

In reply to this telegram the following wire was received from the International President:

"Message received. Wired H. M. Christopher (President of District 18 U.M.W. of A. today as follows: "As you are aware the International Executive Board directed Messrs. Ballantyne, Dalrymple and Caddy to conduct an investigation into the existing affairs in District 18 of the United Mine Workers of America and make recommendations to the international offices as to the matters of policy to be pursued in that District. This Committee has been pursuing its investigations and I am today in receipt of its recommendations that the charter of District 18 be revoked for good and sufficient cause. Accordingly I am hereby officially informing you that effective this date the charter of District 18 stands revoked and the District as such ceases its affiliation with the United Mine Workers of America."

As illustrating that there is a distinct difference of opinion as to the wisest course to pursue among the miners of the affected district, it may be noted that at Fernie on July 10th a meeting of the Fernie Miner's Union declared by a large majority in favor of negotiating a new working agreement as an organization of the U.M.W. of A., while from Calgary under date of August 2nd comes a statement by Ed. Browne, late Secretary-Treasurer of District 18 U.M.W. of A., that it has been decided not to turn the books of the Union over to the International officers. The latter, of course, made this request following the suspension of District 18, already referred to. Mr. Browne explained that this decision had been arrived at after a meeting of the Policy Committee, an executive board of the miners, who have constituted themselves into "No. 1 Mining Department of the One Big Union." Of this P. M. Christopher is the President; Alexander McFegan, Vice-President, and Ed. Browne Secretary-Treasurer. These officers to remain in office until the first constituted convention is called. "We are organizing the different locals under this heading" Mr. Browne observes, "and are now opened to do business. We have wired to Coal Commissioner Armstrong informing him of this and stating that we are prepared to negotiate for a settlement of the present strike, and also telling him that if this is not done he will be the man responsible. Any contract that we make will be fulfilled, and as for turning over any documents or anything else to the International representatives we wont do anything of the sort, and they will have to fight us all the way for their possession."

Broadly speaking, the situation is that many, in fact almost certainly the majority of the miners want to go back to work but are not likely to have that privilege at an early date unless something unexpected occurs tending towards the settlement of the present very sharply drawn issue between the U.M.W. of A. and the O.B.U.

Victoria, B. C.

T. H. Williams, who has been mine inspector at Fernie B. C. has retired and A. Strachan, inspector at Merritt, B. C., has moved to Fernie. D. McLean has been appointed inspector at Merritt. This is a new appointment. Mr. McLean is a returned soldier. He conducted a mining school at Ladysmith, B. C., before going to the front and on his return managed for a few months one of the mines of the Nicola-Princeton coal field. Messrs. Henry Miard of Fernie and James Dixon, late Manager of the Reserve Mine, Nanaimo, who recently was appointed to the British Columbia Board of Examiners, have been appointed also acting inspectors.

Ottawa, Ont.

As a result of the investigation held by the select committee of the Senate of Canada appointed recently to inquire into the question of certain valuable coal

leases in the Smokey River district of the Alberta Peace River, about two hundred miles north of Edmonton, the leases have been cancelled by Order of Hon. Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior. As a consequence the application for the right to build a railway to be known as the Athabasca Grande Prairie and Vermillion Railway, will go no farther in its present stage. In the investigations that took place officials of the Geological Survey Branch, Ottawa, testified that the coal area in question probably is the richest in Canada and that if developed and connected with the main line to the south it would be able to supply the whole of the West with a coal almost equal in quality to the Pennsylvania anthracite. That this may come about it is recommended that the Government develop the area either on a National or royalty basis and that a line of railways sixty miles in length be constructed at once from the Grand Trunk Pacific or Canadian National Railways' main line to the area in question. The leases comprise some eighteen thousand acres, and the coal available is estimated at from 200,000,000 to 400,000,000 tons. A German-American, Dr. Botts, first filed on the leases in 1912, and paid into the Treasury the sum of \$100,000 in six years for his leases. In 1918 he failed to make payment and the rights were cancelled.

Nanaimo, B. C.

On his return from Ottawa recently, Senator Planta made some statements with reference to the efforts which had been made at the Capital to have the duty on fuel oil into Canada removed. He said that strong pressure had been brought to bear on the Government to this end. Petitions having been forwarded with the support of the Vancouver Board of Trade and other Vancouver organizations. The reason advanced for the move being to force down the price of coal. Senator Planta thought that it was the big interests who were behind the movement and he referred in this connection to the C.P.R., the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company and the Manufacturers Association. The Minister of Finance it is stated, had been strongly impressed with the advisability of taking this action but it was so strongly opposed by representatives of the coal mining constituencies that no action was taken.

The Vancouver Island Mine Safety Association will hold its annual contest in first aid and mine rescue work on September 1st next at Nanaimo, B. C. Seven or eight teams are entered representing the various mines of the Nanaimo district and there will be teams from coal producing sections of the mainland as far east as the Crows Nest Pass. The Provincial Government has made a substantial grant this year to assist the Association in providing an attractive programme and interest is high among those who will compete. They have been in training for months and it is expected that the meet will be the most successful held in the Province for four or five years.

Vancouver, B. C.

Two problems are receiving attention at the hands of consumers of coal in the Northwest at the present time. One of these is the likelihood of there being a shortage next winter and the other the rapidly advancing prices.

Coal merchants of Victoria and Vancouver, B. C. state that they do not expect a condition that will prevent their meeting all demands both from domestic and commercial sources. They are looking forward, however, to the arrival of the American naval squad-