

rates of wages to be paid underground and outside day labour; a rate of \$5.00 per day to be paid miners taken from contract to do company work; coal got by contract to be weighed before screened; the hearing of grievances by the Company's officials and a pit committee; and other minor demands.

I ascertained that since the commencement of the strike the men had expressed a willingness to modify their demands in certain particulars but that the Company being willing to meet only its own employees or a committee of them, and the employees having determined to meet the Company only through certain representatives of the United Mine Workers, of whom some were not in the employ of the Company, the parties were unable to come together with the result that the strike had continued from month to month. It should be mentioned that on July 21st in a communication addressed to the Company, a committee of the Company's own employees submitted the following as a means of ending the dispute:

"LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA, July 21, 1906.

To A. M. NANTON, Esq.,
Managing Director,
And P. L. NAISMITH, Esq.,
General Manager, A. R. & I. Co.,
Lethbridge, Alberta.

Gentlemen:—

We, the undersigned Committee, acting on behalf of the workmen now on strike, beg to submit the following as a means of ending the dispute now existing at your Company's mines:

1. That a committee composed of four arbitrators be appointed, two to be appointed by the Company, and two to be appointed by the men now on strike.
2. The arbitrators so appointed to have full power to agree upon conditions of labour, wages, etc.
3. In case of their failure to agree upon any proposition, question to be referred to an independent chairman, whose decision shall be final.
4. Independent chairman to be selected by the arbitrators at their first meeting.
5. Both parties to abide by chairman's decision.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the miners of Lethbridge now on strike.

Donald McNab,	John Barrow,
Patrick Cain,	John Harvie,
Wm. Harvie,	Mike Daimuth,
Matthew Logan,	S. A. B. Crabb,
	(Secretary.)

To this proposal of the committee the following reply, dated July 28th, was sent by the General Manager of the Company:

"Dear Sirs:—

Your communication on the 21st. inst., addressed to Mr. Nanton and myself was duly received.

When here last week Mr. Nanton was, as you are aware, approached by some of the business men who arranged for a meeting with some of the old employees, at which interview most of you were present.

We thought that the Company's position at that meeting was clearly stated by the Managing Director however, as there appears to be some doubt in the minds of some of the old employees, I am directed to say:—

1. That if the old employees want work from us, they may return, as we have no feeling against any of our old men.
2. That if they do not want to work for us at the wages paid at the time they left us, we are satisfied, and will continue to give employment to others.
3. That if the old employees come forward later on and ask for work, when we have all the men we require they must not blame the company; and finally,
4. That never having had an opportunity of discussing with our employees any grievances they may have, we have nothing to arbitrate.

Yours truly,

(Signed) P. L. NAISMITH,
General Manager.

P. S.—While I have endeavored to clearly set out the company's position, I also wish to repeat what has frequently been said, that we are always ready to meet our employees, for the purpose of considering any matters affecting their welfare."

Settlement Negotiations.

These communications ended the correspondence between the parties, and the strike continued without further change in their relative positions.

Having gone pretty fully into the causes of the dispute, and the respective attitude of the parties from the time it commenced, I endeavored to ascertain along what lines a settlement might be hoped for.

I had, on the way to Lethbridge, wired from Moosejaw on the 22nd, to the Managing Director of the Company, at Winnipeg, asking if he would kindly come to Lethbridge to be present during the negotiations. The Managing Director replied kindly acceding to my request, and promised to leave for Lethbridge that evening, which would have brought him there on the morning of Friday, the 23rd. Late on Thursday evening, I learned that owing to serious illness in his family the Managing Director who had started on his way to Lethbridge had been obliged to discontinue his journey thence and leave for Ottawa.

On the morning of Friday, the 23rd, I received a communication dated November 15th, addressed by the Commissioner of Agriculture to the Minister of Labour at Ottawa, and which had been for-

warded to me; also, a communication from the acting Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture at Regina, dated November 19th, which was addressed to me direct to Lethbridge. These communications, inasmuch as they had a determining effect upon the course of action I subsequently adopted, I set forth here at length.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SASKATCHEWAN.
REGINA, November 15, 1906.

THE HON. MINISTER OF LABOUR,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:—

I am enclosing a number of copies of further letters received from boards of trade, mayors, coal dealers and others throughout the province in reply to our circular of enquiry, a copy of which I mailed to you yesterday.

In conversation with a coal merchant in Craik, I was informed that farmers in that district were coming in thirty-five miles for fuel, and obliged to return without a shovelful. The situation is so serious that farmers in that district are taking up their fence posts for fuel.

It will not do to prolong negotiations in the matter of the coal strike. In my opinion, it has reached such a crisis that the government has no alternative but to issue an ultimatum at once. We cannot afford to dally with negotiations for the sake of diplomacy when the people are perishing without coal.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. R. MOTHERWELL,
Commissioner for Agriculture.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
REGINA, November 19, 1906.

Dear Sir:—

I am forwarding, for your information, copies of correspondence, received in this department with reference

to the coal shortage in Saskatchewan. These letters and telegrams speak for themselves as to the gravity of the situation, and you will see that it is absolutely imperative that this strike be brought to a conclusion by some means at once.

We cannot allow the people of Saskatchewan to suffer from cold while these people are negotiating as to the terms on which they will mine coal. "Desperate diseases need desperate remedies." This country is approaching a crisis in its economic history; and if these people cannot be persuaded to mine coal peaceably there seems to me but one alternative.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. P. KETCHEN,
Acting Deputy Commissioner.

MACKENZIE KING, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Labour,
Lethbridge, Alta.

The enclosures contained in the letter of the Hon. W. R. Motherwell to the Minister of Labour, of the 15th inst., were the same as the enclosures which accompanied the letter of the Acting Deputy Commissioner to myself, except that in the case of the latter there were additional enclosures and a carefully prepared tabulated statement which had been compiled by the Saskatchewan Government from the reports received in answer to the circular letter which had been sent out to the mayors, merchants, overseers and others in the several localities of the Province. The following is a copy of this statement.

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