be shipped to any point of Mexico.

The Victoria office, the British Columbia headquarters of the Canadian-Mexican Pacific Steamship Company, is at 42 Yates street. An office has been opened in Vancouver at 343 Homer street.

MINE ON FIRE.

Fourteen Miners Known to Be Dead—Casualties May Be Increased.

Mexico City, April 13.—News reached here yesterday that fourteen miners were suffocated in a fire on Thursday in the mine of the Des Estreclas Mining Co. at Elore. It is thought the number of casualties may be increased.

The mine is still burning, and rescue work is carried out with difficulty.

The miners killed are of the peon class.

TOULON BAKERS ARE ON STRIKE

MASTERS ARE USING MILITARY BAKERIES

Strikers Dispersed By Police--Arsenal Employees Condemn Action of Government.

Toulon, April 13.—A strike of the bakers of the city was inaugurated yesterday, and was accompanied by more or less disorder. Several meetings were held ending in blows between those in favor of working and those who wanted to go on strike.

Demonstrations before the baker shops in which red flags made their appearance were dispersed by the police.

There has been no lack of bread as the authorities placed the military bakeries at the disposal of the master bakers. This measure resulted in the appearance of a violently worded proclamation from the arsenal employees attacking the government and summoning a mass meeting of all the state employees for Sunday.

CORDIAL WELCOME TO PREMIERS

SIR WILFRID LAURIER ARRIVES AT LIVERPOOL

General Botha Receives an Address on Landing From Steamer at Southampton.

Liverpool, April 13.—The Lord Mayor of Liverpool and many representative citizens welcomed Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Canadian premier, and Sir Frederick W. Borden, Canadian minister of militia and defence, on their landing here to-day on their way to London, where they will attend the colonial conference.

Botha Welcomed.

London, April 13.—General Botha, ex-commander-in-chief of the Boer army, and now first premier of the Transvaal colony under British rule, arrived here to-day to attend the conference of colonial premiers. The reception accorded the general at Southampton and in London was remarkably hearty. Great crowds cheered wherever he appeared. At Southampton he was officially welcomed by the mayor and corporation of that city, and in reply to the address General Botha humorously referred to the previous occasion when on the battlefield he had been surrounded by Englishmen against his will. The general added he was thankful now that he was in a position to allow himself to be surrounded by any number of Englishmen without fear of consequences.

SPEECHES FORBIDDEN.

Socialists Will Not Be Allowed to Speak at Funeral of Late Member.

Berlin, April 13.—The Socialists are making elaborate preparations for the funeral to-morrow of Ignaas Auer, the well-known Socialist member of the Reichstag, whose death was announced April 10th.

The Socialist organ, the Voremorts, to-day prints the programme of the ceremony and the order of procession. The police authorities, however, forbids the playing of the marches or other music except of a funeral character, and prohibits the carrying of red flags unless heavily draped with crepe. In addition persons in the procession must not wear red or speeches must not be made at the grave.

THE RETIREMENT OF LORD CROMER

ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AS GREAT SURPRISE

Tributes to the Maker of Modern Egypt---Policy Will Remain Unchanged.

London, April 11.—Foreign Secretary Grey made the very unexpected announcement in parliament to-day that Lord Cromer, Great Britain's great plenipotentiary on the Nile, has resigned. It had been known for some time that the health of Lord Cromer, who has been British agent and consul general in Egypt since 1883, was affected, but there was no idea, when he issued his voluminous report on the progress of the administrative departments of the Egyptian government, early this month, that his retirement was impending.

Secretary Grey, in making the announcement, and ex-Premier Balfour, who followed him, spoke with deep emotion of Lord Cromer's unexampled services to the Empire, and voiced the nation's regret at his leaving his post in such a difficult position. The Foreign Secretary declared that it was the greatest personal loss the public service of the country could suffer.

The retirement of Lord Cromer would involve no change in British policy with regard to Egypt. This was explicitly stated by Secretary Grey.

Sir Eldon Gorst was appointed to the post in Egypt on the advice of Lord Cromer, whose complete confidence he possesses. He takes up a difficult task, but will assume the work with the full approval of official circles both in London and Cairo. Sir Eldon has had twenty years' experience in Egypt, first in the diplomatic service, and afterwards, from 1890 until 1904, in the service of the Egyptian government. He had charge successively of nearly all the great administrative departments and had close personal relations with Lord Cromer. He is the son of the Right Hon. Sir John E. Gorst.

JAPS HELD AT 'FRISCO.

Officials Await Instructions Before Allowing Them to Proceed to British Columbia.

San Francisco, April 13.—Two hundred and ninety-five Japanese laborers who came in yesterday on the Pacific mail steamship Korea are detained on the steamer pending advice from the department of immigration at Washington as to whether the local immigration authorities shall let them proceed by steam to British Columbia.