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men whether it should be 10 or 15. The majority of the men did not want to hear anything about an advance. They thought it was no use attempting to get an advance without organization. Every one was clamouring for organization and that knocked the first question out. The meeting was called on purpose to ask for an advance, and not for the purpose of organization at all.

Q. Was it the general consensus of opinion have some form of organization?

A. Yes, it was sprung on the meeting sud-

Contradictions and Evasions in Evidence of Secretary of Ladysmith Meeting.

Quite as interesting were the contradictions, pointing to an evident desire at concealment, made by Mottishaw in his evidence in regard to interviews with any of the Nanaimo officials.

Counsel for the miners in a leading question designed to establish a plausible reason for the men at Ladysmith choosing the Western Federation of Miners as the organization with which they desired to become allied, had suggested to the witness that the men at Ladysmith knew at the time that the miners working at Nanaimo were organized as a branch of the Western Federation of Miners, to which Mottishaw assented. Then following this question, the question was put-

So from your intercourse with workmen at Nanaimo you had some knowledge of the organization?

Immediately Mottishaw replied-I did not have any intercourse with the Nan-aimo men.

Elsewhere on the same point he was questioned, and answered as follows :-

Q. You lived in Nanaimo?

the meeting.
Q. Had any one talked to you at Nanaimo about organization at Ladysmith before the

meeting?

A. Yes, I believe that cropped up there.
Q. How did it crop up there?
A. I suppose there was a goveral feeling that we ought to be organized, and able to defend

Q. You talked about the probability of being able to effect organization at Ladysmith?

A. Yes.
Q. Did you only talk with one person on that subject at Nanaimo?

A. There were very few.
Q. Was it because your conversations were confidential, or because there was no one else interested?

A. I think all the men were generally inter-

ested.
Q. So this was confidential, and consequently you only talked to a few?
A. It may be so.
Q. Was it, or was it not?
A. I could not say.
Q. You did not want to start the work of organization until you thought it would be a success?

cess?
A. I don't know.
Q. And you discussed the prospects of its being a success?
A. Yes, I wanted to make it a success.
Q. And when you had discussed the plan you came to Ladysmith and talked it over here?
A. Casually. A. Casually.
Q. Every time you talked to the men when ou considered it safe?

Q. And when you had got a sufficient number of them, you posted a notice of the meeting?

A. Yes.

Nowhere in his evidence did Mottishaw make any allusion to any conversation with Shenton, nor to the telegram which had been sent by Shenton to Baker at his

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Contradictions and Evasions in Evidence of Secretary of Nanaimo Union, W. F. of M.

Shenton was called before the Commission a number of times and questioned in regard to his relations with Mottishaw, and his knowledge of attempts on the part of the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees and the Western Federation of Q. You lived in Nanaimo?
A. Yes.
Q. And were familiar with the workings of the organization there?
A. No, I was not in the lodge but once.
Q. You had familiarized yourself with the workings of the organization?
A. No, sir.
Q. Never talked with any Nanaimo men, or with the labour leaders?
A. Not until after the trouble.
Q. What date—the day you fixed the meeting?

Miners to enect a stoppage of the company. The conscious evasions and the inexplicable contradictions contained in the statements of this witness before the Commission render unintelligible much of the evidence given by him, and he cannot be regarded in any light other than as one who went to the limit in withholding from Miners to effect a stoppage of coal from the who went to the limit in withholding from the Commission all information about those matters which he thought it wisest to have remain concealed.

With a knowledge of the fact that the president of the Western Federation at Denver had wired to him to prevent the

Canadian Pacific Railway from getting coal on Vancouver Island, and to assist the strikers all he could, with this telegram still in his possession, and a full knowledge of the reply sent, and the circumstances under which it had been prepared, he replied in his first examination to some of the questions bearing on this matter as follows :-

Q. Do you know Mr. Estes ?

A. No. Q. Have you had any correspondence with

Q. Have you had any correspondence with him?
A. No.
Q. It is stated that he said to the Board of Trade in Vancouver that he had communicated with the executive of the Western Federation at Denver; and that they had endorsed his request, and that if the strike were persisted in he would call out all the coal miners on Vancouver Island. Could he do that?
A. That would be a questionable position.
Q. You think he was stating what was not true when he stated that the executive at Denver had endorsed his application?
A. No. if the Western Federation had, as an executive board representing the whole body, approved of that, then it has to be submitted to the local union, and I am pretty sure—
Q. Then it is possible that on Mr. Estes' application a request could be made by the executive from Denver that this union should go out on strike in sympathy with the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees—that is possible?
A. It could make the request—I don't know.
Q. Mr. Estes says it is possible, and that he had a telegram to show it. Is he right or wrong?
A. If he is right, then we don't know it. It

A. If he is right, then we don't know it. It A. It he is right, then we don't know it. It is not in the constitution.

Q. Then, if Mr. Estes is right, it must be that while the constitution makes a general statement, the executive can interpret it in particular instances, the way he mentions?

Licular instances, the way he mentions?

It might be that.

What do you think about it?

Well, I simply think little about it.

You don't believe Mr. Estes' statement

then?

A. Well, I would not like to discredit the statement exactly, of Mr. Estes, but we have not been made responsible for that statement through the Federation.

Q. That is not the point. I am simply asking you if, under the constitution, and in accordance with the manner of the interpretation, at Mr. Estes' request, could the executive make that call on you?

A. Well, there is nothing in the constitution saying so.

Then you don't know whether it could or not?

A. No. I am not just exactly aware. There is nothing to inform me, in the constitution, that

he could do that. Replying elsewhere to a similar question Shenton said :-

Well. I feel this regarding that matter. Supposing it may be possible—we are not sure what Mr. Estes' says is correct—well, in the absence of anything to the contrary that it is correct, we would not like to say it is not,

but so far as I know, we are not aware of the fact that he could do that, and if a request of the executive board of the Western Federation of Miners was made, it would have to be endorsed or rejected in accordance with the local union's vote.

Q. Supposing the statement made by Mr. Estes was true—that he had that power, with the assurance that he would call out the miners on Vancouver Island—would that surprise you?

miners on Vancouver Island—would that surprise you?

A. Yes, it would, to some extent.

Q. It would present the Western Federation in a light that you did not conceive it possible to be viewed in. Do you think your local is subject to a possible call of that kind? It is a case that does not affect your wages or your work, simply the general cause of labour?

A. I hardly think they would do it, nor I don't think if a request of that nature was made, it would certainly on our part be opposed.

Matters of fact denied.

During the same examination on May 21, Shenton was asked in regard to the organization of the miners at Ladysmith: You had no connection with the agitation and organization at Ladysmith?

With a full knowledge of his conversations with Mottishaw on the subject, and of the fact that he had himself, at Mottishaw's request, written out and signed the telegram which brought Baker to Ladysmith to organize, he replied to this question 'none whatever,' and further testified as follows:-

Q. You never suggested to any person that they should go to Ladysmith to organize? A. No. Q. You had no communication with Mr. Mot-

tishaw on that subject?
A. No.
Q. No talk with him on the subject of organization at Ladysmith?

A. No.
Q. No suggestion that some one should go to
Ladysmith and bring about organization?

A. No, I don't remember.
Q. You had no conversation with Mr. Mottishaw which in any way bore on the question of organization at Ladysmith?

A. Since then, since the organization?
A. Since then, since the organization?
Q. But before the meeting was held, the meeting to call on Ladysmith?
A. I was going to say that I did not know anything about the meeting that was called.
Q. When did you have a conversation with him, what was it about?
A. Well, the only conversation I had with Mr. Mottishaw—I had a talk with him prior to that—just previous to that meeting. I don't know anything about the meeting.
Q. Did you know it was being talked of prior to the meeting?

to the meeting? A. Yes, representations had been made in several instances at Nanaimo that the men down there were wishful to organize. That is about the sum and substance of the conversation that transpired. Then I had no conversations until attenuates.

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