

-3-

As a matter of fact, I think he has already entered into negotiations which have paved the way for something of the kind.

He says that on no condition will he concede recognition to the United Mine Workers; that the fight having lasted as long as it has he and his Company would close up the mines altogether rather than do that, though they feel they are now in a position to bring in enough men to enable them to work the mines successfully.

There are still at Springhill some thirty members of the Canadian Mounted Rifles who are being kept there at the expense of the local authorities. In this country it is the Provincial not the Federal Government which has to assist the municipality in the event of it being found necessary to call in the militia in aid of the civil authorities. He does not think that these men will be required much longer, and expects to have them withdrawn very shortly.

He mentioned to me that a great many of the thousand men at Springhill who are out on strike own their own homes, and that this with the liberal assistance they have received from the United Mine Workers accounts for the reason why so many of them have remained in the town and not moved away.

I spoke to him about Mr. Farrington and asked if he knew of his having been at Springhill. He said that he had and that though he had not met him personally all of the men in the Company who had come in contact with him spoke very highly of him. Mr. Butler seemed to have a high opinion of him and of the evident fairness he displayed when looking into matters some little time ago.

I need only add that knowing Mr. Butler as I do, I feel sure that every representation he has made to me is strictly accurate, and that what he has said will be carried out. In other words, I am quite sure that if the United Mine Workers were to decide on continuing the strike at Springhill for another three years they would find themselves as respects the Company's attitude towards the