

STATEMENTS OF CONDENSED REPORTS FROM LOCALITIES IN SASKATCHEWAN. PREPARED BY SAS-KATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT FROM REPLIES RECEIVED TO CIRCULAR LETTER OF INQUIRY.

Number of letter.	Locality.	Supply of coal on hand.	Estimate of coal required: (a) to January 1, 1907; (b) for balance of winter.	Prospective supply up to January, 1907.	Remarks.
35	Francis	None	600 tons to January 1. 2000 tons to balance.	500 tons 2 cars weekly.	Situation very serious.
36	Saskatoon	None	700 tons to January 1. 700 tons balance.	No idea.	Situation very serious; farmers resorted to burning fences.
37	Craik	None	8 cars to January 1.	Do not know.	Wood scarce; fuel urgently needed.
38	Bladworth	None	100 tons to January 1.	33 tons.	Matter serious; no prospects of delivery.
39	Churchbridge	10 tons.	1000 tons.	No idea.	
40	Cupar	None	100 tons January 1. 180 tons balance.	No idea.	
41	Rosedale	10 tons.	60 cars.	No idea.	
42	Gainsboro	None	1000 tons.	1 car.	Situation serious; if cold weather comes will be entirely without. Use wood only.
44	Abernethy	1 car.	70 cars to January 1. 100 cars balance.	No idea.	Outlook very serious; will be a lot of suffering if something is not done quickly.
45	Togo	None	70 cars for winter.	No promise.	Outlook very grave.
46	Kimistino	None	1 car a day to end.	No idea.	
47	Davidson	None	160 tons to January 1. 1 car a week after.	Expecting some every day.	
48	Lang	None			
49	Alameda	1 car.			
50	Warman	None			
51	Bladworth	None			Wire stating people suffering right now; not a pound of coal to be had.
52	Davidson	None			People in dire want; farmers coming 75 miles, to go back without fuel.
53	Oaler	None	400 tons to January 1. 300 tons for balance.	100 tons.	Situation serious; great suffering will result if drastic measures not taken immediately.
54	Heward	None			

Immediate Resumption of Work Suggested.

Having these facts before me, and knowing that settlement negotiations under the most favourable circumstances would probably extend over three or four days, believing, moreover, that the cause which had prevented the managing director from coming on to Lethbridge might prolong his absence for some days and would certainly to some extent delay proceedings, I felt that, if at all possible, some means should be devised, whereby work at the mines might be immediately resumed to the fullest extent, settlement negotiations to be subsequently continued without prejudice to the interests of either of the parties. I therefore decided, in view of all the circumstances, and particularly the fact that actual suffering was being occasioned to a large number of families, to suggest to the parties that work be resumed on conditions as they were prior to the commencement of the strike, upon the understanding that an effort should be made to forthwith settle all differences by conciliation, and, failing an adjustment of any points through mutual agreement, the same to be referred to arbitration. I then drafted the following letter, a copy of which I addressed to "The representatives of the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company" and "The representatives of the late employees of the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company at present on strike," respectively.

LETHBRIDGE, ALTA., November 23, 1906.

Sirs:—

I have received this morning from the Saskatchewan Government communications which state that the utmost distress is existing throughout that province on account of an actual coal famine at the present time, and that this distress increases hourly, with the prospect of consequences the most alarming, if immediate relief is not afforded. From the interviews which I have had with representatives of each of the parties to the present dispute and from circumstances which have arisen, it appears to me probable that any settlement which it may be possible to reach will be as a result of negotiations necessarily more or less prolonged.

It seems desirable, therefore, to consider if some means cannot be found whereby, in the public interest and to save families from freezing in their homes, work at the Lethbridge mines cannot be resumed immediately, the parties agreeing to a *modus operandi* which will permit of the differences between them being amicably adjusted without prejudice to the interests of either, and at the same time afford as speedy relief as may be possible to those who are experiencing actual suffering from a continuance of the present dispute.

It would appear that such a *modus operandi* might be arranged were the respective parties to the dispute to agree to refer to arbitration such differences as it may not be possible to adjust by conciliation; pending further conciliation proceedings and a possible arbitration, the Company on its part agreeing to accept the services of the men formerly in its employ so far as the same can be utilized in increasing the output of the mines to their fullest capacity as rapidly as possible; the men on their part agreeing to waive all question of change of conditions until such time as an agreement may be arrived at by conciliation or arbitration, on the understanding that the terms of such agreement shall so far as possible be made to apply in the case of each employee from the date at which such employee may return to work, so that he may have the full benefit of any advantages accruing thereunder as if such agreement had been in force at the time of his returning to the company's service.

I would be obliged if you would kindly inform me at your earliest convenience if such a *modus operandi* would, in view of the great public emergency, be acceptable to you as one of the parties to the present dispute.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. L. MACKENZIE KING,  
Deputy Minister of Labour.

I delivered this letter in person to the committee of the employees and the General Manager of the Company, respectively, explaining at the time of doing so the reasons which had prompted me in taking this step. I also read over to each of the parties the communications which I had received from the Saskatchewan Government, with a view of impressing them with the gravity of the situation, and of enabling them to realise how important it was, in the presence of what threatened to become a national calamity, that the differences which had kept them apart in the past should be forgotten, an immediate understanding come to, which, without prejudice to their respective interests, would afford the relief the public was so earnestly demanding.

Attitude of Parties.

On the evening of the same day I received the following reply from the committee representing the interests of the men:—

LETHBRIDGE, ALTA., November 23, 1906.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING, Esq.,  
Deputy Minister of Labour,  
Lethbridge, Alta.

Dear Sir:—

Acting on behalf of the United Mine Workers of America, to which organization the late employees of the A. R. & I. Co. belong, we desire to answer your communication, and in order to bring to a close the dispute now existing at the Lethbridge, mines, we beg to submit the