

WINE URGES ROBE OF NOVA SCOTIA STRIKE

Calgary Labor Member
Declares Conditions in
Coal Fields Serious.

MURDOCK TAKES STAND

Minister Maintains First Report
Should Be Presented
To His Department.

OTTAWA, March 30.—(By Canadian Press).—William Irvine, Labor, Calgary East, moved this afternoon that the house adjourn in order to discuss the situation prevailing in the Cape Breton coal fields.

Hon. W. S. Fielding replied that the house could not be adjourned but that there was no objection whatever to Mr. Irvine discussing the matter. The whole house must be aware, said Mr. Irvine, of the situation developing in Nova Scotia between the British Empire Steel Corporation and the miners, 12,000 in number. The difficulty began about January 1, when the company made a severe wage reduction to a far lower level than wages prevailing in the Alberta fields. At the same time the cost of living in Alberta was 7 per cent lower than in Nova Scotia.

The miners in Nova Scotia were in the position to strike in the ordinary way because they had given practically all their surplus money towards the relief of their unemployed union members. Therefore they decided they would lower the production rate to what in their opinion, would equal the wages they were being paid.

The result was that coal was not being produced. This was an economic waste. In the meantime the country was hearing of an appalling increase in the death rate among the miners and their families; of parents being summoned to court by the educational authorities because their children were not attending school for the reason that the parents were unable to buy clothes for them. The Government was already acquainted with this. In fact, the 12,400 miners and the members of their families were facing a terrible situation, and Mr. Irvine understood from representatives of organized labor in Cape Breton that they had reached the limit of their endurance. A settlement of some kind must be secured.

Urges Investigation.

The miners in Nova Scotia had applied to the Dominion Government for relief from an unbearable position. If the Government said it could not act, who was to act? If the men could not get relief from constitutional authorities, where could they seek redress? What was to be the outcome? It would be too late to talk when things began to happen. Human nature could only stand so much; there must be some means of insuring a square deal to both the miners and mine owners. Mr. Irvine would like to suggest that a man like Howard Ross, K.C., of Montreal, should be appointed to investigate matters and see what could be done.

This coal company, Mr. Irvine went on, owned practically the whole of the Nova Scotia fields. It was paying dividends, he understood, on \$19,000,000 of watered stock. In order to pay those dividends, apparently, it was reducing the men's wages. It had been refused a charter by the late government, but had been given one by the provincial government. This was not a matter of politics, but one of public importance. The rights of the men in Nova Scotia and of the people of the whole Dominion were at stake.

Donald M. Kennedy (Progressive, West Edmonton) could not see how the government could get away from responsibility in this matter. The whole matter should be investigated.

Situation Real Serious.

W. F. Carroll (Liberal, S. Cape Breton and Richmond) said the case of the Nova Scotia miners had been fairly and vigorously placed before the Government, but last evening the delegates were advised that the Government could not accede to a request for a royal commission to investigate the situation. The situation today was undoubtedly most serious. There was need of co-operation between the mine owners and their employees. Anything which could bring about this greater co-operation would be an important move.

Proceeding to Discuss "Loading on the Job."

Mr. Carroll asked a fellow member in an aside for the other expression for this practice. "Sabotage?" he said interrogatively. From across the house came another suggestion, "working."

Mr. Meighen Inquired how the practice of sabotage would affect the miners.

Would they not be paid for just what they did? Mr. Carroll replied that that was true of the contract men; but they would not "load on the job." However, 70 per cent of the employees of the Dominion Coal Company were "dual" men, that is, they were paid by the day. They would get \$3 a day whether they raised one ton or twenty tons.

Dealing with the question of watered stock.

Mr. Carroll said that it was most unfortunate if a corporation dealing in a basic industry of this country could bet its capital watered.

"I believe," he said, "that the time has come when Parliament should step in and say 'thus far shalt thou go and no farther.'"

Would Let Nova Scotia Probe.

"Make it a criminal offence," interrupted a member.

Mr. Carroll agreed with some members of the present government with whom he had discussed the matter, that the investigation of this situation was up to the government of Nova Scotia and not to this government. He believed that if an application was made to the government of Nova Scotia, and if the men would do their part and stop loading on the job, the government of Nova Scotia would jump at the chance to appoint a tribunal under the act of 1900, which was superior to the Lemieux act

o the Federal Parliament. The situation affected all the people living in that part of Nova Scotia. If the coal industry closed down the steel industry would die.

Mr. Carroll would advise the miners not to seek a royal commission, but to secure some tribunal whose finding would not close the question if unfavorable to them. If the present situation continued, the large industrial center would decline, the population would dwindle away, and the loss of royalties would prevent the provincial government from carrying on. The most serious aspect was the sorrow, trouble and starvation which the situation would develop. A settlement must be made.

Murdock States Position.

Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, said the dispute between the miners and the British Empire Steel Corporation had commenced prior to his taking over the portfolio of labor. Mr. Murdock had always had the greatest respect for Senator Robertson, minister of labor in the late government. Senator Robertson had appointed the representatives of the men and the company on the board of conciliation, while one of Mr. Murdock's first official acts was to appoint the chairman. He had no apologies to offer for this appointment, but in the light of certain suggestions by members of Nova Scotia delegations it might have been advisable for the board to have visited the coal fields and an investigation of the living conditions among the miners would have helped. But the industrial disputes inquiries act contemplated giving considerable leeway to the boards appointed under it and it was not thought proper to suggest the manner in which boards should act.

When the board was in session Mr. Murdock took it upon himself to send an official of the labor department to the coal fields in order to determine the actual conditions. At that time there were reports of riots among the miners and that stores of the Dominion Coal Company had been robbed. It had been suggested that the mounted police be sent to Cape Breton to insure peace. This request had been refused. Mr. Murdock believed that as minister of labor he was entitled to a first-hand report on the situation. His representative on reaching Halifax had been warned not to enter the coal areas.

Men's Representatives Signed.

The minister hoped no man would have any doubt about his sympathy for the men willing to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. "But," he went on, "I am not ready now of the years to come to concede that because some employees feel they are not being given that that they are justified in staying on the job and pretending that they are at work and to tell the world at large that they will cut the output and thus penalize the employer." His experience had been that many agreements entered into had become footfalls to be kicked about anywhere.

It was perhaps very unfortunate that the employers had changed their attitude after the award of the conciliation board had been made and tentatively agreed to. It seemed that the men's representatives were divided, three to

three on the proposition to cut the output and loaf on the job.

Answering Hon. T. A. Greer, the minister, could not say whether Mr. MacLachlan was present at the Montreal meeting, but the men's representatives signed it.

PLAN BI-WEEKLY AIR LINE TO INDIA

London, England, March 30.—Plans for imperial airship lines from London to India and Australia were forecast this afternoon by Commander C. Dennis Burney at a conference, at which the agent-general of Tasmania presided.

Commander Burney said he had made a definite financial offer to the government, and that the largest of the engineering and oil companies of Great Britain were associated with the project.

The promoters plan to take over the government-owned airships and form a company with £4,000,000 capital to start a bi-weekly passenger service to India with an extension to Australia. It is the intention of the promoters to ask for a subsidy of £31,000 from the British government, and of £40,000 each from the Indian and Australian governments.

WILL MEET IN ROME.

GENEVA, March 29.—The council of the International Labor Bureau will meet in Rome on April 4 to prepare its program in connection with the Genoa conference.

Back Weak and Lame for Years

Rub soreness, pain, stiffness right out with a small trial bottle of Old St. Jacobs Oil

St. Jacobs Oil stops any pain, so when your back is sore and lame, or lumbago, sciatica or rheumatism has you stiffened up, don't suffer! Get a small trial bottle of old, honest St. Jacobs Oil at any drug store, pour a little in your hand, and rub it right on your aching back; and by the time you count fifty the soreness and lameness is gone.

Don't stay crippled. This soothing, penetrating oil needs to be used only once. It takes the pain right out and ends the misery. It is magical, yet absolutely harmless, and doesn't burn the skin.

Nothing else stops lumbago, sciatica, backache or rheumatism so promptly. It never disappoints!—Adv.

Trafford's Weekly Bulletin

With spring knocking at the door and house cleaning up- permost in the minds of the housewives we are ready with a large and complete stock of reasonable merchandise.

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One of the largest Rug stocks in Western Ontario to pick from, at prices that make it worth your while to shop here. Be wise, get our prices before you buy.

Hoosier Kitchen Cabinets at \$5 Down

For Saturday we offer one of the best Cabinets on the market at \$5 down and balance easy terms. Ask the woman who owns one.

Big Sale of Chesterfields and Easy Chairs

MADE RIGHT IN OUR OWN FACTORY.

Chesterfield Suite, consisting of 7-foot Chesterfield, Arm and Rockers to match, good tapestry, Marshall spring cushions; worth \$250, for \$166

Another Suite, worth \$225, for \$137

PRIVATE TERMS CAN BE ARRANGED.

Baby Carriages and Strollers on Easy Terms

All the latest designs and models to select from.

Upholstering!

Don't throw away your old furniture, for our upholsterers can make it new for little money. A phone call will bring our man with prices and estimates.

Bedroom Specials

Walnut Bedroom Suite, Dresser, Chiffonier, Dressing Table with triple mirror, and Bed; worth \$200, for \$148

Ivory Bedroom Suite, Dresser, Chiffonier, Dressing Table and Bed; worth \$250, for \$160

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LISTOWEL

Special to London Advertiser.

LISTOWEL, March 29.—A box social was held under the auspices of the U. B. Congregational Church last evening in the U. F. O. rooms. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Scott, who have been spending the winter in Pasadena, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Scott, expect to leave for home April 3.

This afternoon at 3 o'clock Ross A. Dolg of Howick, and Mrs. Catherine E. Tassie of the same township were quietly married at Knox Church manse by Rev. J. M. Nicol. The bride wore her traveling suit of navy blue gabardine. They were accompanied by Mrs. Mary Coghlin and Harold L. Dolg.

The memorial tablet to be placed in the Listowel High School is to contain, not only the names of those who fell in action, but also all the names of former students of the school who enlisted. This decision was reached at a meeting of those in charge, last evening. The tablet will have about 250 names, instead of a tenth of that number. The tablet will cost \$700. The names of those who made the supreme sacrifice are: Joseph Bassett, Sidney Bassett, George H. Brown, Robert H. Campbell, Harold Chamney, Milton Gates, Earnest Gilmer, Harry Gunther, Douglas Hamilton, Carmen Huser, Basil Jolly, Clifford Law, Bouton H. Morphy, Julian V. McDonald, Earl Irwin Riddolls, Archie Riggs, Grace Rogers, N. S. Gordon Rogers, Leonard W. Rogers, Alex Simpson, Harold Simpson, Wallace Simpson, A. E. McKeeper, D. S. O.

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FIRE IN HULL JAIL PERILS 80 LIVES

Ottawa, March 30.—Fire of unknown origin, which had gained much headway, would have placed the lives of 80 prisoners, 12 members of the jury and a dozen other persons in danger, was discovered at 4 o'clock this morning in the kitchen of the Hull jail. Through the prompt action and presence of mind of Joseph Mousette, governor of the jail, a panic was averted, and the fire extinguished with little damage having been caused.

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YOU can't do your best when your back and every muscle aches with fatigue. Apply Sloan's Liniment freely without rubbing, as it penetrates and a quick glow of warmth and comfort will put the "pep" back into you. Good for rheumatism, neuralgia, lumbago, sciatica, sprains and strains, aches and pains, bruises, stiff joints, bad weather after-effects.

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	75c	\$1.10	\$1.40
	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
2nd payment	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
25c	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
3rd payment	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
25c	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
4th payment	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
25c	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
5th payment	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
25c	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
6th payment	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
25c	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
7th payment	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
25c	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
8th payment	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40
25c	75c	\$1.20	\$1.40

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