

CONDEMNATION OF THE MINERS' STRIKE

W. L. MacKenzie King, Deputy Minister of Labor, Makes His Report to His Superior Officer at Ottawa.

Declares That Union Executive Refused Him Opportunity to Explain Result of His Investigation.

The following report in regard to the Rossland miners' strike appears in the December issue of the Labor Gazette: On the 31st of October, the following telegram was received at the Department of Labor: Rossland, B. C., Oct. 30, 1901. W. L. M. KING, Labor Department, Ottawa, Ont.— We request your presence in Rossland to act under Conciliation Act, 1900, to investigate and adjust strike here at the mines. Executive Committee Rossland Miners' Union, F. E. WOODSIDE, Secretary.

Acting under instructions from the Honorable the Minister of Labor, the deputy minister left for Rossland on the 2nd of the following month, arriving in that city on the evening of the 9th. The days immediately following were spent in interviewing the members of the executive committee of the Rossland Miners' Union and other members of the union, the managers of the mining companies affected, executive officers of District Association No. 6 of the Western Federation of Miners, professional and business men in the city of Rossland, and other persons. The mines were also visited. This investigation conducted in this manner was made with a view of ascertaining the exact situation at the time, and of obtaining full particulars in reference to the strike, both as to the causes which had brought about the results.

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"It shall be unlawful for any union to enter upon a strike unless ordered by three-fourths of its resident members in good standing, which shall be decided by a secret ballot, and on approval of the executive board of the Western Federation of Miners, who shall have 15 days' notice to consider the proposed change in working time or wages advocated by the union. Should any employer or employers attack the rights of the members of a union or its established principles without allowing the union sufficient time to notify the executive board of the proposed change, then the members shall have the right to declare a strike to maintain their rights.

In this they shall be assisted by the executive board. Any emergency arising, the executive board may temporarily annul the 15 days' provision of this section; provided such action will be to the best interest of the union." The 4th of July was the day on which a secret ballot was taken to decide whether or not a strike should be declared at the Rossland mines, and according to the statement of the executive officers of the Rossland union, there were between 700 and 900 resident members in good standing in the Rossland union upon that date. According to their statement also, the vote was taken at a meeting of the union that took place at 10:30 p. m. on the evening of Wednesday, July 3, that it was decided that a vote should be taken on the following day, to decide whether a strike should or should not be declared for an increase in the wages of muckers from \$2.50 to \$3 per day. Reports differ as to the number of members who were present at this meeting, but those who were present agree in their statements that the number was not large, and that so far as the muckers were concerned only a few of their number were present. Reports differ also as to the hour at which the union had arrived at its decision to take a vote on the question of a strike on the following day. The hour for meeting was 7 p. m., and some of the officers state that by 8 o'clock a decision had been reached. The same officers state that within half an hour after wards handbills were printed, giving notice of the ballot to be taken, and that these notices were posted about the union in conspicuous places. They announced that the voting would begin on the morning of July 4, and that the polls would be closed at 3 o'clock on the night of that day. It was known at the time that the 4th of July would be observed as a holiday among the miners in Rossland.

The ballot was given by the officers in the morning of July 4, and that 354 votes were cast, and that there were 35 votes in excess of the three-quarters required in favor of declaring a strike. This vote, the officers declared, justified the declaring of a strike under section 1 of article 5 of the constitution, which states that "it shall be unlawful for any union to enter upon a strike unless ordered by three-fourths of its resident members in good standing." The constitution also requires "that the decision given by secret ballot must obtain the approval of the executive board of the Western Federation of Miners, who shall have 15 days' notice to consider the changes proposed to working time or wages advocated by the union." The strike was, however, declared on the 11th of July, and the giving of seven days' notice, instead of 15, was explained on the ground of emergency, another clause in the same article providing that an emergency arising, the executive board may temporarily annul the 15-day provision of the section, providing such action were in the best interest of the union.

The executive of the Rossland Miners' Union contend that there was nothing irregular in the manner in which the strike was declared; that the letter of the constitution was followed, and that the extreme urgency of the situation might account for any apparent haste or secrecy in the proceedings. They also allege that this method of proceeding was necessary because of devices on the part of employers to discover what was transpiring in the union. Several members of the union state that at the time they had no knowledge whatever that the union had decided to vote on the matter of a strike, or that such vote was being taken on the day it was. They further state that not very long before a vote had been taken on the same question, and the decision which had been reached was against the strike. Asked as to whether or not the strike at Rossland would have been declared had there been no strike at Northport, the committee stated that the strike existing at Northport was doubtless a cause of the immediate action at Rossland, but that the union had had grievances for some time past, which were of such a nature as to justify the strike, and that to have waited until a settlement could be arranged at Northport would have been to aggravate their own position. Asked as to whether the increase in the wages of muckers was the real cause of the strike, they replied that it was one cause; that the union had communicated with the companies some time previously, asking the increase, but that their communication had not been acknowledged, and that consequently it was not necessary to again notify the companies or to make another demand to this end before declaring a strike. The demand for an increase in the wages of muckers was made the immediate cause of the strike. The strike would, however, probably

not have taken place at the time it did on this ground alone, had it not been that for a long time past the union had reason to believe that the mining companies had decided to break up the organization, if possible, and that the miners to continue working at Rossland when a strike was on at Northport, would have meant strengthening the hands of the companies in their alleged purpose of causing the breaking up of the union. To continue working at the Le Roi mines with the smelter closed, meant an increase in the amount of ore at the smelter, and that the miners given the company opportunity to close up its mines for a time, until the smelter had overtaken the excessive output. In brief, there appears to have been three causes of the strike in Rossland: (1) the assistance, by a sympathetic strike, of the members of the union at Northport, who went on strike some time previous; (2) the settlement of the demand for an increase in the wages of muckers from \$2.50 to \$3 per day in Rossland; and (3) to end future discrimination by the company against members of the union. Of the three, the last, namely, discrimination, was, probably the most important cause, it having been a real aggravation to the union for some time past. When the strike was declared on July 11, over 1,000 men in all were called out, including not only the employees of the Le Roi mines, but all classes of employees about the several mines in Rossland. The members included the employees of the Le Roi mines Nos. 1 and 2, the employees of the War Eagle and Centre Star mines, and the employees of the remaining properties in the city. Immediately after the strike was declared these properties were closed entirely, and remained closed for some time. The companies from the outset stated that they were not in a position to grant the increase demanded. But they did not hesitate to state that they were unwilling to recognize the union as a condition of employment that the men should not belong to a union if they so desired, but they refused to deal with the officers of the union as representing all the men in their employ. Several attempts were made by representatives and individual persons to effect a settlement after the strike commenced, but these were without avail. The Le Roi mines began as soon as possible to fill the places of those who had gone on strike, leaving it open to the strikers to make application for employment whenever they desired, and accepting applications from others as well. The management of the War Eagle and Centre Star companies decided to keep the mines closed for some time, although after the strike had been in continuance for some time, the management claimed that should they so desire they could obtain sufficient help to recommence operations successfully.

When I arrived at Rossland the Le Roi mines Nos. 1 and 2 were working, and the management claimed to be employed by 500 and 600 men employed. According to the statement of the executive officers of the union, there were only one or two hundred of the strikers still at Rossland. The others had left to secure either temporary or permanent employment on other parts of Canada or the United States. The union officers claimed that while it was true that several men were employed at the Le Roi mines, they were nevertheless for the most part inefficient, being new and unskilled hands, and that the companies would not find it profitable to continue them in their employ. After interviewing the mine managers, I asked for a statement of their position, which was given in writing. The following are copies of the communications received: Rossland, Nov. 11, 1901. Dear Sir—As to our position on the matters discussed at our interview today, we beg to state that our mines are satisfied with the hours of labor and the wages paid, and are working peacefully. And there is no reason why this condition should not continue. In view of these facts, we feel that it is useless to discuss a past condition of affairs which no longer concerns us. Yours sincerely, (Signed) Le Roi Mining Co., Limited, By R. J. FRECHVILLE, Managing Director. The Le Roi No. 2, Limited, By BERNARD MACDONALD, General Manager.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING, Esq., Deputy Minister of Labor, Rossland, B. C., Nov. 11, 1901. Dear Sir—As to our position on the matters discussed at our interview today, we beg to state that there is at present an abundant supply of labor, and we are now anxious to operate our mines whenever we desire to do so. We therefore feel that it is useless to discuss a past condition of affairs which no longer concerns us. Respectfully yours, (Signed) The War Eagle Consolidated M. & D. Co., Limited, By E. B. KIRBY, Manager. Centre Star Mining Co., Limited, By E. B. KIRBY, Manager.

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W. L. MACKENZIE KING, Esq., Deputy Minister of Labor, Rossland, B. C. On receipt of the above communications, I submitted them to the executive officers of the Rossland union, and after discussing the situation with them I ASKED THAT A MEETING OF THE UNION MIGHT BE CALLED, AT WHICH I MIGHT READ THESE COMMUNICATIONS AND MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SITUATION. THIS THE COMMITTEE WAS UNWILLING TO GRANT. I OFFERED TO PUT WHAT I HAD TO SAY IN WRITING, AND TO READ TO THE UNION ONLY THE WRITTEN STATEMENT AFTER IT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THEM FOR THEIR APPROVAL. THEY WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, CONSENT TO THIS. I SUBSEQUENTLY, AT THE REQUEST OF THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE, SAW ONE OF THE OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, TO WHICH THE LOCAL UNION IS SUBORDINATE, AND ASKED AS I HAD ASKED THE EXECUTIVE OF THE LOCAL UNION, WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD BE WILLING FOR THE LOCAL UNION TO TAKE A VOTE ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE STRIKE SHOULD BE CONTINUED. THIS, HE SAID, COULD NOT BE ALLOWED. He suggested that to declare the strike at all, without having received some definite acknowledgment from the mining companies, as to what they were prepared to do in the matter of considering the increase demanded in the wages of muckers, would be to leave in a precarious position the interests of the miners in other mines in British Columbia, and that, consequently, if necessary, the strike would have to be perpetuated indefinitely.

The exact position of affairs in Rossland will accordingly be seen from the statements of the companies, and the officers of the union. So far as any formal declaration of the strike being made, and is concerned, it has not been made, nor is it likely that it will be made. On the other hand, the situation as it affects the companies is probably best expressed in their own words. I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant, W. L. MACKENZIE KING, Deputy Minister of Labor.

Since this report was submitted, work has continued at the Le Roi mines Nos. 1 and 2, and the pay rolls of each of these mines indicate that, the numbers employed during the past month have been nearly equal to the number employed prior to the strike. Mining has not commenced at the War Eagle and Centre Star mines at the close of the month, but operations had already begun on the unwatering of these mines, and it was expected that they would commence work early in the month of December. The Nickel Plate, another property affected by the strike, had about 60 men at work at the close of the month. The mine owners at the Le Roi mines, and the War Eagle and Centre Star, state that they have been obliged to refuse a large number of applications for work at the mines, especially from men seeking positions as muckers.

IN OUTSIDE CAMPS THE SLOCAN.

The following are the ore shipments from Sandon for the week: Mine. Tons. Slocan Star 316 Goodenough 23 Ivanhoe 20 Total 359 The Board shipped 1,000 tons of galena for November. Smelter returns for 40 tons amounted to \$1,177. The Payne concentrator will be commenced shortly after the New Year. The material has all been shipped. During last month the Whitewater mine milled 6,400 tons, producing 588 tons of concentrates. Smelter returns amounted to \$13,000.—Sandon Mining Review.

SLOCAN, Dec. 26.—The bond on the Tamarac group, Springer creek, has been lifted and the deeds turned over to the company and recorded. John F. Holden, the manager, came in from Spokane on Friday and wound up the business with the resident owners. The payment made was 80 per cent, as no payment had previously been made. The full bond called for \$18,000, so that the payment just made represented considerable money. The owners of the property were Lou Fielding, George Henderson and Nell Gotling, while the purchasers are Development Syndicate of Spokane. One small shipment of silver has been made from the Tamarac by the bonders. The returns were 172 ounces silver and 17 per cent lead. Four drifts have been opened up on the vein and each one is showing ore. There is sufficient in sight more than to repay the purchase price. Mr. Holden has shut down the property till spring, when a force of 20 men will be put on. The company will also build half a mile of wagon road to connect the mine with the Springer road. By the lifting of the bond on the Tamarac an increased feeling of confidence has been imparted to the camp. Jay P. Graves, who holds the controlling interest in the Rockland group of claims on Eight Mile creek, has been credited with the intention of erecting large smelting works next spring to treat the ores from that property. Writing to a party in this city from New York on the subject, Mr. Graves said: "It is not my intention to construct smelting works for the operation of the Rockland until the properties shall have first been developed sufficiently to prove their merits. We expect to do some prospecting when we are able to reach this. Mr. Miner has no interest with me in the Rockland group of mines." Jacob Atchison and Sidney Cooper have leased the Paystreak claim and they have been working steadily at it

for two weeks. They have taken out five and one-half tons of ore in that time and it is all of shipping grade. An assay made on the oxide, of which there is a great deal in the ledge, gave \$110 in gold and a general assay gave \$127 in all values. It is expected that after the new year the force on the Speculator will be doubled. At present work is pushed on the No. 3 drift, which is being pushed ahead under No. 2, giving a depth of 120 feet. Bunches of shipping ore are being encountered in the drift. Word has been received that the hoisting plant has been ordered for the property and will be here before spring. Sinking will be then resumed on the main shaft. W. Harvey secured an option Monday on the molybdenite property of William Brasch's, ostensibly for English parties. The papers call for the payment of \$2000 cash at the end of three months, or \$4500 at the termination of five months. Work must be prosecuted diligently on the property and no ore will be allowed to be taken off the ground. A 100 pound sample is to be sent to the old country for analysis.

THE BOUNDARY.

Boundary ore shipments for the past week and for the year were as follows: Week. 1901. Old Ironsides, Knob Hill and Victoria 5363 228,651 B. C. Mine 160 42,575 Winnipeg 60 1,840 Atholston 150 1,803 Snowshoe 150 560 R. Bell 200 87,997 Mother Lode, Deadwood 2304 620 Sunset, Deadwood 150 150 Morrison, Deadwood 150 840 No. 7, Central 150 1,250 Jewel, Long Lake 150 450 Other Boundary mines 1,300 Totals, tons 8187 368,832

It was expected that by this time some news as to the outcome of the proposed consolidation of the Mother Lode and Brooklynd groups would have been received, but up to date nothing definite has been heard. Whether the uncertainty of the price of copper will make any difference in the negotiations which are being carried on in the east by the officials of the companies interested is not known. It is understood that three deals are under consideration, the successful outcome of any of which will mean the resuming of operations on the Brooklynd group on an extensive scale.

The management of the Snowshoe mine has decided to sink a new shaft to a depth of 300 feet, which will be the main working shaft of the property. Just as soon as the engineer, Mr. Bannantyne, can make the necessary survey to decide upon the exact location the work of sinking will be started. It will probably be located about 100 feet south of the one which is being two compartments in width. These two compartments will be used for hoisting purposes only, the old incline shaft to be used for manway, pumps and air line. Early this week 20 machines, employing 12 men, were laid off at the Snowshoe. These and the local manager decided that they would not make much of an attempt to ship yet, taking out only ore encountered in the course of development. There are now about 25 men employed at the mine, and as soon as the work of sinking the new shaft is under full headway—probably in the course of a couple of weeks—it is expected that three more machine drills will be set at work with the necessary complement of men.—Phoenix Pioneer.

THE LARDEAU.

R. Higginson and Alex Biggar are down from the Primrose, where they have been working for some time past. They report an average of about seven inches of gray copper in the last 32 feet of the tunnel, which is now in 70 feet. This ore is from the lower tunnel and has the appearance of being richer than anything mined hitherto. The fact that this ore has been taken from a tunnel some 80 feet below the one which contains the best of the ore has been set forth in detail in previous issues of the Topic, goes to prove that not only is the chute continuous, but that it increases in value as depth is gained, besides retaining its remarkable gold values. The specimens brought down are the finest of this particular class of ore we have seen yet. It is understood that it is the intention of the company to continue this tunnel after the holidays as they have abundant supplies at the mine. With the continuation of the lower workings together with what has already been done in the upper tunnel, the company ought to, by spring, be in position to make steady shipments. B. R. Warden, superintendent of the Cup was down to Trout Lake this week. He informed the Topic that his company had decided to send all the Cup ore to Trout Lake for shipment. The ore is and as there is now something like 15 inches of snow on the level in Trout Lake it is very likely that the team will be hauling into town within the next few days. A deal is pending on a group of claims near the American property. The claims have good showings in a good location with lots of water and timber. This part of the mining division is closely watched by investors and parties getting in at bedrock prices will be repaid for their foresight and pluck. Hugh Brown, foreman of the American, is in town. He says that the tunnel is now in about 210 feet and for the last 32 feet they have upwards of 12 inches of solid ore. Negotiations are now on, the result of which, it is expected, will be that the company holding the bond on the property will make the balance of the payment due on the bond at once instead of by monthly installments as they have been going in the past.—Trout Lake Topic.

ELEGANTLY BOXED CHOCOLATES FROM 35c UP AT GOODEVE BROS.

THE STOCK MARKET

A FAIRLY LARGE VOLUME OF BUSINESS FOR THE HOLIDAY WEEK. STOCKS IN MOST CASES KEPT THEIR PRICES UP TO HIGHER RANGE.

The stock market was fairly active during the past week, the volume of business being substantial when the holiday season is taken into account. If past years' experience may be taken as a guide, it is altogether likely that the dealings will be larger from now on for a spurt after the holiday quietness is usual. There is the further reason that funds in the east available for speculative purposes will be increased through the release of money that has been employed in the moving of the crops and kindred operations.

Rambler-Cariboo has been somewhat less active than for the previous week, but the price on the whole has kept up well. The official announcement of a monthly dividend for the future has given the stock renewed strength. The last sales were made at 68, ex-dividend, which is equal to the highest price reached before the dividend. Winnipeg took a fresh start during the week, selling quite freely some days. The prevailing price was 4. Centre Star was strong, going from 31 1/2 to 34 1/2 during the week. Transactions in the stock were not numerous, but large bunches of shares changed hands at advanced prices. Cariboo-McKinney also took a start upward, the first sale of the week being made at 15 and the last at 17. White Bear sold at 3 and 3 1/4 for considerable blocks of shares, but during the latter part of the week it was inactive.

The sales during the week were as follows: Friday 13,500 Saturday 6,500 Monday 11,500 Tuesday 9,000 Thursday 9,000

Table with columns: Asked, Bid, Stock Name, Price. Includes items like Abe Lincoln, American Boy, Athabasca, B. C. Gold Fields, Big Three, Black Tall, California, Canadian G. F., Cariboo (Camp McK), Centre Star, Crow's Nest Pass Coal, Deer Trail No. 2, Dundee, Evening Star (as p'd), Giant, Golden Crown M. L. & H., Homestake (as paid), Iron Mask, Iron Colt, J. X. L., Jubo, King (Oro Denoro), Knob Hill, Lone Pine, Monte Christo, Montreal G. F., Morning Glory, Morrison, Mountain Lion, Noble Five, North Star (E. K.), Novelty, Old Ironsides, Payne, Peoria Mines, Princess Maud, Quip, Rambler-Cariboo (ex-dividend), Republic, Rossland Bonanza G., M. & M., Spitzee Gold Mines, Sullivan, Tom Thumb, Van Anda, Virginia, War Eagle Coal, Waterloo, White Bear, Winnipeg, Wonderful.

The Pedro and Mimie F. claims, known as the Pedro group, situated at the head of the south fork of Canyon creek, have changed hands to a Minneapolis company at good figures. The price is \$20,000 cash in time payments and a large block of stock. With the development of this group many other properties will soon follow as the ore found in this zone is very rich.

J. L. WHITNEY & Co. Mining Brokers. Mining Properties Bought and Sold. Up-to-date regarding all stocks in British Columbia and Washington. Write or call. J. L. WHITNEY & Co. 200 Columbia Ave. ROSSLAND, B. C.

F. J. WALKER, President. C. F. JACKSON, Sec.-Treas. THE REDDIN-JACKSON CO. LIMITED LIABILITY ESTABLISHED MAY 1895 MINING AND INVESTMENT BROKERS MONBY TO LOAN ON REAL ESTATE

ABBOTT & HART-MCH. BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS. Solicitors for Canadian Bank of Commerce. Corporation of the City of Rossland, etc. Bank of Montreal Chambers, Rossland, B.C.

Two Do THE Prospect The Min The Rossland year under fa shipments for 1902 being 3350. Roi mine contr Le Roi No. 2 worked through shipments for went to swell shipments. The prospect breaking year land's mines are big mines are ever before to nage than her unforseen co calculations record for 1902. of transporta never better th The Red M which the bu is hauled to t addition the b ing the past their tracks entire section Northport has pound-steel ra sible to move greatly speed viously to ha addition the n number of im hauling ore, are already in larger capacity this time, but a load under Mountain people used depot in addition, toget first class in TE The output for the first following, toget the year to de Mine Le Roi Le Roi No. 2 Totals It is difficu fine with any the exact prop ous mines w year, as the work will stances not ye most every c some idea of for the immed instances for Le Roi-Th mine during along the tonnage of the holiday th of preparin four-compart 1050 to the 120 way, and it t tract the b way by the e ent the pock has been com and the small of the shaft but the latte Meantime de ed ahead on the ment to the and ore bodi has reached on the vario run, and the thoroughly o tially copy Le Roi the ture of the opening the lower le of the work available fo has shipped tons weekly there is eve barring unfr production development course of e ly natural 2000 tons present year surprised if reached with Centre St forthcoming sistent prop opening up mine, altho possession ating to t programme. The main s reason the r on for e xtensive d but on the main shaft Rosslander valuable o countered Centre Sta property a re readily