

was as orderly and as peaceable as any community could be. A few pickets were placed on the streets leading to the mine, the fire-bosses were allowed to go to their work as usual. Some irritation was felt, however, because of unfair articles appearing in the columns of one of the local newspapers. At South Wellington and Extension there was more irritation caused by a few strike-breakers brought in by the companies operating the mines at these places. No trouble, however, occurred.

On the 11th August, the Western Fuel Co., owning the mines at Nanaimo, endeavored to introduce strike-breakers into the mine and resume operations. For several days the under bosses had been soliciting workmen from among the members of the union and from the few men who had not joined the union to return to work. The company hoped in this way to defeat the object of the union and break up the strike. At this time some 1,200 men were members of the organization which included all but a few of the company's employees. This change of affairs naturally created excitement among the men. Heretofore they had been picketing on a small scale but on the morning of the 11th a vast number of men turned out to endeavor by every lawful means to defeat the attempt of the company to break up their union and eventually bring them into subjection. Picketing was considered legal both by the authorities and by the men at this time. The strikers arranged themselves along the streets leading to the mine to endeavor to persuade their fellow workmen from going to work. In a few minutes eleven men appeared escorted by the bosses who had persuaded them to return to work. Some of the men had been told that at least 200 men would go to work