

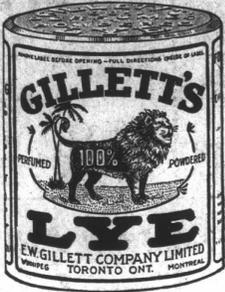
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their leaders they repudiated. It could just as easily have been drawn up last May or last August, as in March of this year. It proves that the men did not and do not need these self-appointed leaders, the paid emissaries of an organization which had never been able to secure for its members the same favorable conditions and wages which the men themselves had obtained here. It establishes the claims of the company that it was ready and willing to meet its employees, and arrange an agreement with them. And above and beyond everything else it demonstrates that the United Mine Workers of America bosses were not necessary to secure a favorable working agreement, but that the local men themselves were fully equal to the occasion.

One particular phase of the agreement deserves special mention. This is the maintenance of harmonious relations between the employees and the company. It is inevitable that minor grievances should develop in the operation of such a large industry as the mines in Nanaimo. It is essential to the smooth working of the mine that these grievances should be investigated and adjusted. In the new agreement provision is made for the management of the company at least once a month. Any complaints laid before them by any of the employees will be taken up with the management and, if possible, adjusted, and suggestions tending to help in the carrying out of the agreement may be advanced and discussed. In this way the probability of any serious discontent developing will be reduced to a minimum, and peace and harmony for the future guaranteed as far as possible. This provision removes the only serious ground of complaint that was ever raised against conditions in Nanaimo, and the agreement concedes material advances in wages which never formed an issue in the present trouble. All these things would have come automatically on the expiration of the old agreement last September. They have all been sacrificed, the men involved in a useless and costly struggle, the city held up and its prosperity impaired, all because of the unscrupulous activity of a few paid emissaries. It ought to be a lasting lesson for the men concerned.

JOE. MULLETT IN DEFENCE.

(Continued from Page 1)

man who drilled two wells at Central Park. These, however, proved to be useless. We also went to the C.P.R. officials and obtained permission to utilize the natural springs on the C.P.R. property in the neighborhood of Forty-ninth avenue and Ontario street. We sank two wells and began to operate them in April 1912. Later we sank other wells there, which altogether have supplied South Vancouver with 720,000 gallons per day.

"There was still a serious shortage of water in the Collingwood district and a delegation waited upon the council, accompanied by Mr. J. Francis Bursill who introduced Mr. Jacob Zimmermann as an expert water locator. Mr. Bursill induced the council to engage Mr. Zimmermann to locate water. This he did on property at the corner of Victoria road and Forty-fourth avenue. He stated that there was a great volume of water there and we bored a well to a depth of 503 feet, under contract, and another well was bored by day labor and our own machine.

"The depth of the Victoria road well was questioned by Mr. Gold. The original depth can readily be ascertained, however, from the men

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THE NEW AGREEMENT.

Once again the Nanaimo mines are being operated under an agreement jointly agreed upon by the Western Fuel Company and its employees. The full text of the agreement appears in the news columns of this issue and Herald readers will be able to acquaint themselves with its provisions. It is undoubtedly a splendid agreement, and a convincing example of collective bargaining. That the men now at work, through their representatives on the miners committee, should have been able to negotiate such a contract is a crushing blow to the pretensions of the few men who caused and directed all the trouble here. The agreement, in some of its provisions, is an advance upon that engineered and secured by the incomparable Farrington for the Jingle Pot mine. Firebosses, shotlighters, company men, pushers and drivers have all received substantial increases, and the wage scale now in existence at No. 1 mine is among the best in the province, and everything being equal, will challenge comparison in the mining fields of the world.

Without dilating upon the terms of the agreement, we would like to emphasize the point that it was negotiated by a committee of local men. It will no doubt be urged by the United Mine Workers leaders that they made such an agreement possible. Previously they have said that they were the only men on earth who could secure such an agreement. They have been shown to fakers so far as this latter claim is concerned, and the former is merely an empty bluff. The lesson of this new agreement is plain enough and now is the time to drive it home. It is that the men could have secured this agreement as long ago as last August. They could have obtained it any time since, and particularly in August. Who is responsible for the delay, the loss of work, the hardships and troubles but the few men who engineered the strike? All the men have to thank these leaders for the time they have lost in a dispute which should never have taken place. At the same time let the men remember that their loss was their leaders gain, that the only persons locally who have benefited from the fight are these same leaders. These bosses brushed aside all necessity for negotiation at the outset just as they squelched every demand for a ballot. They have since vetoed all overtures for negotiations in which they were not the directing hands. If they did eliminate themselves then they lost their grip of their jobs. The men apparently were content to keep them in their jobs rather than look after their own. The bogey with which all this was accomplished was formal recognition of the organization represented by those leaders and in whose pay they were. In other words in holding out for the shadow the men lost the substance. It is to be hoped they will take this lesson to heart. This agreement proves what the men could have obtained by negotiation, which under the advice of

gross profit on the water from the wells amounted to \$82,085. The total cost of drilling was \$20,891, leaving the net profit mentioned.

"A good deal of criticism had been aimed at the Victoria road wells in spite of the fact that during the twelve months from October 31, 1912 to October 22, 1913, they yielded 11,794,600 cubic feet of water, value \$11,749. The cost of operating was \$3608, leaving a net profit of \$8141.

"The C. P. R. wells yielded a gross profit of \$78,105 and a net profit of \$56,784, while the wells at the municipal hall have yielded a net profit of \$17,259 since they were first operated in April 1911, making a total net profit of \$61,193.

"According to a report recently submitted to the council I estimate that, omitting the Victoria road wells, the municipality is deriving an annual net profit from the municipal wells, of \$37,516. These figures were compiled from the daily records of pumpings, and that they are not fictitious figures is, I think, proved by the fact as shown in the annual financial statement, that in 1911 we paid to Vancouver for water \$32,764 and collected \$34,519. Last year we

paid to Vancouver and Burnaby \$17,498 and collected \$80,085 in cash with over \$11,000 water rates outstanding. The number of service in 1911 was 4760 and in 1913, 8822; so that with almost double the number of services we paid \$15,266 less for water and collected \$45,565 more. I think those figures speak for themselves as showing value of the municipal wells which have been so much criticized."

Questioned why he had been discharged, Mr. Mullett, said: "I can not account for my dismissal except on the assumption that in 1911 when we installed 2753 services to dwelling houses I refused to put water mains through Mr. Edward Gold's property on Main street. Mr. Gold claimed at that time that as a ratepayer he was entitled to have the mains put in; but, as I pointed out to the council, we were inundated with applications for water services from residents while upon Mr. Gold's property there were no houses; consequently any money expended in laying mains through the property would be unproductive, possibly for years, where as the municipality would be paying interest on the capital expended."

(Continued on Page 4)

who were present when the tests were made. Those men are all willing to make an affidavit that the depth at that time was 503 feet. Since the wells gave out, sand and gravel naturally accumulated in the bottom, and on the ledges of the 12-inch casing so that it is now quite impossible to ascertain the original depth by the methods employed by the men engaged by the council.

"For a period of ten months the Victoria road wells yielded 200,000 gallons of water a day and the municipality obtained a handsome profit over the cost of operating and drilling. This water, with the great quantity we were obtaining from the C. P. R. springs, ended our troubles so far as supply was concerned and the days of water famine in South Vancouver were over. The tanks at the municipal hall were kept full and no further leaks occurred from the wooden pipes.

"Last year the council made an agreement with Burnaby for a supply of water for the higher levels, but it is unlikely that Burnaby will be able to continue to supply South Vancouver for any great length of time beyond the life of the agreement which was for one year.

"The council had been criticized," continued Mr. Mullett, "for not obtaining water direct from Seymour Creek. The trouble there was that, by the formation of a separate municipality for Point Grey, South Vancouver lost a record of 150 miners inches of water and was left with a record of 150 inches only. This small record did not warrant the council in going to the great expense of putting down a main across the Inlet, and for two years Reeve Kerr and myself tried to get an increase in our record. Last year we succeeded in inducing the provincial authorities to give South Vancouver an additional record of 400 miners inches which were deducted from North Vancouver's record of 800 inches. That additional record is worth very many thousands of dollars to South Vancouver and the council will be justified now in preparing for an independent supply from Seymour Creek or in coming to some agreement with Vancouver for a joint supply.

"In this connection I may say that in laying out the system of mains I have made provision for immediately connecting up either with the Vancouver mains or with a pipe line from Seymour Creek, so that in the event of annexation to the city no difficulty will be experienced in connecting the two systems.

"The people of South Vancouver do not, I think, realize the work and worry which the inauguration of the water system imposed, not only on the employees of the water department but also on the reeve and council. During the early days of the system Reeve Pound and myself worked day and night. It was not unusual for us to put in 18 and 20 hours a day. During the second year we put down steel pipes; but the real cause of the leakages was the empty pipes in the day time.

"To give the ratepayers of South Vancouver an idea of the value of the municipal wells I may say that the wells have yielded a net profit to the municipality over drilling and operating of \$61,193 up to February 15 last. Estimating the value of the water at the same rate as South Vancouver paid to Vancouver City for water, 10 cents per 100 cubic feet, the

gross profit on the water from the wells amounted to \$82,085. The total cost of drilling was \$20,891, leaving the net profit mentioned.

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(Continued on Page 4)

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