

PROSPECTS BRIGHTER

The Settlement of the Coal Miners' Strike at Crow's Nest Pass Is Now Apparently at Hand.

Michel and Morrissey Miners Favorable and Change at Fernie Hoped For on New Vote.

From Harry G. Seaman, President Rossland Miners' Union.

FERNIE, B. C., March 28.—Settlement effective. Majority in favor. 56. Vote stands: Fernie, for 34, against 13; Michel, for 130, against 13; Morrissey, for 62, against 24. Agreement runs two years.

H. G. SEAMAN.

(Special to The Miner.)

FERNIE, B. C., March 28.—The strike is practically at an end. The Michel and Morrissey members of the executive of District Union No. 7 went to their respective unions yesterday with instructions to call another vote as soon as the contract warranting such a step, and that a settlement was effected when it had been drawn up. The result of these polls went strongly in favor of the contract submitted.

The second vote all round now stands as follows:

Table with 2 columns: For, Against. Rows: Michel, Morrissey, Fernie. Totals: 139 For, 15 Against.

It is most probable that another vote will be taken in Fernie shortly, the additions to the contract had been made a step, and it is a well known fact that the settlement of the Gladstone union has greatly changed since the last vote was taken. This is owing to the fact that the Slavs were at first wrongly informed on the terms of the contract, and it was these foreigners who turned down the settlement. Since then their leader, an hotel keeper, who it is said has opposed the settlement for personal reasons, has been shorn of much of his former influence, and now the Slavs are anxious to go to work.

The conciliation committee are still here, and assert that the battle is won. They will not leave, however, till the contract is duly signed by the contracting parties. It is just a week too late since the false hope was raised that a settlement was effected, and the citizens are more chary of believing the reports, yet a most optimistic feeling is exhibited everywhere.

THE AGREEMENT.

The following are some of the prominent features of the contract: A grievance committee shall investigate disputes between the bosses and the men.

The company shall pay the sum of \$3 per day for all miners taken from piece-work places if taken from the face to do company work.

That in any case where it may appear that a man is not being fairly treated the company will meet, through the mine manager of the mine in question, a committee of investigation, as provided by the statutes of British Columbia. In the event of a non-agreement the company through its high officials will discuss the question with the committee. It is understood and agreed by the parties hereto that there shall be no discrimination by the company nor by the men between representatives of labor organizations and non-representatives of an organization.

That the company will deliver all timbers as near the working places as possible, or at the mouth of the room. The company is to lay one length of rail from the frog, after which the miner is to carry on his track in consideration of 30 cents being paid for each and every lineal yard of double track laid by the miner.

The company will meet the committee of any local to discuss any grievance and falling adjustment of the difficulty so presented will meet the executive of the district, provided that in all cases the personnel of the different committees be made up entirely of the employees of the company.

That the company is unwilling to change the system adopted for single shift system, eight hours work, required of all day hands for eight hours pay. The system as adopted at the Coal Creek mines is understood as commencing at the lamp station inside the mine at 7 o'clock and the total cessation of work during one-half hour at the noon shift. To close at lamp station at 3:30.

That the company will sell a lot of lots to the men at Morrissey in the new townsite being opened by the company. The company will on conclusion of this agreement between the company and the men for a term of not less than two years lease at a reasonable rental a piece of ground to the men at Michel. In consideration of the foregoing and the promises and covenant herein provided for it is hereby covenanted, declared and agreed by and between the parties hereto:

That the term of the agreement shall be for a period of three years from April 1st, 1903, to April 1st, 1906.

Provided always, that on or after the expiration of April 1st, 1905, either party can by giving sixty days' notice in writing to the other terminate the agreement.

Provided, that in the event of the company being able to secure an advance in price for its commodity over that at present paid the wage scale will be open to revision.

WAGE SCALE.

Coal Creek. In No. 1 mine the mining rate has been reduced from 80 to 65 cents, while in No. 2 and No. 3 mines the old rate of 60 cents is unchanged. The yardage in levels, parallels and crosscuts in No. 1 has been reduced from \$2.50 to \$1, in No. 2 from \$2.50 to \$1.50, and in No. 3 from \$2.50 to \$2. While the room crosscuts in all three remain at the old rate of 50 cents per lineal yard.

At Michel, in Nos. 3, 4 and 5 the old mining rate of 65 cents per ton is maintained, while in No. 5 mine the old rate

is increased from 55 to 60 cents. The yardage rate in No. 4 has been increased from \$1.85 to \$2. In No. 5 the old rate is maintained on yardage, with the exception of a reduction from \$2.40 to \$2 per yard on crosscuts between levels. In No. 3 mine the yardage in levels and parallels is raised from \$1.40 to \$1.75, and the crosscut rate between levels is increased from \$1 to \$1.75. All other yardage rates remain unchanged.

Morrissey. The mining rate in No. 1 mine has received an increase of 10 cents a ton, the old rate of 40 cents being raised to 50 cents, while 5, 4 and 5 are offered the old rate of 55 cents. The yardage rate in levels and parallels in No. 1 mine has been reduced from \$2 to \$1, in No. 2 mine from \$2 to \$1.50 and in No. 4 from \$2 to \$1, while the rate for crosscutting between levels in No. 3 has been increased from \$1 per yard to \$1.50. All other yardage rates remain unchanged. In all the mines of the three camps the rate for timbering to be fixed at \$1 per set, with lagging and centre post when required. All timbering and lagging will be delivered by the company as near the workings

as possible and thereafter handled, framed and set by the miner. The old rate was 75 cents and \$1, according to the mine. The company will build the first sections of chutes, the miners to build thereafter and will be paid at the rate of 30 cents per lineal yard for all chutes built. The company to deliver all material at foot of chutes. Brumby six feet wide 5 cents per inch in depth per lineal yard, 12 feet wide 10 cents per inch in depth per lineal yard. This is reckoned on a new system, but is practically the same rating as the old.

From the old list of wages offered by the company we find that no changes have been made in day work except in the following instances: Fire bosses increased from \$3 to \$3.25; bratticemen increased from \$2.75 to \$3; hostmen from \$2.50 to \$2.75; general outside laborers increased from \$1.75 to \$1.80. This does not effect outside men who were earning \$2. No reductions were made in any day labor. Miners, timbermen and tracklayers are to be placed at their old rate of \$3. The seven men get certain advantages also.

The new scale is generally thought to be very fair, even by the miners, the chief objection of the latter being the five cents cut at Coal Creek. The Elkhorn mine, situated just opposite Greenwood city, on the north, is showing up well, and is now sharing public attention with the neighboring Province mine. Messrs. James Sutherland and Phil McDonald, who have the property under a working bond, are getting out some high grade ore from a drift run both ways on the main vein at the 80 foot level. Values are in both gold and silver, and beautiful specimens of ore are frequently met with, the general run of the ore promising smelter returns as well as a good margin of profit. A carload shipment will shortly be made.

THE PHOENIX MINES.

Continuance of Fernie Strike Means Closing Down.

PHOENIX, March 28.—During the prevalence of the strike of the coal miners in East Kootenay, shutting off the coke supplies of Boundary smelters, which has now lasted about seven weeks, the two large mining concerns in Phoenix camp are about the only ones in Boundary that have kept steadily at work, namely, the Granby and Snowshoe. Up to a few days ago the Snowshoe was shipping steadily, but it was forced to discontinue when the Sunset smelter at Boundary Falls ran out of the much needed coke. However, the force of men at the Snowshoe nearly as large as before, and ore is being blocked out in large quantities so that when shipments are resumed probably double the former tonnage will be sent out to the smelters each day.

At the Granby mines Superintendent Williams has kept a large force of men at work all this month, although it is now being somewhat reduced. Two furnaces at the smelter were blown out by a couple of weeks ago, and but two left in commission. This cut the ore shipments down to about 750 tons daily. In the meantime immense quantities of ore have been broken down in both the Knob Hill and Old Ironsides mines, in preparation for the resumption of shipments on the 1500 tons, per day basis. The smelter's ore bins are full all the time, as well as the bins of the smelter, making a combined tonnage of probably 30,000 tons. In the Knob Hill the workings are so filled with ore that work in the property except in the upper glory hole workings, has had to be temporarily suspended.

Nothing has been given out as to how long the smelter can run even its independent entirely on the coke now slowly coming in from the Vancouver Island collieries. While this coke is not as good as that from the Crow's Nest, it is all that can be had. It is a foregone conclusion that, if the strike in the Crow's Nest coal mines is not settled, even the Granby smelter will be forced to close for a time. As it is now, the cost of running the two furnaces at the smelter is about \$25,000 per month more than if a supply of coke for four furnaces could be had from East Kootenay.

MAY BE A WRECK.

Parts of a Vessel Found on Vancouver Island Coast.

VICTORIA, March 26.—A letter received here from Quatsino on the Vancouver island coast, says the stern of a ship's lifeboat with the word "Liverpool" on it, together with a quantity of lumber and some shivs' stanchions, have been found near Reef Point by Indians. Nothing can be learned as to what vessel the wreckage came from. Several vessels have recently sailed with lumber which have hailed from Liverpool, there being three Liverpool ships outward from Chemainus with lumber during the past couple of months, and the finding of the stern of a boat and lumber, etc., on the island coast, would indicate that one of these had suffered during the storms of the winter.

EXPENSIVE REPAIRS.

VICTORIA, March 30.—The British ship Bankleigh arrived to go on the ways for repairs made necessary as a result of her collision with the steamer City of Seattle at Vancouver. The repairs will cost in the neighborhood of \$65,000.

Miss Kathleen Boutilbee left last evening for Revelstoke.

NEWS OF GREENWOOD.

The Market Movement - Ore in the Elkhorn Mine.

GREENWOOD, March 26.—A. E. Ashcroft, P. L. S., is able to take short walks out of doors, after a long and critical illness, during which his recovery was at times regarded as doubtful.

F. C. Gamble, C. E., provincial engineer of public works, recently inspected the piling and other work done to protect the bridge over the North Fork of Kettle river near New Harmony promontory. He found that Foreman Geo. Findlay had made a substantial job of the work, so that there is now no fear of the bridge being damaged by the spring and summer freshets.

George L. Fraser, for some time master mechanic at the B. C. Copper company's Mother Lode mine, has left the company's service. He is removing to Phoenix for the time being, pending the making of arrangements for a permanent location.

The committee appointed by the Greenwood board of trade to ascertain the practicability or otherwise of holding a weekly or semi-weekly market in Greenwood, interviewed the city council at the last regular meeting of that body and requested that a comparatively high trade license fee be required from peddlars of vegetables and other produce offering their goods from door to door. It was submitted to the council that a market would not likely be a success so long as peddling was permitted. The council promised to go as far as the direction asked by the committee as the law will allow. The end those interesting themselves in this matter have in view is to induce ranchers from the Kettle valley, Rock Creek, Anarcho Mountain and other parts of the district, to bring in produce for sale on certain days and to get together buyers from the mining camps and towns around Greenwood, as well as residents in this town, to buy direct from the ranchers, and to thus benefit both buyers and sellers.

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NEWS OF GREENWOOD.

Mother Lode Closes Down—Board of Trade Meeting.

GREENWOOD, March 27.—Instructions were received by telegraph from Fernie yesterday from Frederic Ketter, M. E., general manager of the B. C. Copper company, limited, who is a member of the conciliation commission appointed by the Provincial Mining Association to endeavor to bring about a settlement between the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company and its striking employees, to discharge all men, except a couple of watchmen, employed at the B. C. Copper company's Mother Lode mine, near Greenwood, and Superintendent Holman acted on these instructions. This will be the first time for years this mine will have been entirely closed down excepting for an occasional day or so at holiday seasons. In anticipation of an early settlement of the strike instructions had been received and were about to be put into effect to prepare for a resumption of work at the company's smelter, with both furnaces running full blast, but now the intended starting up of these works is indefinitely postponed.

There was a numerous attendance at the weekly meeting of the Greenwood board of trade, held yesterday afternoon. The committee having in hand the matter of establishing a market day in Greenwood reported progress and were requested to send a circular letter to the farmers and others interested throughout the district asking for an expression of opinion as to the feasibility of the proposals in this direction. J. C. Haas, M. E., of Spokane, who was present by invitation, addressed the board upon the question of how best to advertise the high-grade mines of the immediate vicinity of Greenwood, and expressed himself as decidedly in favor of doing this by means of descriptive matter to be published in the newspapers, rather than by sending out specimens of rich ore in charge of someone employed to talk the matter up. The committee having this question in hand were requested to further deal with it and report later. The three Greenwood delegates to the convention of the Associated Boards of Trade held recently at Fernie reported that the board had done at that convention and elucidated the Fernie board of the excellence of its arrangements for the expeditious dispatch of business and acknowledged having been hospitably entertained. Several other matters came before yesterday's meeting and these were referred to committees to deal with.

After three applications for membership had been approved the board adjourned until next Wednesday, when the annual meeting and election of officers and committee will take place. Grand Master E. E. Chipman, of Kaslo, last night closed his official visitation to the Boundary lodges of the A. F. & A. M. by paying an official visit to Greenwood lodge, No. 23, which is the oldest Masonic lodge in the Boundary district. The Grand Master was accompanied by Bro. Dr. Westwood, W. M. of Harmony lodge, Grand Forks. Among numerous visitors present were Past Masters Craig, of the Boundary Falls smelter, Williams, of the V. V. & E. railway survey engineers, H. Barry Yull and J. A. McKinnon. Past Masters C. Scott Galloway and W. G. McInstry, of the local lodge were also seated on the dais. The third degree work witnessed by the grand master drew from him words of commendation. After the closing of the lodge two or three hours were spent socially, songs having been sung by Bros. J. D. Sward, A. M. White-side, W. W. Howe, E. G. Warren and W. G. McInstry, funny stories told by Bro. Craig, and interesting addresses made by the grand master and several other brethren, both by visitors and members of Greenwood lodge. The proceedings were closed by all present joining in singing "Auld Lang Syne." Grand Master Chipman goes out on this afternoon's train on his return to Kaslo.

SUPERINTENDENT Wm. Dowdle, of Nelson, was in Greenwood yesterday attending to business connected with the railway lines of the Boundary district, which are under his supervision.

The serious illness of a little girl is causing much anxiety to the parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. Goodell, of Boundary Falls. Mr. Goodell is superintendent of the Montreal & Boston Copper company, and is expected to return to Greenwood and skating rinks at Greenwood are now closed, after a long and unusually pleasurable season for pastimes on the ice.

THE COMPANY ORGANIZED AND EXPECTING TO GO TO WORK.

GRAND FORKS, B. C., March 25.—At a general meeting of shareholders of the British Columbia Coal company held in this city today the organization of the company was effected with a strong directorate of Toronto and eastern capitalists. No doubt is entertained here that an unlimited supply of coking coal surpassing that of the Crow's Nest pass exists up the north fork of Kettle river, within fifty miles of Grand Forks. When development of these coal fields is under way the erection of at least one additional smelter at this point will be begun at once, and the Granby, already the second largest in the world, will have its capacity increased. E. B. Irwin, K. C., of Toronto, representing the eastern shareholders, attended today's meeting. He expressed himself as well satisfied with the prospects of the company. Mr. Irwin added that development operations will be started at an early date and carried out on an extensive scale.

Mr. Joseph Phillips was ticked to Brandon, Man., over the Canadian Pacific yesterday.

THE ESTES CASE.

Trial at Victoria Is Given Another Adjournment.

VICTORIA, March 25.—The case of the King vs. Estes, for inciting the crews of the steamers Charnier and Danube to desert and thus delaying his majesty's mails, was continued in the police court today, when several witnesses from Vancouver were examined concerning the workings of the strike. The president and secretary of the Vancouver board of trade gave evidence concerning the meetings of the arbitration committee and the strikers, and Robert Brooks, an officer of the strikers, also gave evidence in regard to Estes' connection with the strike, mostly in connection with the trying up of the tug Coar. Captain Christensen of the Coar was also examined in this connection and then an adjournment was taken until tomorrow morning.

THE PRINCESS VICTORIA.

New Victoria-Vancouver Steamer Passes San Francisco.

VICTORIA, March 25.—Captain Troup of the C. P. N. company was advised today that the steamer Princess Victoria, built at Wallsend-on-Tyne for the C. P. N. company, passed San Francisco today and will arrive at Victoria on Friday, 28 days from New-Castle. She will be fitted up on arrival for the Victoria-Vancouver route.

SHERIFF REDGRAVE.

The Veteran Officer Dies While Making an Arrest.

GOLDEN, B. C., March 25.—Sheriff Redgrave died while arresting a man for disorderly conduct. Death was caused by heart failure, doubtless due to over exertion.

ORE FROM REPUBLIC.

VICTORIA, March 26.—The barge Sidney has arrived at Crofton in tow of the tug Alford from Liverpool with six cars of ore from the Trade Dollar mine at Republic, Washington, containing about 180 tons. McCann, the principal owner, accompanied this, the first shipment to arrive from that camp. This was all that was needed to enable the Crofton smelter to go ahead, and in a few days all will be ready for the flow-in, which will probably take place on April 1st.

THE RAZOR STEEL, SECRET TEMPER, CROSS-CUT SAW.

We take pleasure in offering to the public a saw manufactured of the finest quality of steel and a temper which toughens and refines the steel, gives a keener cutting edge and holds it longer than any process known. A saw to cut fast "must hold a keen cutting edge." This secret process and temper is known and used only by ourselves.

These saws are elliptic ground this back, requiring less set than any saws now made, perfect taper from tooth to back.

Now, we ask you, when you go to buy a Saw, to ask for the Maple Leaf Razor Steel, Secret Temper Saw, and if you are told that some other saw is just as good ask your merchant to let you take them both home, and try them, and keep the one you like best.

Silver steel is no longer a guarantee of quality, as some of the poorest steel made is now branded silver steel. We have the sole right for the "Razor Steel Brand."

It does not pay to buy a saw for one dollar less, and lose 25 cents per day in labor. Your saw must hold a keen edge to do a large day's work. Thousands of these saws are shipped to the United States, and sold at a higher price than the best American saws. Manufactured only by SHURLEY & DIETRICH, Galt, Ontario.

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E. Mayne Daly, Q. C. C. R. Hamilton.

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Advertisement for 'To Cure a Cold in One Day' featuring 'Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets' and 'Cures Grip in Two Days.' Includes a signature and 'Seven Million boxes sold in past 12 months.'