

CITIZENS' BANQUET TO MR. OLIVER

Farewell Testimony of Esteem on His Departure for London—Presentation of a Handsome Case of Silverware—Speeches by Representative Citizens.

Mr. W. T. Oliver, who has been the manager of the Rossland branch of the Bank of British North America left Tuesday for London, Ont., to take charge of the bank's branch in that city. During the past week Mr. Oliver has been the recipient of numerous testimonials from the residents of Rossland, indicative of the esteem in which he is held by them and the regret they feel at his departure. The culmination of these tributes to Mr. Oliver was the banquet which was tendered him Monday by a large number of the leading citizens of the town and at which he was presented with a magnificent case of silverware. The occasion was marked by the cordiality which was displayed by everybody present toward the guest of the evening, and the evidence of personal regard which was felt for him in the respect it was probably the most unique banquet which has taken place in Rossland. About 100 persons were present. Mayor Lalonde occupied the chair and Mr. J. B. Johnson, the president of the Board of Trade, the vice chair. The banking interests, the commercial interests, the mining industry, and the various professions were all fully represented. The address which was delivered during the evening, were all of a character highly eulogistic of Mr. Oliver.

In introducing the toast list Mayor Lalonde said that he felt it was a great honor to preside at this dinner given to Mr. W. T. Oliver on the eve of his departure for London, Ont. "He is the pioneer banker of Rossland, the greatest mining city in Canada," said the speaker. "and he has always taken the deepest interest in every movement for the advancement of Rossland and the province. As a banker it is evident that his work has been all right from the fact that he is leaving here to take charge of the bank's branch in one of the leading cities in the great province of Ontario. We are assembled here tonight to try and show Mr. Oliver our appreciation of his ability, his splendid personal qualities, and his general good fellowship, qualities which have made him an honor to the community, and an excellent friend. We will always have for him a large place in our hearts and will witness with pride his assured future success. On behalf of the citizens of Rossland, I offer Mr. and Mrs. Oliver and their little daughter, Miss Oliver, our best wishes. Mr. Lalonde closed by proposing the usual loyal toast, "The King," which was responded to with the national anthem.

A letter was read from Hon. C. H. Mackintosh expressing regret that he was unable to be present.

The army, navy and auxiliary forces were proposed by Mr. A. B. Mackenzie, who pointed out that the form of the toast had lately been changed and changed out of compliment to the colonies. In passing he recalled the fact that he had been called upon to respond to this toast at a banquet given in London, Eng., thirteen years ago exactly, at a time when he had been posing as a soldier. He drew attention to the fact that owing to the unfortunate war in South Africa the colonies had raised soldiers for the assistance of the Mother country, and that at the present time Canada was furnishing a lot of useful officers for the Imperial forces. As a country, therefore, we were securing a standing in the military world. He dwelt at some length on the valuable services which our officers and men, thus joining the standing army, would be capable of. In referring to the departure of Mr. Oliver, he said that everybody in Rossland fully appreciated the loss which the community would sustain in that gentleman's withdrawal from our midst. While we were all exceedingly sorry to see him go, however, we would not but congratulate him on the merited promotion which his removal meant. He was at a loss, he said, how to connect Mr. Oliver's name with the toast which he was proposing, but he supposed in one sense Mr. Oliver, like every other manager of a bank in Rossland, could be regarded in the light of a warrior. With an unflinching bravery he could demand a rate of interest which would quell the audacity of the most unblinking customer, and when he went to London the veteran experience he had gained in the west would probably stand him in such good service that he would have the whole population at his feet. Mr. Mackenzie said that he concluded that there was no better fellow than Mr. Oliver, and they wished him never-failing success wherever he might be.

Ex-Mayor Goodeve responded to this toast, and made a stirring and loyal speech, in which he spoke of the assistance we were now giving to the Empire, of which we were an integral part. He looked forward to the time when we would be sending our own mighty fleets from Atlantic and Pacific ports to cooperate with that of Great Britain in defence of the Imperial commerce. He referred to the late army mobilization and the success which had attended it financially. Not a ripple had been occasioned in the commercial world by raising the immense sums necessary for the occasion, and he attributed this almost entirely to the splendid monetary institutions of the Empire. He said that tonight, he said, to do honor to one of the representatives of these institutions, and in him they had a thoroughly worthy and sterling character. Mr. Oliver was the first banker in Rossland, and he had always performed the duties which devolved upon him with remarkable judgment, with the highest ability and with satisfaction to his directors and to his customers. Mr. Goodeve then referred to the difficulties which a banker is subjected to, and especially in a new country which is just being opened up. He said that the present dinner, at which all interests of the community were represented, showed very fully Mr. Oliver's personal popularity and the respect in which he was held as a bank manager.

Dr. Coulthart sang at this point "The Boys of the Old Brigade."

Hon. T. Mayne Daly, in proposing the toast "The Guest of the Evening," expressed the pleasure which he experienced in being assigned that honor. He said that nothing could more fully evince the esteem in which Mr. Oliver is held than the splendid gathering of representative men who were present. In his opinion, the most representative affair of the kind of which he had any knowledge. Mr. Oliver, he said, was a pioneer among the bankers of this city, and it was a decided honor shown him that he should have been selected to come to Rossland as the manager of this great conservative bank. Mr. Daly referred to the discriminating ability which was required in the management of such an institution in a few communities, such as Rossland was then, and the great responsibility which was then placed upon Mr. Oliver's shoulders. If, he said, the directors had then shown him this honor, they were manifesting a still greater confidence and a still higher honor in sending him to be their manager in London. If, he said, his recollection were right, Mr. Oliver would be the only Canadian who held a position as manager of the Bank of British North America in the great province of Ontario. All those who were there now had been brought from the other side of the water. Mr. Oliver's appointment, therefore, constituted a new era in this bank in Canada, and it was an honor to Rossland that its pioneer bank manager should have been chosen and that he should be sent to such an important city as London now was. In passing, Mr. Daly paid a high compliment to Mr. James Anderson, the successor of Mr. Oliver in the Rossland branch. He then called upon Messrs. A. Marsh and T. R. Morrow to present to Mr. Oliver the case of silverware.

In responding to the toast and acknowledging the presentation, Mr. Oliver was deeply affected. Overcoming the natural emotion which he experienced, he made a capital address, which was repeatedly applauded by those present. He said: Mr. Mayor, Mr. Daly and Gentlemen:

It has been my good fortune to be present at many similar entertainments of this kind in Rossland, some of which I have every reason to believe have been historical and have more or less affected the destiny of British Columbia, but at any of these previous gatherings I have never found myself in the position in which I find myself tonight, and I hope my meaning will be clear when I say that I have never attended a public dinner in Rossland with less willingness than I have come here on this occasion.

I hope I shall not be misunderstood—perhaps I had better say that I wish the cause that has brought about this gathering had never arisen, for no one can appreciate more than I do the feelings of kindness and goodwill that have been manifested towards myself since I became known that I was leaving Rossland and have culminated in this magnificent tribute you have paid me tonight. Gentlemen, it is too much and I feel that try as I may I cannot express gratitude to you as I would like. It is unfortunate—at least it appears to me so—that on such an occasion as this everything I may wish to say will of necessity have so much of the personal pronoun about it. I am a stranger to you and I beg to assure you that no matter how gratified I may be at the good things that have been said about me by Mr. Daly and others, I am not so vain as to take them all as gospel, but rather as the outward expression of the good will which they entertain towards me.

I cannot plead total ignorance of the kind you have proposed to treat me this evening, for I have learned from one or two sources of your intentions and what to me is the chief satisfaction in this gathering and will continue to be in the possession of the handsome article you have given me, is the knowledge as I have learned from a few friends, of the spontaneity with which all have entered into the undertaking. (Hear! hear!)

As I have said I cannot adequately thank you. I feel that I am not deserving in the slightest of such recognition at your hands, but at the close of five years residence in Rossland I can assure you that I have invariably tried to do what appeared to me best in the interests of Rossland and its citizens. I have tried to "play the game fair" and I believe I can honestly say that I have never treated any one unjustly in business relations. A banker occupies a peculiar position and one that is not always realized. He is a trustee. He stands between the interests of his shareholders and depositors and the interests of his borrowing clients, and he must always bear in mind that in cases of doubt the interests of the former are paramount. The successful banker is the one who can hold the balance evenly and in my dealings with the citizens of Rossland I have tried to do so, though possibly by some others may hold a different opinion. In this connection I may be permitted to speak of the always cordial relations that have existed between the bank managers of Rossland, and the harmony in which they have all worked for the good of the community. Now that I am no longer one of them I may say that I know of no other place that bank managers any more capable men as bank managers than the city of Rossland. I am the first to break in my former conferees and the citizens of Rossland that they will find in my successor a loyal coadjutor and a hearty worker in the best interests of the city. (Applause.)

It is needless for me to say that I am leaving Rossland with unfeigned regret. It was five years ago yesterday, the 31st of March, when, after a weary drive of seven hours from Northport in a stage-coach (hear, hear) I alighted in front of the old custom house. On the 4th of April following in conjunction with the

gentleman who now succeeds me the office of the bank was opened in the premises now occupied as a place of business by the chairman on this occasion. It was a barber shop, and as a matter of fact while it did duty as a bank in the morning the barbers returned to their vocation in the afternoon. So that some of the gentlemen remarked that notes were shaved in the morning while chairs were shaved in the afternoon. (Laughter and applause.)

Owing to some delay our safe had failed to arrive and as there was a good deal of money in Rossland in those days my friend Mr. Anderson slept for several nights with many thousands of dollars under his pillow. On speaking of that time five years ago I may remark with pleasure it gives me tonight to have the chair and vice-chair occupied by gentlemen who were among my first customers and personal friends and who have remained such until the present.

At that time the present postoffice building was just being erected and there were no buildings east of it on Columbia avenue except Dr. Bowes' house. A grove of trees stood on the site of the present Crescent Drygoods company's building. On this side of Columbia avenue there were one or two buildings east of Washington street, but most of the lots were vacant. The streets were ungraded and filled by rock bluffs. There was no railway and the output of the mine was taken by wagon to Trail or Northport. If I remember rightly the smelting rate on ore was \$16 per ton.

But gentlemen in the West five years is a long time and we are brought to the Rossland of today and many drawbacks to contend with, but our progress has been steady and Rossland stands today on a firmer basis than ever. The output of ore has grown from 37,000 tons in 1896 to 75,000 tons in 1897, to 116,000 tons in 1898, to 183,000 tons in 1899, and to 220,000 tons in 1900, while for the first quarter of the present year it has been 95,000 tons. (Applause.)

It is true that the ore is of a lower grade than in the early years, but this fact is more than offset by the reduction in treatment charges from \$16 or more to \$4.50 per ton.

As I have said we have had many drawbacks to contend with and there have been many disappointments. There are very disappointing conditions at the present time, but as I leave Rossland I cannot but express my profound conviction, based on the best information I can gather, that the best days for Rossland, her best days for the legitimate mining investor and business man are yet to come. I am not speaking for publication—nor, I trust you will believe, for boom purposes. I have often been accused of being a pessimist, but this is my honest belief as to the future of your city based, as I have said, on the best information I can gather. One thing more—while I am speaking of the outlook for the future let me make mention of the high standing of our mercantile community. I am led to do this because just a little over a year ago in some of the Eastern papers the mining towns of the Kootenays were scored for the slow movement of the merchants in paying their bills. It so happened that this was at the time when we had our labor troubles and it was a statement that might have done much harm to the reputation and pockets of our business men. Believing that whatever might be true of other mining towns in Rossland was not deserved as far as Rossland was concerned, I enquired of the other bank managers as to how bills had been paid on the 4th of February which was just past and which, as you know, is looked upon by all wholesale men as one of the most important settling days in the year. I found that out of 165 mercantile bills paid or fell due on that day 147 were paid—88 per cent. I think you will agree. (Cheers.)

Now since that time I have kept track approximately along these same lines and I am in a position to tell you, and it will be confirmed I think by the other bank managers, that 70 per cent of the bills of the mercantile community in Rossland are paid as it comes due. This I venture to say is a condition of affairs unexcelled in any of the few cases equalled by any other city or town in Canada.

And now, gentlemen, I am done. I have only to assure you that this gathering will always be to me far more than the barren recollection of a feast that passes away, and to thank you again on behalf of Mrs. Oliver for the good will and the best wishes of good men and their beautiful gift. (Applause.)

Me and mine, Rossland will always have peculiar associations. We are attached to it by ties that shall endure as long as life shall last, and in bidding you all farewell I can only say that wherever our future lot may be, we shall have the nothing but golden recollections of the golden days which all have entered into the undertaking. (Hear! hear!)

As I have said I cannot adequately thank you. I feel that I am not deserving in the slightest of such recognition at your hands, but at the close of five years residence in Rossland I can assure you that I have invariably tried to do what appeared to me best in the interests of Rossland and its citizens. I have tried to "play the game fair" and I believe I can honestly say that I have never treated any one unjustly in business relations. A banker occupies a peculiar position and one that is not always realized. He is a trustee. He stands between the interests of his shareholders and depositors and the interests of his borrowing clients, and he must always bear in mind that in cases of doubt the interests of the former are paramount. The successful banker is the one who can hold the balance evenly and in my dealings with the citizens of Rossland I have tried to do so, though possibly by some others may hold a different opinion. In this connection I may be permitted to speak of the always cordial relations that have existed between the bank managers of Rossland, and the harmony in which they have all worked for the good of the community. Now that I am no longer one of them I may say that I know of no other place that bank managers any more capable men as bank managers than the city of Rossland. I am the first to break in my former conferees and the citizens of Rossland that they will find in my successor a loyal coadjutor and a hearty worker in the best interests of the city. (Applause.)

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of my birth and where I lived until 1885, when I left it to reside in the golden province of British Columbia.

Again expressing my regrets, I ask you to fill your glasses and drink to the banking interests of Rossland, coupled with the names of Messrs. J. S. C. Fraser, John M. Smith, J. S. C. Fraser and James Anderson.

Mr. J. S. C. Fraser, manager of the Bank of Montreal, said that it did not seem possible for him to add anything to the expressions of esteem which had been given utterance to by preceding speakers, but he could not let the occasion pass without expressing his admiration and good will toward Mr. Oliver. All the people of Rossland, he said, would testify to him as a good citizen and a good fellow. He, however, could go further and testify to him as an honorable competitor in business. It was an excellent thing for bank men to pull well together, and he was happy to say that Mr. Oliver had always been thoroughly alive to this fact. He was glad to be able to testify to the deep interest which Mr. Oliver had given some figures tonight showing the progress of the camp. As he was going to London the speaker might be allowed to express the hope that the production of this camp would go on increasing, as Mr. Oliver's figures were intended to show they would, and that Mr. Oliver himself would come back again to Rossland in the way of promotion. In conclusion he expressed the warmest wish for the success and happiness of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver.

Mr. John M. Smith, manager of the Royal Bank of Canada, expressed his regret at the departure of Mr. Oliver with whom he, in conjunction with the other bank managers in Rossland, had always had the pleasantest relations. As a bank manager no one better than the speaker knew Mr. Oliver's value and the promotion which his transfer to London meant was well merited at the hands of the directors. It was impossible to keep a good man down and this was the secret of Mr. Oliver's success. Mr. Oliver, he said, had always taken an intelligent interest in Rossland and he believed that after his departure he would cast a longing eye back to this city.

Mr. A. B. Barker and Mr. James Anderson also responded to the toast in appropriate words.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald made an extremely pleasant speech in proposing the toast "The Press," and introduced many flattering references to the good work accomplished by the fourth estate. "What would we do," he asked, in a jocular strain, "if we had not the Rossland Miner to tell us how to operate our mines and get rid of our wildcats?" The Miner, he said, would precede Mr. Oliver to his new home in London and tell the people there what a fine fellow and good citizen Rossland was losing in the person of Mr. Oliver. The people here, he said, were genuinely sorry in losing Mr. Oliver that in losing any citizen which had left here for a long time. He cordially wished him success and happiness in the future.

Mr. J. B. Kerr, editor of the Miner, responded to this toast. "The Ladies" was proposed by Mr. G. H. Bayne in an eloquent address, and was responded to in a very neat and humorous speech by Mr. Edmund H. Kirby, manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star. Mr. W. T. Oliver proposed the toast to the chairman of the evening, Mayor C. O. Lalonde, which was responded to in a neat speech.

Messrs. A. Marsh and F. W. Rolt were also called upon and expressed their high appreciation of the splendid qualities of the guest of the evening.

The time was brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King."

MAY BUILD TO REPUBLIC.

C.P.R. Threatens Great Northern With Reprisals.

The C. P. R. is threatening reprisals for Jim Hill's announcement that he is jointly interested with Mann & Mackenzie in the proposed V., V. & E. railway from the Boundary country to the coast.

Mr. G. M. Bosworth, its traffic manager, is in Spokane, where he conferred with Mr. Aldridge, superintendent of the Trail smelter, and leading officials from the Kootenays. In an interview with the Spokesman-Review he is reported to have said:

"Soon, or later we Canadian Pacific will build from Grand Forks to Republic. No definite arrangements have been made, but I think the road will come. If a franchise has already been issued it may be made up by purchase, or if terms could be made with a possible franchise holder, by application for charter. Building in a road from some point on the S. F. & N. on the part of the Great Northern would not affect us. Our line would go through just the same."

DELEGATES TO OTTAWA.

They Are Requested to Meet at Kootenay Landing April 4.

The delegates to Ottawa on the lead question from the several boards of trade are to rendezvous at Kootenay Landing on Saturday, April 6. They are requested to supply themselves with samples, maps, photographs, and data of all kinds concerning the mines of this section, the idea being to impress upon the Dominion ministry and the members of the Dominion parliament the importance of the mining industry of this section. If they can be brought to a realization of the fact that the mines here are now producing largely and that the wealth will continue to flow in largely increasing quantities, and that it will in time enrich all of Canada. The good effects of the output are already being felt in the cost of the machinery and supplies which are being purchased there.

Capital for the Boundary.

Messrs. John A. Manly and Chas. Cummings, of Grand Forks passed through the city yesterday on their way home after a visit to Toronto and several cities in the Eastern states. Mr. Manly stated that his mission had been eminently successful and that as a result considerable capital had been diverted to Grand Forks and the adjacent district for mining and industrial purposes. He added that the fame of British Columbia as a mining country is spreading rapidly and that there will be a considerable influx of population this spring as well as of American capitalists in search of investments.

Mr. D. W. Moore, ore buyer of the Trail smelter, leaves shortly for Honolulu on a pleasure trip.

WANT RAILWAY COMPETITION

MEMORIAL OF VANCOUVER CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

Strong Reasons Submitted to the Government Why the C. P. R. Should Not Build the Coast-Kootenay.

The following is the text of the memorial presented to the lieutenant-governor-council by the Citizens' Association of Vancouver. It contains the argument from the standpoint of a resident of that city why the Coast-Kootenay railway should be constructed by a company absolutely independent of the C.P.R., thus giving a competitive line. The document will be read with considerable interest at this time:

To His Honor The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, Victoria, B.C.

Sir: At a special meeting of the Citizens' Association of Vancouver, held this 28th day of March, 1901, to discuss the question of the proposed Coast-Kootenay line of railway, it was resolved to submit to Your Honor, for the consideration of Your Honor's advisers, the reasons why in the opinion of the said Association such a line should be constructed and maintained by some company independent of any railway company at present connected with the port of Vancouver. The Citizens' Association of Vancouver strongly advocates competition in railways, but is at the same time entirely unprejudiced and free from any bias as to any specific company. As a citizens' association it has been deemed advisable for us to confine our argument to the advantage that must accrue in our own city of Vancouver from competition in railways, recognizing at the same time that similar advantages must inevitably follow to other ports and cities of the province connected with the proposed competing line of railway. Good ports are few and far between, not only on the Pacific coast, but throughout the world, and too much care cannot be exercised to prevent their becoming monopolized in the interests of any specific company.

The port of Vancouver is unique, inasmuch as it is the only first-class commercial harbor on the Pacific coast of Canada. There are, it is true, one or two other good harbors on the coast of British Columbia, but they can never occupy the exceptional position of the port of Vancouver, as they are not so well situated for effecting close connection with the great railway lines of Canada and the United States. Such being the case, it is a matter of the most vital importance that every means should be adopted to prevent the control of such harbor by one railway company. Such a thing, we submit, would be disastrous not only to the port of Vancouver, but to the Dominion as a whole. Shipping would be hampered by conditions that must be made with a railway company having entire control of the port. Such was, until very recently, the fate of San Francisco, and there can be no doubt that her population and wealth would have been nearly equal to that of Chicago to-day had there always existed railway competition in that city. This is a fact well known to business men, and all connected with the great shipping companies. With such an object lesson it seems to us that it would be something more than a grave folly to disregard it at this crucial period, and permit the trade of the port of Vancouver to languish under the throttling influence of one all powerful company. We feel that no effort should be spared to lay this matter urgently and forcibly before the proper authorities.

On the common ground of being public carriers it is to the interest of both railway companies and shipping companies to build up and encourage the establishment of industries, and so increase the carrying trade. But as between shipping companies and railway companies there is essential difference in one respect, viz., it being a very expensive matter to construct, equip and maintain railways, competition is not so free, and consequently control of industries by freight exactions is of common occurrence. On the other hand shipping, with its freedom from road-beds and up-keep, is subject to keen competition, and the control of industries that can be exercised by railroads is as compared with railways, next to nothing.

Referring to Your Honor to another phase of the subject, we beg to submit that competition is not always secured by granting powers to more than one company, or to all outside railway companies, over a line owned and operated by a dominant company. Supposing, for instance, that Your Honor's advisers in their endeavor to make the best bargain possible, were to accord the privilege of building the Coast-Kootenay line to the Canadian Pacific Railway company, at the same time attempting to safeguard the interests of the public by insisting upon running powers being given to other railway companies over that line, we respectfully submit that the dominant company, as owner and operator of the line, and having as much the right to first consideration, could easily, and effectively, hamper even the most powerful competitor by conditions that would virtually stultify the running powers given. And we believe that the ingenuity of astute business men would always prove sufficient to overcome any regulations designed by the Government to prevent such effort to maintain wages at the old standard, and we will be compelled to adopt the long considered plan of reducing miners' wages to \$3.00 per day, and muckers and unskilled surface labor to \$2.00 per day.

Mr. Roy Mining Co., Ltd.
Le Roi No. 2, Ltd.
Rossland Great Western Mines, Ltd.
Kootenay Mining Co., Ltd.
By Bernard Macdonald, G. M.
The War Eagle O. M. & D. Co., Ltd.
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By Edmund B. Kirby, G. M.

Mr. Hayes of Trail was in town yesterday.

Mr. Fred H. Oliver, general manager of the Morrison mine, is at the Allan. He leaves today for Greenwood after a visit to Spokane. He reports that development work on the Morrison is making satisfactory progress.

Mr. Eugene Croteau yesterday received a despatch from Vancouver which convinces him that the reported death of his brother on the lake near White Horse is incorrect. The party who sent the telegram stated that the letter received from William was written on the 24th at White Horse, which was after the time he is said to have perished in the blizzard. It is evident, therefore, that some one else was the victim of the blizzard and not Mr. William Croteau. Mr. E. Croteau was overjoyed yesterday when he received the news.

Death of Mr. John Forin.

Word has reached this city of the death at Victoria of Mr. John Forin, father of Mr. P. M. Forin of this city and Judge Forin of Nelson. The deceased made a trip from his home in Belleville, Ont., about two months since for the purpose of visiting his daughter, Mrs. Dr. Campbell of Victoria. He received a stroke of paralysis some time since and finally succumbed to its effects. Mr. Forin was a prominent contractor and architect, and built and designed a number of buildings in Belleville and vicinity. He was aged 75 years.

Fame of the Province Spreading.

Mr. George W. Stolle, representing a Philadelphia mining supply firm, is in town on business. He covers all the territory west of Chicago, including British Columbia, Mexico and Alaska. He states that Mexico is enjoying quite an industrial and mining boom. He added that the mineral resources of British Columbia are interesting a large number of people in Philadelphia. He was given several commissions to investigate the merit of Boundary properties.

Mine Managers' Announcement

Rossland, 1st April, 1901.

To the Employees of the Undermined Mining Companies:

It being a matter of common report that a certain element in the Rossland Miners' union is insisting upon the abrogation of the settlement that was entered into a year ago at the instance of Messrs. R. C. Chase and Ralph Smith, we think it only right to all concerned that we should state at the earliest opportunity offered, that if any action is taken by the Miners' union looking to a change in the existing labor conditions in this camp, we, the undersigned, will have no alternative but to close down our mines and re-open under a reduced scale of wages.

The accumulating burdens that have been imposed upon the mining industry in this province are already heavy to bear, and if those burdens are increased, it will be impossible to operate these mines on a business basis.

We have been struggling for a long time now to put these mines on a paying basis, and have been devising all manner of ways and means for the accomplishment of this end without resorting to the reduction of wages.

Consequently, any further trouble or expense to the companies at this time will leave no alternative but to abandon our effort to maintain wages at the old standard, and we will be compelled to adopt the long considered plan of reducing miners' wages to \$3.00 per day, and muckers and unskilled surface labor to \$2.00 per day.

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