

the composition of its membership, the decision of the members will be as time goes on recognized as a just and proper one.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Kirkland Lake, Ont.

July 14, 1919.

The Editor,

The "Northern Miner."

Dear Sir,—

A lengthy and entirely misleading statement has recently appeared in the press purporting to put forward the miner's side of the Kirkland Lake strike, and as the actual facts have never been published, I am directed to lay these before you and correct some of the erroneous statements referred to in the public interest. Many hard working and contented men earning good wages have been victimized by the tyranny of the local union and are suffering in common with the whole mining industry on this new and promising gold field; it is no doubt in an endeavour to placate these victims who are showing signs of active opposition to the extreme agitators who engineered this ill-starred strike.

The statement referred to says in effect:—

(1) That the state of unrest was caused by the increased cost of living—the fact is that the vast majority of the men were boarded and housed for \$1.00 per day by the Companies regardless of the cost of commodities; and Union officials specifically stated that "Recognition of the Union" was the real bone of contention. Wages, so far as remaining stationary as alleged, showed a continuous rising tendency.

(2) That the District Union endorsed the wage scale demanded by the Local Union. Did the District Union, however, endorse the demand for Saturday afternoon holidays with full pay; the discharge of all non-union men; \$135.00 a month and room and board for cooks; and the other demands of which no mention is made?

(3) That the recent meeting was unanimous to go back to work—(if and when it can be provided, it should have added)—pending the award of a Board of Conciliation, and expressed its willingness to abide by the decision of the Board—This meeting was a frame-up as the result of a meeting held just beforehand in the Union Hall. The proviso is carefully suppressed, "That the decision of such a Board must however be unanimous," or in other words in agreement with the Union nominee on the Board; in fact a pure farce..

(4) That the men are taking a firm stand not to accept anything but the wages demanded by them—If this is true it is no wonder that they made the proviso (suppressed), in the previous paragraph, but the fact is that numbers of men would gladly go back to work if there was any going; meanwhile many are working on the road at much less than they earned at the mines.

(5) That the men are always willing to negotiate—their whole statement shows that the Mine Managers have always been perfectly willing to negotiate too with their own men collectively. The manager will not, however, negotiate with a Union which is definitely proved to have Bolshevik influence back of it.

(6) That any mines working are doing so with the full sanction of the Union—this is wholly untrue, and we defy the Union to name any such mine in Kirkland Lake.

The simple facts are that this strike has been brought about by a number of men, many of whom are notorious agitators and draft-evaders, by the preaching of rank treason, rebellion, revolution, and sedition and terrorism of the most pernicious kind, which prevents men who want to earn decent livings from doing so. Some samples of the printed literature posted up in a mine building will give some idea though a very slender one, of what kind of poison has been at work—"The New Morality" says, "Damn interest, Damn rent, Damn profits, Damn agreements. 'We've damned well enough to do to look after ourselves and families.

"The power must be taken out of the policeman's club.

"How? Anyhow.

"Why? Because it hurts our class and is therefore immoral.

"The guns mustn't point our way if they aren't spiked, because they are liable to go off and hurt us, and that would be immoral. So we must spike the guns or turn them around.

"Strike when the boss has a big order which he must fulfil. It will hurt him more and us less, and that is moral. Tie up the industries in town, all the industries in all the towns, in the whole country, or in the whole world if necessary."

Bolshevik influence is at the head of the local Union, and we defy the Union to deny it. that is a deliberate statement and we hold the proof. It has proved that it is uncontrolled by the Headquarters of the Union by its action in calling this admittedly illegal strike which has entailed heavy loss on the whole community, and the mines will certainly not attempt to restart operations until the issue has been disposed of as to whether Bolshevism or decently organized and controlled labor is to hold sway in the field.

Yours truly,

KIRKLAND LAKE MINE MANAGERS
ASSOCIATION.

J. E. Grant, Secretary.

HIS MAJESTY THE MINER.

How is his majesty, the coal miner, this morning? Most fervently do we hope that he slept well and awakened kindly disposed towards his humble subjects, the people of the Commonwealth. To him we make obeisance, and express the hope that he spent an enjoyable week-end—that he had a good day at the races, that he was lucky at his fishing, his cards, and his love-making; that his vegetable garden flourished, that his fowls laid many eggs, and that the beer was good; in short, that he rejoiced in whatever he did. His majesty, the coal miner, has made his periodical toll upon his subjects, and we loyally, and resignedly, proceed to pay it at the behest of the Government through which his majesty rules the people. We, therefore, trust that his majesty is now in a contented frame of mind, that he shows no signs of unrest, lest he should make a further toll upon his subjects. His well-being is of so much importance that everything we can do to promote it will be done right willingly.—The "Australasian" by way of Rossland "Saturday Night Miner."