

food meagre and poor; brought to and fro from the jail to the court house by armed soldiers and special police; manacled by handcuffs when brought to and fro from Victoria; confined eight or nine weeks before trial, such is the treatment accorded them by British Columbia justice. Contrast this with the treatment given by the Government to the strike-breakers. They have had full liberty, properly housed and fed and cared for in every way. These are the transients of many nations, while the strikers are citizens of the city and district.

Since then the authorities have manifested a mania for making arrests. Men have been arrested on the most doubtful and trivial charges of intimidation and picketing. Many of these charges have not been sustained, yet the victims of this tyranny must go to jail whether innocent or guilty. The result is a general breakdown of all regard for British law or justice. As far as the miner can see the law and the administration of law exists solely for the protection and help of the mining companies. All loyalty to the state must vanish when it is recognized that the state does not stand for justice or fair play.

It is apparent that the authorities are more concerned for the welfare of the coal companies than they are for the welfare of the miner. If unionism is a good thing for the professional men, business men, clerks and the more skilled artisans, why is it not a good thing for the miner? His occupation is one of the most dangerous and arduous in existence. Covered with grime he must work 600 or 700 feet underground, in some cases far out under the sea, in semi-darkness, in extreme humidity, breathing coal dust and smoke, in constant danger, yet his product is one of the great necessities of civilization. Therefore