

branches, composed of coal miners in eastern British Columbia, and on November 25, 1902, District Union No. 7 was formed, with headquarters in Fernie. This district body only existed for one year, dissolving in November, 1903, when District Union No. 18 of the United Mine Workers of America was formed. All the locals that had formerly comprised District Union No. 7 of the federation went over in a body to the United Mine Workers. In 1906 the Western Federation entered the province of Ontario, the Cobalt miners forming local union No. 146 on March 24 of that year.

Federation Strikes in Canada.—The first strike in Canada under the auspices of the federation, according to records available, was occasioned by the refusal of the mine operators at Rossland, B.C., to grant an increase in wages. The strike occurred on July 11, 1901, and involved about 1,000 men. After the strike had been in existence for three months an effort was made, through application of the union, to settle the dispute under the Conciliation Act. The result was unsuccessful, and the strike continued. On January, 23, 1902, it was reported that the strike at one of the mines had been declared off, but no understanding had been reached with the other companies concerned. It was stated that the demand of the men had not been granted, but the terms of settlement were not made public.

On February 11, 1903, the Federation was concerned in a strike of coal miners in the Crow's Nest Pass coal region, which was under the jurisdiction of the District Union No. 7, and involved 1,500 men. The strike was the outcome of a refusal of the company to meet a committee of the newly formed district union. This strike was made the subject of investigation by the Dominion Government whose officer endeavored to effect a settlement, but without success. On March 1 the British Columbia Mining Association appointed a committee to act as a conciliation board with a view to bringing about a settlement. As a result, an agreement was reached which granted recognition of the union, an increase of wages in some classes of work in certain mines, and a definite arrangement governing conditions of employment. The contract was to be effective for three years from April 1, 1903. On March 28 the terms of settlement were finally accepted by both parties, and work resumed.

In March, 1903, the local union of coal miners of the federation at Ladysmith, B.C., was involved in a strike, 700 men being affected. A number of employees had been discharged, and the men believing that this action on the part of the company was owing to the fact that they had recently formed themselves into a branch of the federation, led to the strike. In July, the strikers, not having received the aid they had expected from the federation, returned to work under the old conditions.

On August 12, 1903, the members of Van Anda local, to the number of 215, went on strike for increase of wages and reduction of hours. This demand was subsequently withdrawn and a request for recognition of the union substituted. On September 2 the strike was declared off, the company having agreed to recognize the union and to discuss any grievances in the future with a committee of the union.

No strikes of importance occurred during the years 1904 and 1905, and only one took place in 1906, in which the federation was concerned. This dispute took place at Greenwood, B.C., on November, 21, owing to the refusal of the mining company to grant a demand

for a minimum wage of \$3, some 350 men being involved. On November 29 the demand was granted and the men returned to work on the following day.

The first strike of metalliferous miners in the Province of Ontario occurred on July 8, 1907, when the members of Cobalt Miners' Union No. 146, to the number of approximately 3,000, ceased working, owing to a disagreement as to wages and working conditions. Negotiations for a settlement were subsequently carried on, in which the Department of Labor took part. A compromise agreement was later reached with a number of the mining companies in which the miners secured some concessions. Some other companies held out, but by the end of September normal conditions had been restored in the mining district.

During the years 1908 and 1909 the federation had no strikes in Canada. On April 19, 1910, a strike was declared by local union No. 22, at Greenwood, B.C., owing to the refusal of the copper company at that place to employ none but members of the Western Federation of Miners. On May 11 the strike was declared off, the men having failed in their demand, and the 350 men affected resumed work. Prior to the strike the matters in dispute had been referred to a board of conciliation and investigation under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, but the award of the board was against the demands of the union.

During 1912 three strikes occurred in the Cobalt silver mining district. The first took place on April 28, on account of the discharge of two employees by a mining company for alleged intimidation of fellow workmen. On April 30, after two days' idleness, the strike was declared off, and the 189 men affected returned to work, with the exception of the two who had been dismissed. The second strike, which involved 225 men, took place on October 19, and was caused by the refusal of the company to reduce the working hours from ten to nine per day. On November 4 work was resumed on the conditions formerly existing. A strike of the gold miners in the Porcupine district against a reduction in wages, which took place on November 15, was of greater magnitude than the two first mentioned, involving approximately twenty-five mining properties and 1,200 men. At the end of January, 1913, it was reported that a large proportion of the men who were originally on strike had left the camp, and that many others had returned to work. The strike was practically ended on June 21, when an arrangement was made by which, although the strike was not officially declared off, the union permitted the men to return to work. On February 19, 1913, a strike of 500 metal miners connected with the federation occurred at Britannia Beach, B.C. The dispute arose over refusal of the company to recognize the union. A board under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act had previously investigated the matter, and in the majority report of the board the views were expressed that the company should allow the union officials to visit the men on the employers' property to transact union business. The finding of the board was not accepted by the company, and the strike ensued. The strike was formally declared off on August 27.

There have been a number of other strikes in Canada in which members of the Federation were involved, but the foregoing include the more important of the disputes which have occurred in the Dominion.

(To be continued)