

# MR. BRATNOBER TAKES ACTION

At Instance of Miners' Union Ascertains Feeling of New Directorate of Le Roi Mining Co. in Respect to Strike Situation.

Cable Message Informs Him That There Will be no Change of Policy, Nor Any Accession Made to Union's Demands.

LONDON, September 13, 1901.

HENRY BRATNOBER, Rossland, B. C.

In reference to your cable dated the 12th, the Board of Directors have telegraphed MacDonald, assuring him that they have not the slightest intention of changing their policy with regard to the strike and have asked him to take immediate steps to make this public.

[Signed] LE ROI MINING COMPANY.

The foregoing cablegram was received by Mr. Henry Bratnober shortly before 3 o'clock Friday afternoon at the Hotel Allan. It is by far the most important piece of news which the Miner has been enabled to present to the people of Rossland since the beginning of the strike for this reason: it furnishes the most absolute proof that there will be no change in policy, in respect to the conduct of the strike, by the new directorate, under any circumstances.

It is a matter of common knowledge that Mr. Bratnober is one of the most eminent mining engineers on the continent, represents large interests in the Le Roi Mining company and is himself a heavy shareholder. He came here, as is well known, with the object of inquiring into the situation, and it was well understood that his visit might, perhaps, result in important developments.

The circumstances which led up to the receipt of the cable quoted above by Mr. Bratnober are worthy of recitation.

Through the kindness of Governor Mackintosh an opportunity was provided for Mr. Bratnober to interview the executive of the Miners' Union on Thursday evening. The interview was held about 8 o'clock. There were present Mr. Bratnober, Mr. Rupert Bulmer, president of the Rossland Miners' Union, Mr. William L. McDonald, vice-president of the same organization, Frank E. Woodside, secretary, and the other members of the executive. The situation in Rossland as it exists at the present time was discussed in all its phases, and Mr. Bratnober evinced a disposition to listen with a friendly ear to the representations made by the deputation. Requesting some definite proposition to be made, the deputation submitted the following proposition to Mr. Bratnober:

1—Blacksmiths' helpers, who are now getting \$3 should be paid \$3.50 with a reduction of one hour, making their

day's work nine hours instead of ten as at present.

2—Muckers should be paid \$3 instead of \$2.50 as at present.

3—There should be no discrimination between union men and non-union men.

4—The secretary of the union should be given the privilege to meet the men on the company's grounds when off shift.

5—Carpenters, who now work nine hours, should only work eight.

In response to this proposal Mr. Bratnober expressed the opinion that he did not think there was a likelihood of there being any change in the policy of the new directorate in respect to the management of the mines as it is at present, but said that he would, of course, apprise the directorate of the feeling of the committee upon the matter and acquaint the latter immediately with the decision communicated to him.

The interview ended very pleasantly and the members of the deputation withdrew.

In response to the cable message from Mr. Bratnober informing the directorate of the demands of the union, Mr. Bratnober received the message which appears at the head of this article. Immediately on receipt of this, carrying out his promise of the previous evening, he took steps to notify the officials of the union of the circumstances. A messenger boy being requisitioned, Mr. Frank E. Woodside, secretary of the Miners' Union, was hunted up and went to Mr. Bratnober's room. Mr. Bratnober submitted to him a translation of the code message which he had received, and suggested that if there was any doubt in his visitor's mind as to the accuracy of the translation that he, himself, Mr. Woodside, might undertake the translation of it, Mr. Bratnober providing him with the original message and the code book. Mr. Woodside did not think it necessary to question the authenticity of the translated cablegram and remarked:

"This is bad news for us. We have spent a great deal of money in this mat-

ter. I guess now it is a fight to a finish."

Mr. Woodside alluding to Mr. Frecheville's visit, Mr. Bratnober remarked to him that he could hold out very little hope that Mr. Frecheville's coming here would result in any change of the policy announced by the company.

Mr. Woodside left considerably disheartened.

It will be noted that it is stated in the cablegram to Mr. Bratnober that the directors say: "Have asked him (MacDonald) to take immediate steps to make this public."

On receiving a copy of the cable from Mr. Bratnober a representative of the Miner called on Mr. Bernard MacDonald, general manager of the Le Roi Mining Company, Limited, at the company's office. When shown a copy of Mr. Bratnober's cable, Mr. MacDonald acknowledged receipt, within the last hour, of a cable from the directors in London, instructing him to make public the policy of the company with regard to the strike, as per Mr. Bratnober's request.

Mr. MacDonald then handed the following signed statement to the Miner representative and requested that it be published.

MR. MACDONALD'S STATEMENT.

To the Public:

As requested by the Board of Directors today, I wish to state that all letters and cables received by me from the Directors of the Le Roi Mining Company, Limited, referring to the strike declared by the Rossland Miners' Union, have, without any exception, instructed me to make no concessions to the demands of the Miners' Union, they having endorsed the policy already adopted by me in this respect under previous instructions.

BERNARD MACDONALD

It became known during the afternoon that Mr. Bratnober had received the important instructions which we print, and everywhere throughout the community there was a feeling that the news would result in a speedy collapse of the strike.

Saturday evening last, September 14th, we were met by several members of the Miners' Union who got into conversation with myself and the man who had been working with me and conversed very freely with us about our working conditions at the job of unloading these cars. In the course of the talk made by him, he would not work any longer with me. He would not work any longer with me.

6. That I am a member in good standing of the Salvation Army, Rossland, and have been such member for over two years past and my wife is likewise a member of the Salvation Army. That yesterday morning Captain Lacey of the Salvation Army told me before wife that he wanted to see me before the Army went out on their march. That thereupon I went to the Salvation Army barracks about two o'clock and was told by the said Captain Lacey that Frank Woodside, the secretary of the Miners' Union, had been down to see him and told him (Lacey) that if Irvine (meaning me, this deponent) was I was withdrawing and quit the Army, as I was very prominent in carrying the Miners' colors on the march, "that the Miners' Union would have Irvine was scabbing."

7. That in consequence of this intimation from the said Captain Lacey I did not parade with the Salvation Army, and I am now debarred from my connection with the said Salvation Army in consequence of the action of the said Woodside.

8. That under the contract I had with Mr. Brown I was making a wage run along over \$3 per day, but in consequence of my being boycotted by the union as aforesaid I fear I will be unable to secure the necessary help to enable me to carry out my said contract, thus throwing me out of honest employment of which I am much in need. That I am not a member of the Miners' Union,

nor was the man who was working with me.

9. That the men I had employed to work with me expressed themselves as willing and anxious to work, two of them being men with families to support, but in consequence of the action of the Miners' Union they are afraid to go to work.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

A. S. IRVINE.  
Declared before me at the city of Rossland, province of British Columbia, this 16th day of September, A.D., 1901.

T. MAYNE DALY,  
A Notary Public.

The facts in connection with the unloading of the timber referred to in the foregoing document is that the lumber in question is not the property of the Le Roi companies. It is, of course, intended for the companies' use, but is not now the companies' property and may not become the property of the companies for several months. The timber was supplied on a contract, and as a convenience to the contractors the material is delivered near the companies' premises, but does not become the companies' property until delivery is accepted, which may be weeks hence. The material is being unloaded on the property of the Red Mountain railroad, and the agreement for the unloading of the cars was made by the transportation company's agent in this city. It must therefore be apparent to all that the agitators have now embarked on a policy that threatens, if successful, to ruin business throughout the city. Of course the policy will not be successful, and it will merely act as a boomerang to the discomfiture of the men who evolved the original idea.

Applying the same principle to other lines of business, it is evident that the grocer who delivers supplies to the Le Roi boarding houses must be eligible for attention at the hands of the agitators. The dealer who supplies hay and oats for the Le Roi teams is to be boycotted. The machine agent who sells drills and steel to the mines will go on the blacklist, and the men who convey the goods in each case will secure an honored position on the agitators' book of the bad. All of which must be pleasant food for thought on the part of business men.

Last night the affidavit made by Mr. Irvine was shown to Captain Lacey, local commandant of the Salvation Army corps. After perusing it carefully he remarked that Soldier Irvine had misunderstood him inasmuch as his order to Irvine had been that he should "lay aside" from the corps, or "lay aside" from the work, retire temporarily from the work. Further, Captain Lacey suggested some correction in the words attributed to Secretary Woodside. He stated that he believed the union men would boycott the Army if Soldier Irvine had not been "laid aside" and that in taking the action he had only in mind the best interests of the corps.

The whole matter had been referred to the District Officer, Major Hargreaves, and a final disposition of the case would await a reply from the Spokane official. He strongly deprecated the action of the men who had hissed the Army lasses on Saturday and in other ways interfered with the corps in its work of self-sacrifice and love.

## HEARD IN THE CITY

KEEN LOCAL INTEREST IN THE

SORROWFUL NEWS FROM

BUFFALO.

REGRET FOR THE SAD EVENT—

EXECUTION FOR THE

MURDERER.

The alarming reports which commenced arriving in the city early yesterday morning as to the condition of President McKinley created widespread interest among citizens, and as the day wore on this feeling increased until something approaching excitement prevailed.

The latter sentiment was manifested toward 6 o'clock last evening after the premature report of the president's demise had been bulletined at the Western Union telegraph office, while the reports over the C. P. R. wires indicated that the situation at Milburn house in Buffalo was rapidly approaching a crisis.

Early in the morning the first false report of the president's death arrived, and most of the flags in the city were hoisted at half-mast. When it was demonstrated that the report was incorrect the flags were run up mast high, but the later premature report dated 5:40 p.m. caused the Bank of Montreal and other business houses to again display the sign of public mourning. Had the distinguished dead been connected with the British Royal family the action of the citizens of Rossland could not have been more prompt in the matter of displaying regret.

The United States consular agency flag was not hoisted during the day. John Jackson, jr., consular agent, was in Spokane for the day, and J. C. Murray acted as his deputy. Mr. Murray was prepared to display the stars and stripes at half mast immediately on receipt of authentic news as to the death of the president, and spent much of the afternoon at the telegraph office receiving reports from Milburn house.

Reports of the president's condition were received in quick succession at the C. P. R. telegraph office, and were bulletined in quick succession as rapidly as they arrived. A couple of score of citizens surrounding the bulletin board constantly during the afternoon, and the incoming messages were eagerly perused. The incidents of the terrible tragedy were rehearsed and discussed with feeling. It was agreed that the man fate seemed sufficient for the man whose treacherous hand had struck down the executive head of the great republic to the south, while the revered president was in the act of extending the hand of friendship. Anarchy with all its attendant ills came in for a vigorous scoring at the hands of the loyal citizens of Rossland, who deplore to man the untimely fate that has brought grief to their American cousins.

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## FREE OF AGITATION

CONDITIONS MUCH IMPROVED

IN THE COEUR D'ALENE

REGION.

A CONTRAST WITH THE DAYS

WHEN THE UNIONS HELD

CONTROL.

Among the agitators' favorite arguments in soliciting public sympathy, is that a non-union crew of miners in the big mines of Rossland will spell ruin for merchants and business people generally. The inference is, that men belonging to unions spend their wages more freely than others; that they are more efficient workmen; by reason of having their names entered upon the union's membership rolls, and that all other men hoard money, refuse to do business with the business element and are indifferent miners. In presenting this argument, the agitators have advanced no logical reason why their statements should be accepted at par value, but it is possible that constant iteration by these loafers has won for the manifestly illogical and unfair presentation of the case a certain following. For the benefit of readers generally, the Miner reproduces an article from the Wardner (Idaho) News of the 14th inst., which will appeal to everyone as containing solid common sense and in describing the results in the Coeur d'Alene after eighteen months experience with non-union labor it refutes the silly contentions of the local agitators. The article is as follows:

Now that the strikers at Northport and Rossland are about to lose their fight, if, indeed, they have not already lost it, they are making all sorts of ridiculous claims, among which is that the mines cannot be operated by what they term "scab" labor; which includes all men who do not belong to some one of the unions controlled by the Western Federation of Miners.

The whole Coeur d'Alene country stands today as a living refutation of this silly boast. The mines of this region were never operated so satisfactorily and so cheaply as they are now, and have been for the past eighteen months, despite the gloomy predictions of the "official organ" that the mines would soon be a shapeless ruin, where a miner would be compelled to carry his life in his hand whenever he went underground, and that the mine owners would have to reinstate the union men or close down their mines. The great danger to life from the employment of "inexpensive scabs" was ever a favorite theme with the displaced and disappointed unionists, who, having by their overt acts deprived themselves of employment, took a vicious but futile satisfaction in the exercise of their jaws.

Since the last riot, that of April 29th, 1899, the mines have been operated almost exclusively by non-union labor and the result has been most gratifying in every respect, not less to the general public than to the mine owners themselves. The efficiency of the miners employed, while receiving rather higher wages on an average than before the last riot, has resulted in a larger output in the mines in all cases, save where the production has been curtailed for lack of a market, and the percentage of mining accidents has been greatly reduced, particularly in the mines at Wardner, where the News professes a better acquaintance than with the mines at Millard and on Canyon creek. As far as the general public is concerned the change has been highly gratifying. The superintendent and foremen of the mines have not been run out of the state as they were during the old regime, and union boycotters have not gone from house to house telling people with whom they shall trade and with whom

they shall not. Then scarcely a week passed that someone was not run out of one or more of the Coeur d'Alene mining camps; now such a thing is never thought of. By this change alone peace and quietude has been fully restored, let us hope forever, to a district whose crimes rendered it a by-word throughout the United States.

The increased efficiency of the non-union miners is not difficult to account for. When the unions had control here they practically had charge of the hiring of all the men. Those who refused to join the unions, or were distasteful to them for any reason, were ordered out, and if they did not promptly obey this arbitrary behest, the official organ of the miners' union has itself admitted, "the union detectives donned their masks and shouldered their guns and took them out."

Under union rule the only test of competency was whether or not the miner possessed a union card. An absolute novice changed at once into a skilled miner the instant that he took the oath of allegiance and signed the card of faith. To such an extent was this idea carried that all men who went underground should be paid the same rate of wages, and this inconsistency has been the cause of much of the disorder and crime that cursed this rich mining district in past years.

However incompetent a miner might be his position was secure if he was "a good union man." His card gave him a license to shirk and idle the time away if he felt so disposed. In more than one mine in this region the men on the street, where they did not work over two or three hours a shift, seemed to elevate them in the estimation of their fellows. Instead of honestly trying to earn their wages many of them tried to do just as little as they could. Only a few weeks before the last union outbreak a mine superintendent sat in this office and stated that the union had instructed him to place two men at work who had been with the request, adding, "If I had not done so they might have run me out of the state, as they have treated superintendents before." No better proof of the existence of this condition can be given than the well known fact of the brutal murder of Fred D. Whitney, by "union detectives," on the night of December 23rd, 1897, because, in his official capacity as foreman of the Helena-Prieco concentration, he had discharged two union workmen for incompetency.

It is different now, however. Instead of a miner carrying with him a license for incompetency he now goes to work solely on his merits and retains his job by his skill and industry alone. This plan insures the best men in the community in any community, and this is the very reason that such efficient miners are now found in every mining camp in the Coeur d'Alene.

## AWAY WITH CATARRH

IT'S LOATHSOME, IT'S DISGUSTING.

Instant Relief and Permanent Cure Secured by the Use of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder.

Here's strong evidence of the quickness and sureness of that wonderful remedy, Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder: "For years I was a victim of chronic Catarrh—tried many remedies but no cure was effected until I procured and used Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. First application gave me instant relief and in an incredibly short while I was absolutely cured."—James Headley, Dundee, N. Y. C. Sold by Goodbye Bros.

Governor Mackintosh left yesterday for Halcyn Springs.

Miss Bessie Davis left yesterday for Seattle.

## PUSH THE BOYCOTT

EVEN THE SALVATION ARMY

DOES NOT ESCAPE THE

AGITATOR.

BECAUSE A SOLDIER UNDER-

TAKES TO DO HONEST

WORK.

And now the Salvation Army has been singled out to receive the attention of the element that is striving to continue strife and turmoil in Rossland. To the average person it would seem as though the organization that devotes itself so assiduously to advancing the work of the Master might be left to enjoy what measure of success it might attain without the interference of the agitator, but this is apparently not to be.

On Saturday evening the Salvation Army was boycotted on the streets of Rossland. The collection, usually amounting to several dollars, dwindled to a beggarly thirty-five cents. The to a beggarly thirty-five cents. The young women who sell the War Cry about the streets were vigorously hissed, and one of them, according to Captain Lacey, was somewhat roughly handled by a man who told her the Salvation Army were "scabs" or words to that effect. Furthermore the usual Saturday evening meeting was boycotted. Robbed of every other weapon, the rabid agitators hiss girls and boycott religious bodies, at the same time appealing with uplifted hands to the great public for sympathy that they are at peace and prosperity that they are at tempting to wage. Is it surprising that decent people are overjoyed at the defeat of such an element?

The Miner has the key to Saturday's outrage on a collection of men and women whose work in the community