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CHINESE LABOR.

There are laws on the Statute-book now forbidding the employment of Chinese below ground in coal mines. And, as the following report will show, the strenuous efforts which the Conservative administration have made in even the few months during which they have held office to carry these laws into effect and to vindicate the right of the Province to legislate on the Chinese question, is proof positive to all electors whose support they are now seeking that the Conservative Government are worthy of being trustees to protect the interests of the white miner and every laboring man.

As is well known, the chief offenders against the statutes relating to employment of Chinese below ground are the Wellington Colliery Company in the coal mines at Union, B.C.

The McBride Government took office last June. One of their first acts was to instruct the Inspector of Coal Mines to see that the regulations as to the exclusion of Chinamen from underground workings should be carried out. To the Inspector's notices to put the Chinamen out, the colliery company paid no attention whatever, but went gaily on working their coal properties with Celestials. Seeing this, the government at once took more strenuous measures. "We will fight the question through the highest courts in the land," said the company. "You will have to, or else obey the law," replied the government, and in July formal proceedings were commenced against the company, and a conviction obtained. The fine was paid, and—the Chinamen kept on! Seeing that the company had no intention of fairly testing the question, the government had one of two courses open to them, either to instruct a lawyer to camp at the pit mouth and lay daily informations against the company for every Chinaman employed, or to bring the matter to a head at once by an injunction against the company. The latter course being the quickest and most decisive way of settling the question once and for all, it was adopted, and the following report of proceedings shows conclusively the way in which the Conservative Government stand by their promises, and the untiring efforts and bona fide spirit with which they have endeavored to enforce the anti-Chinese legislation.

A writ was issued by the Attorney-General on September 15th, an application

for an injunction made immediately, and on the following day the question was argued before Mr. Justice Irving in the Supreme Court, a report of which here follows in detail:

The Attorney-General, Hon. A. E. McPhillips, K. C., and D. M. Rogers, appeared for the government, the company being represented by A. P. Luxton. The case was opened by the Hon. the Attorney-General submitting the affidavit of Thomas Morgan in support of the motion, as follows:

1. Thomas Morgan, of the city of Nanaimo, in the province of British Columbia, Inspector of Coal Mines, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am one of the Inspectors of Coal Mines for the province of British Columbia, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, under the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, on or about the first day of November, 1898, since which date I have up to the present time continuously discharged the duties of said office.

2. One of my duties as Inspector as aforesaid is to investigate all accidents occurring in coal mines situate on Vancouver Island, and to ascertain as far as possible the causes of such accidents.

3. At the time I received the above-mentioned appointment I had had twenty-nine years experience as a miner in the coal mines at Nanaimo, in this province.

4. The defendant company at the present time is operating three coal mines at Union aforesaid, known respectively as No. 4 Slope, No. 5 Shaft, and No. 6 Shaft.

5. The defendant company at the present time employs below ground in No. 4 Slope 95 white men and 92 Chinamen; in No. 5 Shaft, 36 white men and 86 Chinamen; in No. 6 Shaft, 6 white men and 43 Chinamen.

6. The defendant company always employ below ground in No. 6 Shaft more Chinamen than white men.

7. On the 15th day of July, 1903, an explosion occurred in No. 6 Shaft, where a number of Chinamen were working, resulting in the death of 16 Chinamen and in serious injuries to 5 Chinamen. I made an investigation into the cause of the said explosion, but was unable to determine beyond a doubt how it occurred, but I am inclined to think it must be attributed to the negligence or ignorance of the said Chinese miners.

8. On the 17th day of April, 1879, an explosion of gas occurred in the Wellington Colliery by which 7 white men and four