

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 to have some form of organization?
A. Yes, it was sprung on the meeting suddenly.

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 Nanaimo men.

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

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?

A. Yes, I had talked with no one until after 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 general feeling that we ought to be organized, and able to defend ourselves.

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 interested.

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?

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.

Q. Every time you talked to the men when you considered it safe?

A. Yes.

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

A. Yes.

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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 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 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?

A. It might be that.

Q. What do you think about it?

A. Well, I simply think little about it.

Q. 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.

Q. 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?

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.

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