

to pay these back-hands their proper days' compensation he started on company work in preference to digging coal.

Question: Have the contract men room for kicking?

The men whom the company call pushers are actually engaged in loading coal for miners. They are paid by the company right along and have been paid by them ever since the miners have been working under the protested wage list. We know by experience that as soon as the men would accept this scale of 40 cents per ton that they would be required to pay all the back-hands themselves according to the usual custom. There are several reasons why the company have given these miners so much help. It may have been that they wanted to make a big average wage for the miners to get them to accept the wage offered or it may have been to bribe them to work away contented and not to trouble about their less favoured fellows, for they undoubtedly would not leave these men to work as pushers and loaders as soon as the price of 40 cents per ton was established. It has come as a revelation to the miners of this valley that the company are in the business as philanthropists; if not why are these men's wages (loaders and pushers) not deducted from the miner's due bill?

Why did they not deduct \$100 from Ballusky's pay and give it to the back-hands? Why did they not deduct \$150 from Murray's \$143.65 and leave him \$6.35 in the hole? Why did they pay Christopher \$22 more than he had earned and why did they deduct \$39 for back-hand labour instead of \$60 and pay the difference themselves, for Christopher's back-hand statement showed that he received \$60. Again, why was the back-hand's wages deducted from J. Spok? In nine days he earned \$20.40 and \$22.50 was deducted for back-hands. How was it that he was not to enjoy the same privilege as others? Was it because he was not able to put his trouble into good hands or was it because he was not occupying any prominent position in the local union and therefore they did not consider that it was worth the expense to bribe him into quietness? This question we leave to the public decision.

The statements prove conclusively that the net earnings do not show all reasonable deductions since in many cases no back-hand labour is deducted at all. On the point of wages we believe the contract men have just room for "kicking," and we cannot see how we materially weaken our cause by raising this question. The miners at Morrissey were always likely to earn high wages under the objectionable rate for the reason shown. No greedy coal miner expects a larger average than \$4.50 for eight hours' work. As long as the management ignore the union and refuse their officers audience misunderstandings will never be cleared up. The secretary of Gladstone Union and also of the District Board has asked time after time for an audience and were invariably refused.

The union officials, however, have not been idle for the past week. With much labour the January statements have been collected in the three camps and in order to save space the results have been boiled down.

The officials of the union will take an affidavit as to their accuracy before Mr. Tonkin himself. Again you seem to believe that only contract miners are kicking about the wages. This is not the case, but all company men, all outside men and all coke oven men as well. The accompanying list of wages show how these men are paid. In many instances the wage would not be sufficient for a man to live in an Eastern town, much less in the West.

Taking 73 of the Fernie miners' due bills for January after smithing and blasting expenses are deducted we find that 11 men earn \$100 and over, 22 men under \$100 and over \$75, 14 earn under \$75 and over \$60, 25 earn under \$60.

The following is the list of 130 men employed in the Fernie mines at company work, such as shiftmen, trackmen, rope riders, drivers, brattice men, couplers, switch boys, etc.

1	man	earns	\$3.50	per	day.
1	"	"	3.25	"	"
27	men	"	3.00	"	"
6	"	"	2.75	"	"
45	"	"	2.50	"	"
30	"	"	2.00	"	"
13	"	"	1.75	"	"
4	"	"	1.50	"	"
3	"	"	1.00	"	"

The following is a list of coke drawers for January and number of ovens drawn and shifts worked:

Ovens drawn.	Per Oven.	Shifts	Consideration.	Total per month.
57	75c	19		\$42 75
57	75	19		42 75
40	75	19	25c	30 25
57	75	19	50	43 25
57	75	19	75	43 50
57	75	19	\$1 25	44 00
57	75	19		42 75
54	75	18		40 50
50	75	17	1 00	38 50
53	75	17		39 75
6	75	2		4 50
79	75		75	60 00
57	75		25	43 00

The following are coke loaders with number of shifts worked in January, tons loaded and price per ton.

Tons Loaded.	Price Per Ton.	Days Worked.	Total for Month.
319	17c	30	\$54 25
281	17	26	47 75
289	17		49 15
226	17	26	38 40
211	17	25	36 05
226	17	25	38 40
211	17	25	36 05
241	17	24	40 95
274	17		46 55
261	17		44 35
319	17	30	54 20
389	17		49 10