

New Westminster, B.C., Feb. 11.—Fourteen miners who had been convicted in connection with the riot troubles at Nanaimo, were this morning allowed out on suspended sentence by Mr. Justice Morrison, the trial judge. The fourteen, including 'Big Louis' Nuentha, who was also allowed out on his own recognizance of \$1,000 in respect to another charge not yet heard. The other thirteen were Mike Linan, Mike Metro, George Metro, F. McKinnon, T. H. Rogers, J. Stewart, F. Alsop, R. Wallace, J. D. Robinson, M. Mati, J. Hall, D. Purse and J. D. Ross.

The judge, Mr. Justice Morrison, an appointee of the late Government, a very estimable man and a sound judge, said:

That these men did not belong at all to the criminal class, but that they had been betrayed into their present dilemma by designing agencies whose machinations they had been unable to resist. His Lordship advised them to go home and be peaceful citizens.

I cite that to show the view that Mr. Justice Morrison held, and that supports the view, which I have already enunciated, that there were designing men who went in there for a purpose, and that at the head of them was Mr. Frank Farrington, special agent of the United Mine Workers of America. This Mr. Farrington has published in the United Mine Workers Journal of March 27, 1913, a statement from which I propose to read a few extracts in order to show the mind that Mr. Farrington had in regard to the coal interests that he intended to exploit. This is what he says:

Much of the coal is mined by Chinese and Japanese workmen, and all of it is mined under non-union conditions, and is used for coaling vessels plying between the trans-Pacific trade, but the bulk of it is shipped through the straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca into the markets of British Columbia, Alaska, Mexico, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle, in competition with the union-mined coal of Washington and eastern British Columbia.

Hon. members will note the stress that Mr. Farrington puts upon the competition idea, Canadian coal against American coal in the markets of San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. (Reading):

An idea of the advantage this coal has in the markets of the Pacific coast will be gained from the knowledge that union-mined coal produced in the Roslyn-Cle Elum field of Washington, has been entirely excluded from the local Seattle market because it cannot be transported over the Cascade mountains and meet the competition of Vancouver Island coal.

Why would not the United Mine Workers' agent go in to disrupt the Canadian workingmen and to protect the coal interests of the United States at the same time?

His motive is quite transparent. He puts it himself in these very words:

Again, Oregon with Portland as its chief base of distribution received almost all of its coal supply from the same source. Coming, as it does, down the coast, and entering the Columbia river at Fort Stevens, whence it reaches Portland and is sold at a price that prohibits competition from the adjoining state of Washington.

I commend this particularly to the attention of the hon. member for Maisonneuve. He could not bear to see the Canadian coal miner working, and so he went in where there was no sign of a strike, with a view of causing trouble, in order to benefit the American workman and the American mine-owner. Yet we find on the floor of this House a representative of labour supporting that sort of thing against his brother workmen in the coal mines of this country. (Reading):

And this notwithstanding there is an import duty of 45 cents per ton on coal coming from the island into the United States.

Underselling them in spite of the duty. Then, a little further on, he said:

Already this rich source of supply is tapped by many mines in process of development, so as to be ready for the opening of the Panama canal, which will undoubtedly in the near future make this territory one of the greatest coal producing centres on the American continent. It is anticipated that with the opening of the canal myriads of alien workers from European countries will be induced to enter British Columbia via Vancouver city and Victoria, the natural ports of entry into this new field of labour.

They do not want the workers from any other country coming in to work the Canadian mines. They would rather see the mines shut up; and they even went so far as to shut up and prevent from working the mines that were already open, as I have stated.

That their efforts will result in multitudes of workers migrating into British Columbia is not doubted. Much of this foreign labour will be used to develop these rich mining properties and will create a tremendous tonnage that must find a market. These mines are located so that the output can be dumped from the tippie into ocean-going vessels, and with the long haul around the Horn eliminated, can be freighted without transfer from the mines to the Atlantic seaboard at a transportation cost that will allow it to become a strong competing factor in the markets now supplied by the union-mined coal of the eastern States.

So we have it: they fear the competition of Canadian coal against the coal even of the eastern states.

So that it is not beyond reasonable conjecture to expect that within a comparatively short