Daily Strike Edition

The District Ledger

Industrial Unity is Strength | The Official Organ of District No. 18, U. M. W. of A. | Political Unity is Victory

VOL. IV. No. 36 38 | FERNIE, B. C., APRIL 15th, 1909 | $1.00 a Year

APPRECIATION FROM THE PRAIRIE

Editor Calgary Albertan Declares Himself

ON THE SIDE OF MINERS

Every Little Bit is a Boost

The reports of the meeting of the miners in Fernie show that there is no rift in the ranks, that the Pass miners are solid and that they are behind Sherman to a man. It would be very surprising if they were not behind Sherman, whose fight is to get them as good terms as he succeeded in getting for 2800 other miners who aer working in the same district.

According to the statement made by Ms. Sherman he did nothing dishonorable, and in no way discredited the honor of the miners union. This was so apparent that the representative sent by the international president seemed to be quite convinced.

So the labor trouble now resolves itself into the original dispute when the men first went out and is not complicated with any side issues. The miners are asking for the same terms that have been given to the majority of the men in the district without any strike trouble. That being the case, it seems as if it is an easy road for the strikers. To the outsider, unacquainted with the technicalities of the business it would seem that the miners can be asking for nothing very outrageous, when the majority of the operators, under similar conditions, without any argument, gave the requested regulations and the requested wages.

The miners have brought to light one defect in the Lemieux act, and probably the one very serious defect That is the long notice that is required for a board of conciliation. Had the miners been able to secure such a board on a couple of days notice instead of on 30 days notice, in all probability they would have asked for the board. But with a strike in sight a wait of 30 days would be playing right into the hands of the operators and embarrassing the miners in their struggle.

With some such change, which may be made at this session, the Lemieux act would be found to be very much more workable."

> And the Albertan has said before and repeats it again, that the interests of the miners in the Crows Nest Pass are not going to be injured very much as long as Frank Sherman is in control."—Editorial comment in Morning Albertan, of April 14.

NEWS FROM FIRING LINE

Coal Operators are Now Willing to Discuss, but they Still Hug Fondly the Delusion That They can Make the Public Believe That the Abortive Tentative Proposals of the Macleod Conference Constitute a Fair Basis of Contract. Incidentally They Admit That a Preamble and an Enacting Clause, are, After all, Necessary to the Integity of every Normal and Well Regulated "Agreement."

Pursuant to decree of the Fernie Convention the Officers of District 18 U. M. W. of A. have proceeded promptly to place themselves in communication with that minority of our local coal operators who are still "off the reservation," and wandering in the "bad lands" of disagreement. The result of their efforts to date can be discerned from the following exchange of telegrams between the negotiating parties:

HOSMER MINES B. C. APRIL 14 1909

A J CARTER,

Secretary U.M. W. of A., Fernie:

Referring to request of International Board Member Morgan and your committee that called on me this morning to renew negotiations, we beg to inform you that we will be glad to meet you for the purpose of preparing an enacting clause as arranged for and executing the agreement made by the Scale Committee at Macleod and ratified by a referendum vote of the employees.

LEWIS STOCKETT,

President Western Coal Operators Association

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President Western Coal Operators Association

Hosmer, B.C.

Answering your telegram without prejudice, the United Mine Workers of America, District No. 18 are willing to accept the following agreement in order that the mines may resume operations:

It is hereby agreed:

Between the Western Coal Operators Association (consisting of the Pacific Coal Company Limited, the W. H. McNeill Company Limited, the Leitch Collieries, Limited, the West Canadian Collieries Limited, the Hillcrest Coal and Coke Company Limited, the International Coal and Coke Company, Limited, the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company of one part, and the employees of the said Companies, as represented by the United Mine Workers of America District '8, of the other part, that the agreement existing prior to April 1st, 1909, respecting general provisions and scales of contract prices and wages, shall govern the parties hereto for the period of two years, commencing April 1st, 1909, and ending March 31st, 1911, in so far as the same may not be modified or affected by the provisions of this agreement; it being understood and agreed that the parties thereto, will meet in conference sixty days prior to the expiration of this agreement to discuss a renewal thereof. This agreement covers all the mines, coke ovens, and outside plants operated by the companies and all persons accepting employment at these mines shall be governed by the following rules and regulations:

The Company will require each person employed by them, or to be employed by them, as a miner, mine laborer, or otherwise, in and about the mines and coke ovens of the prospective companies, to sign this agreement, as a condition precedent to continued employment of the person already employed or to be employed. The agreement to be placed in a book together with a legal check-off clause and signed by all employees.

HOURS OF LABOR

All underground wages shall be computed from the time of entry at the surface of the mine to the time of return to the surface of the mine, based upon the eight (8) hour bank to bank shift.

LILLE COLLIERIES

A contract price to be agreed upon for the seams at present being worked at Lille.

A. J. CARTER,

Secretary-Treasurer Dist. 18 U.M.W .of A.

> MINERS
>
> Keep away from Nicola as there are too many men there now, and the market is overcrowded.

The big race meet at Crûnbrook is to be held on May 24 and 25. Numerous well known horse breeders both from the United States and Canada, are already entered and a first class meet is guaranteed by the citizens of Cranbrook.

Wily Japs To the Fore

NEW YORK, April 15—The Japanese government is negotiating with an American builder of submarine boats for the purchase of plans and specifications for a new type of submarine of smaller model than the type now in common use but which will be of double speed.

It is stated that the proposed new craft would have the same destructive power as the present type.

The purpose of the Japanese government is to send draughtsmen to New Yor to get instructions on the design but al lthe work of building will be done in Japan.

Mr. Wm. Muir, representing the Lethbridge Brewing Company was in town this week.

THE PRESSURE GONTINUES TO GROW

Grain Growers Want Square Deal

THREE PROVINCES IN IT

Elevator Busines Free From Graft

WINNIPEG, April 15—Next week a delegation from the inter provincial council of the Grain Growers association of Mantoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan will vst Ottawa to wait on Sir R. Cartwright and urge upon the government that they ocntrol the terminal elevators.

The following will represent the western provinces: Messrs. Edward F. Frame, Ianisfail; George Langley, Maymont; Roderick McKenzie, Winnipeg.

The Manitoba petition is now in the hands of the local executive and has 15,000 names.

WHY NOT COPY US

New Ontario Has Also its Pioneer Hotel Problems

Eastern Bonifaces Put in a Quandary by the Shrewd Thriftiness of the Canadian Backwoodsman

TORONTO, April 15—The hotels of Northern Ontario have been thoroughly inspected during the past few weeks by the new Provincial inspector, Mr. W. K. Snider, who has been looking after the accommodation and safety of the travelling public in that new country.

Mr. Snider's visit will mean a brisk trade for the fire escape manufacturers, for not twenty five per cent of these hotels were provided with these appliances. In every case Mr. Snider ordered one for each floor, and ropes reaching to the ground for every room. The cost figures up to from $75 to $200 in each case.

Stealing the Houses

This rope rule is not the easiest to keep in force. Several times when the provincial officer visited a hotel he found no balconies fitted with fire escapes, but the proprietor was quite certain that ropes were in every room. In most cases they were but often the boniface opened his eyes as he looked in vain for his stout hemp. It is one of the customs of the north for a miner or woodsman to make the room ropes take French leave. He simply cuts it off near the wall for it may come in handy some time. Under the new law Mr. Snider is usually able to secure the co-operation of the local inspector, who undertakes to see that the deficiencies are supplied.

A few hotels were informed that their future existence depended on the absence of dirty and unhealthy surroundings, but the great majority Mr. Snider found to be clean, well equipped and very comfortable.

Some Splendid Houses

The hotels of northern Ontario compare favorably with those of the older portions of the province. The inspector was surprised at the equipment in such places at Haileybury, New Liskeard, Sturgeon Falls, the Soo, Sudbury and other places. The rotundas in some of them would hold hundreds of people and the furnishings would cost hundreds of dollars.

Inspection in Toronto

Mr. Snider will now return to the hotels in the southern part of the province. The proprietors in this city will not escape his visits although owing to three inspectors being on the ground it is taken for granted that they will not demand attention until the rest of the tour is completed.

The hotel men of Ontario are being made to toe the mark in a manner previously unknown in that country, and the law in all regards is being vigorously enforced. As a result many of the hotels fomerly holding licenses with no accommodation for the public have either had to improve and enlarge their premises or have been forced out of business. There has been a marked change in the general equipment and comfort of the hostelries.

Joe Martin Bobs Up

LONDON, April 15—The Chronicle declares the unknown Liberal candidate for the by-election in Stratford-on-Avon is a brilliant orator a well known K. C. and an ex-colonial premier who has championed free trad in debates in the Canadian parliament; his identity will be revealed to-day. The only man who would answer the description with the exception of Hon. Ed. Blake, is the Hon. Joseph Martin who has just arrived in England.

A fine and public spirited horse belonging to Mr. Thomas Letcher has fallen a victim to its presumable joy at being employed in the good work of erecting our local Labor Temple—its special function being the hoisting of the bricklayers lift. In cavorting around its stall as it reflected on the field of usefulness thus opened to it, this class-conscious animal got its neck entangled in its own rope and passed over to the spirit land. Our capitalistically minded friends may attempt to draw some kind of a moral from this; but they are welcome to the attempt. They are "short" on morals, anyhow.

Our artistic photographer, Mr. J.F. Spalding has inaugurated a new departure, which is more fully referred to in his advertisement appearing elsewhere in this issue. The Ledger's camora fiend has inspected these photos and enlargements with mingled envy and joy and recommends our art loving public to betake itself to Mr. Spalding's studio and luxuriate in the last mentioned of those feelings. Incidentally, it may be stated that while Mr. Spalding's values are high his prices are exceptionally low. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Cupid Makes Way to Peace

SEATTLE, April 15—Instead of living at Columbia city as reported, Mr. and Mrs. Aoki, who were married in Seattle following a sensational flight from California, several weeks ago, are now eking out an existence on a little four acre tract across Lake Washington a short distance from Sunnydale.

Mrs. Emery, mother of the American girl who took the Japanese servant for her husband is living with the couple on this little garden patch which they have leased.

Mother Earth Increasing

SEATTLE, Wash. April 15—Amid the most fearful rumblings, explosions and eruptions another island has been added to Bogoslof group near Unalaska, according to Captain Mackay of the sealing schooner Dora which arrived today.

For ten days prior to the island's appearance above the waterline the natives of the other islands within a radius of 100 miles were aware that the interior of the earth was in a very unsettled mood and a few days before the appearance of the island the volcanic mountains in the group had been in action.

Just what is the size of the new island could not be learned as the natives could not be induced to go within many miles of it.

Captain Mackay realhed Unalaska on March 12th with the Dora and was informed about the phenomenon by Nicholas Grey, agent of the Alaska Commercial Co. and Deputy United States Marshal C. H. Harmon.

The island appeared about March 10th.

PEACE BUSTS AT LAST

Riot Stirred up in Turkey by Inveterate Enemies

Will Secret Agents of Europe's Robber Governments Succeed in Stifling Liberty's Latest Child

FRANKFORT, April 13—Constantinople has been in full revolution since early this morning, declares the Constantinople correspondent of the Frankporter Despatch.

Two battalions of troops quartered in the ministry of war proceeded at dawn, headed by their officers, and marched to the Mosque of St. Sophia, from which point they then surrounded the parliament buildings.

They demanded the dismissal of the grand vizier, the president of the chamber and the minister of war.

Panic Is Spreading

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 14—Serious disturbances of a revolutionary nature have broken out here. The situation is grave. The mutinous troops are demonstrating against the parliament buildings. Panic has aroused the people and all through the country shops are being hurriedly closed.

The cabinet has resigned and their resignation has been accepted. It is reported that Kiamil Pasha, the former grand vizier, has now been charged with the work of forming a new cabinet, which he has started to do.

SITUATION IS GRAVE

LONDON, April 14—The only news to reach London up to 10.30 to-day about the trouble in Turkey was contained in a code message which set forth the serious disturbances of a revolutionary character which had broken out, and further stated that the situation was very grave.

Neither the foreign office, the Turkish embassy nor the banks with Constantinople connections had any further information than that already given. It is known however, that the situation has been extremely strained for several weeks in consequence of the bitterness between the committee of union and progress and the liberals. The liberals resent the attempts of the committee to control public affairs. The murder of Hassan Effendi, the editor of a liberal newspaper, on April 7 is thought to have been the climax of the trouble. The paper had been carrying on a campaign against the Society of Young Turks.

Violent demonstrations both in parliament and in the streets adjacent followed the killing of the editor. The committee on February 14 publicly repudiated any intention to overthrow the sultan or to instal a military dictatorship but the crisis and its outcome was not regarded then as promising well for the stability of the throne or the success of the parliamentary government.

On April 3 Kiamil Pasha issued a statement in which he denounced the committee of union and progress, to whose machinations he attributed the vote of censure in the Turkish parliament and the consequent downfall of his cabinet.

The irresponsible interference of this committee, the Pasha declared, had neutralized the efforts of the government, and if permitted to continue would seriously endanger the future of the entire country.

The District Ledger

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We believe, through careful enquiry, that all the advertisements in this paper are signed by trustworthy persons, and to prove our faith by words, we will make good to actual subscribers any loss incurred by trusting advertisements that prove to be swindles; but we do not attempt to adjust trifling disputes between subscribers and honorable business men who advertise, nor pay the debts of honest bankrupts.

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W. S. STANLEY,

Phone 48; Residence 9 — Manager

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION LABEL FERNIE B.C.

THE EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

In the field of our local industrial conflict the most striking feature which for a long time met the eye of the casual observer consisted in the mass of fog and smoke created by an unfortunate and shortsighted endeavor on the part of a minority of our local Coal Operators to trick out with the habiliments and legal status of a definite "agreement" certain partial and tentative proposals which, if vitiated by no cunningly concealed "jokers," might fairly enough have been submitted to a preliminary referendum as a basis for further discussion and final shaping of a real and completely worded contract, but which (by reason of the fact that in the absence of one local official—and the worse than absence of another—certain 'jokers' did as a matter of fact find means of entrance) became simply a sort of infernal machine—dangerous not only to the trade interests of the miners, for whose discomforture the thing had been loaded, but also to the reputation and "standing in equity" of the operators themselves in case the machine should explode while it was still under convoy by its inventors and before being finally and definitely landed on the premises of its prospective victims.

The fact that the device did explode thus prematurely is simply one more illustration of the great moral truth that the mere act of conspiring to take technical and unfair advantage of a confiding unsuspicious fellow laborer, in the working out of a business agreement, does, indeed, so confuse and unsettle the judgment of the conspirer himself that sooner or later he bungles the seeming advantages which he imagines himself to have gained by his strategy, and finds himself in the predicament of an "engineer hoist by his own petard."

The existing status of affairs, then, is that the recalcitrant minority of our local coal operators—the "gun-toting bad men" so to speak, who through sheer love of combat have started out on a "high lonesome" and undertaken to "shoot up" our peaceful coal mining community, are seen from the documentary record to have signally failed in their ill-judged attempt to deceive, first our local miners, who by the unforseen and unavoidable illness of District President Sherman were perceived to have been deprived of their most experienced counsellor; secondly, the International officers of the U.M.W. of A. who by reason of their remoteness from the scene of action seem to have been considered an easy target for misleading statements and disingenuous explanations; and lastly, the general public itself, with its long and pathetic record of ready gullibility in matters of trade union controversy.

The final outcome, that the Operators have thus failed, is not only matter of congratulation to the Miners, whose domestic peace has been threatened; and to that general and non-privileged public, whose true interests are inseparably bound up with the industrial welfare of each individual contingent of this same general public (which is manifestly and obviously nothing else than the composite and totality of the various branches of the legitimately hand working and brain working class); but ought also to be occasion for sincere rejoicing among the shareholders of the coal companies whose mines have been thrown, by these managerial blunders into that condition of disuse which means present disintegration and future expense in restoration of the tunnels, or "entries," to a working condition.

Apart, however, from these more material and financial reasons for rejoicing at the present clearing up of a wilfully befogged situation, and the consequent regaining by both parties to the controversy of opportunity to inaugurate a fair and unhandicapped discussion of their respective interests, there is room for widespread rejoicing in the emphasis and publicity which this episode of unnecessary and expensive delay must unavoidably contribute to the advancement of that general policy of common sense and fair play and decency which wide awake public men are more and more strenuously advocating as being the course of true and ultimate expediency no less than of uprightness.

In other words, the wide advertisement which will necessarily be given to this deserved failure of an attempt to win a victory over organized labor by means of chicane and "business strategy,' must inevitably give tremendous impetus to the educating of the average business mind to the fact that in at least that department of business activity which is called for by the necessity of arranging terms of collective bargains between corporations and their employees, the time has long gone by when any permanent advantage can be gained by means of cunning or coercion, finding their congenial and appropriate atmosphere in bland and Hyperborean ignorance of economic fact. The resistless advance of economic evolution is day by day laying heavier and heavier stress on the great business truth that labor power is the most important raw material that a business manager has to buy; and that the manager who fails to acquaint himself with the last detail of the conditions which govern the production and organization and delivery of this labor power, is laying himself open to be distanced by more wide awake managers, just as surely as would the purchasing agent who took no pains to inform himself concerning the physical nature and the market conditions of any other product necessary to the carrying on of his plant. Among all such necessary materials labor-power is at once the most valuable in use, the most subtle in nature, and the most liable to deterioration in business value if carelessly or ignorantly handled. One of its peculiarities is that with the advance of civilization and intelligence labor power becomes more and more refractory under treatment which ignores the human quality and human necessities of the laborer, and more and more responsive to that manly and straightforward attitude which recognizes the natural desire of the laborer to enjoy the gains and honors of this advancing civilization whose very road bed is composed of the bodies of his class.

If our managerial friends of the C. P. R. system desire to pursue that really up-to-date policy which will put them approximately abreast of the able lieutenants of Mr. James J. Hill, of that ilk, they will present each individual manager of these subordinate coal companies of theirs with a thoughtfully selected library of modern economics.

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