

COAL MINING CONDITIONS AT NANAIMO.

Cause of Curtailment of Output of Local Mines.

PROTECTION ISLAND MINE of the Western Fuel Company, at Nanaimo, has not been employing so many men lately as it did at the close of last year. The company's Brechin mine (No. 4 Northfield) has also fewer men at work. Concerning the local situation the *Nanaimo Herald* on January 30 published the following statement: "While a number of men have been laid off work in the local mines during the past two weeks, the output of coal for the month of January will be up to the normal output prevailing before the rush came on some time ago. While there are a number of idle men, and while the output of coal for the present month will not equal that of the past few months, it must not be thought for a moment that Nanaimo has seen its best days or that the days of the city's prosperity are over. It must be remembered that the past year has been a record-breaking one in the history of coal mining in the city. It was almost a weekly occurrence for the newspapers to chronicle broken records, and the demand for coal was something unprecedented in years. In order to meet this demand the management of the local mines was forced to employ more labour, and so more men were brought here, with the result that ere long a vacant house was not to be found in the city and the population of the town was almost, if not quite, the biggest in its history."

"During the past month or so, due to several causes, the principal of which was the flooding of the San Francisco market by speculators with Australian coal, there has been a falling-off in the demand for Nanaimo coal, with the result that the local collieries were forced to curtail their output, and in consequence lay off a number of men."

"Mr. T. R. Stockett, manager of the Western Fuel Company's collieries, asked by a *Herald* reporter yesterday as to the outlook for the future, replied that the company expected that the Australian coal would all be off the market in a short time, and that in the course of three or four months normal conditions would prevail in Nanaimo."

"We were not expecting this depression in the coal trade," Mr. Stockett remarked, "but far from being pessimistic over the outlook, we are looking forward to a renewal within a very short time of the conditions that prevailed in the local trade a month ago, and are making preparations for extensive improvements in and about our works."

A day or two earlier the *Nanaimo Free Press* said: "Asked by the *Free Press* about the situation in the local mines in view of the general depression on the Pacific Coast, Mr. Stockett, manager of the Western Fuel Company, stated this morning that it was impossible for any man to give a forecast on it. It would probably be a couple of months before things assumed their normal aspect again. The situation was no better industrially at any other point on the Coast, and

the Nanaimo mines were doing fairly well, better, in fact, than many other enterprises on the Coast. The most direct cause of the depression in the local coal trade was the presence of foreign coal on the Pacific Coast market, which was being sold at almost nothing. Whether things would get slacker here it was impossible for him to tell. Any forecast given by anybody on the general situation was mere conjecture at the best."

THE OPEN-SHOP POLICY ADOPTED AT GOLDFIELD, NEVADA, U. S. A.

Rules Formulated by Local Mine Operators' Association.

AT GOLDFIELD, NEVADA, the Mine Operators' Association, which has had a long and costly struggle with the Western Federation of Miners, has formulated the following rules and regulations, which recent experience has shown mine and smelter operators in the Boundary District of British Columbia might well be adopted by them also:

"This mine is to be worked under the open-shop policy of the Goldfield Mine Operators' Association, hiring and discharging men without regard to whether they do or do not belong to any labour organization, and under the following rules and regulations:

"1. The time of each man on every shift belongs to this company and to no one else.

"2. No walking delegate or other representative of any labour organization is to be allowed upon these premises at any time or for any purpose.

"3. No soliciting of membership in any labour organization is to be allowed upon these premises at any time by an employee of this company or by any one else.

"4. No discussion of labour questions, either for or against unions, or in any way connected therewith, is to be allowed during working hours, or upon these premises at any time or under any circumstances.

"5. No employee of this company is to be annoyed or interfered with by any other employee in his work in any way whatsoever because he may or may not belong to any labour organization, or for any other reason, and all employees are to work together harmoniously for the best interests of the company.

"6. No employee of this company is to harass, intimidate, or interfere with any working man of the Goldfield mining district because he does or does not belong to any labour organization.

"7. All employees are requested to report any violation of these regulations to the management, and any employee found guilty of violating them, or any part of them, will be immediately discharged and be disqualified from any further employment by this company.

"8. Any outsider violating any of these rules will be immediately ejected from the premises and prosecuted by law for trespass."