

C 14734

62

BRITISH COLUMBIA LABOUR COMMISSION

tremity, the secretary of the Ladysmith union wired to the secretary of the Western Federation at Denver, as follows:—

Can you support us with \$14,000 (less than one-fifth of their usual earnings) per month? Answer at once, yes or no.

On the 18th a reply was received to this telegram as follows:—

Baker has not arrived yet. Will answer your message later.

At the time of present writing, so far as can be ascertained, the Western Federation had done very little more for the relief of destitute families at Ladysmith, and little or nothing by way of assistance to the men at Union.

Results of Ladysmith and Union Strikes.

The mines at Union have never been closed, owing to the employment of a large number of Chinamen and Japanese at that place, but virtually all the white labour is still unemployed. The mines at Extension remained closed from the 12th of March, until the 3rd of July, despite the fact that many efforts were made at settle-

ment between the president of the company and the employees at that place.

The men not having received the assistance from the Western Federation which they were led to expect would be extended, resolved by a majority to return to work, and some 200 of them have been individually re-engaged on terms not quite as favourable as when they went out. In the same manner the miners at Union, except those whose places have been filled, will probably resume work in a few days.

It will thus be seen that these strikes have been not only barren of beneficial result to the miners, but that they have lost in wages over \$350,000, while business in Ladysmith and Union has been brought to the vanishing point.

We may add that we are informed that the miners at Fernie, Morissey and Michel have abandoned the Western Federation, and have joined the United Mine Workers of North America and that similar action is being discussed among the miners at Nanaimo.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Volume C 22

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