

men were working on their different shifts of 8 hours each this was only possible by taking a holiday. During the day a committee went to see the general manager. He replied "that he did not know any of them and would not meet them." On the following day a notice was posted telling every man to take his tools and before re-employment must sign a contract under the old conditions for two years. This the men refused to do. On the 18th the men at Extension took a holiday to protest against the action of the same company at Cumberland, and on the following day a similar notice was posted for them. This started the "lock-out" at Cumberland and Extension that has gone on ever since. Communications were sent by the unions at these places regarding a proposed agreement but all were ignored. Later the Orientals who had stood loyally by their fellow workmen, it is stated and generally believed, were intimidated to return to work.

Since then the mines at Cumberland have been employing Chinese, Japanese, Negroes and a few white miners. Here practically everything is owned by the company, especially around Bevan—land, coal, houses, store, hotel, even the road leading to the mine. The strikers, numbering 500 men, have had to endure every insult and privation. They have seen their city invaded by a Government force of 20 or 30 mounted police, 100 or more special police. By 350 soldiers with arms and a field gun. They have had to endure a raid by the strike-breakers. They have seen their leader unjustly arrested and imprisoned. They have been maligned by the Press, yet through it all and up to the present, according to the statement of the Mayor, they have conducted themselves as respectable law-abiding citizens.

Inasmuch as nothing apparently was being done by