LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
JUN 10 1919
VICTORIA, B.C.

47

The District Ledger

OWNED, CONTROLLED, PUBLISHED BY DISTRICT 18, U.M.W. of A.

VOLUME 1, NO. 43 THE DISTRICT LEDGER, FERNIE, B.C. JUNE 6, 1919 Printed By Union Labor

Winnipeg Strike

Winnipeg news is brief and no settlement has as yet been reached. Calgary reports that the objection now being raised by the strikers is in regards to the government's refusal to treat with the postal workers who went on strike regardless of the objection of the authorities. There may be a complete tie-up in Calgary in aid of the postal workers.

Vancouver is quite, only part of the Vancouver workers have as yet been called out.

THIEF RIVER FALLS, Minn., June 2.—Instances are accumulating that the strike is growing more serious. The demonstrations are hourly increasing in volume and intensity. For the third time the parliament buildings were stormed today and the buildings and grounds were literally black with strikers who had marched through the streets to again interview the premier. They jammed the interior and swarmed over the very sides and top of the structure until no more could gain entrance, but in spite of their vigorous cries and energetic demeanor there was no actual violence.

The strikers mounted the fire escapes and climbed in at the windows and others went onto the roofs. The wide copings of the first and second story was the resting place of scores who actually climbed up the sides, using the decorated columns like human flies. The trees afforded other places of vantage, and still others climbed on to the fine old statue of Queen Victoria, facing the east side, next the parliament buildings.

Premier is Adamant

Again the speakers harangued the premier and his cabinet, demanding that he call a special session of the legislature to make sympathetic strikes legal. Again the premier refused. The parade, when it formed at 11 o'clock in front of the city hall had in the ranks less than a thousand, but by the time it had reached the grounds there were five thousand or more, and spectators with cars surrounding the place increased the proportion by two thousand.

Mayor Gray and Fred Law, provincial organizer of the Great War Veterans, addressed the men, urging them to abandon the idea of daily parades, as they were inviting violence. Neither speaker was listened to, and there was some jeering. A ten-foot Union Jack fastened to a long red pole was carried by a big man with a returned soldier's button on. The crowd started in the middle of the street southward ten deep and their ranks were constantly added to, and as the rigs of some department stores passed they were boo-ed.

Flags are Seized

Here and there a flag was torn from the coats of passing pedestrians, and from an auto a large flag was snatched as the car passed. There was some singing and answering cheers from sympathizers on the sidewalks. Office buildings quickly filled and upper windows were opened to witness the demonstration. Around the T. Eaton Co., the parade wound once, with much booing and cheering but they were headed for the parliament buildings. Here and there was a returned soldier in uniform marching with the parade, and scores of buttons were to be seen among the men, probably one in five of the whole, but there was no women in the parade. The men were rather well dressed, caps predominating, and they were rather an upstanding body of men.

Foreigners in Procession

Outnumbering the soldiers were those of obvious European origin, but they were less demonstrative than the men of apparent English and Canadian origin. But they were smiling, the whole of them, and from the sidewalks came encouraging cries, which were answered with the raising of caps and more cheers, but not loud hurrahs. It left the impression of a massed tenseness that was rather uncomfortable and yet mysterious. On the sidewalks were more small flags in lapels than were apparent Saturday, and from one man was heard the grim remark: "They may tear the flag off the wrong man mayor. I have not seen one before, but now is the time to show the colors under which you are travelling."

All Expressed Respect

At the meeting with the premier, in which several speakers expressed respect there were some cries of "No, no," when the speakers said they gave the premier credit for sincerity. At the door had been placed two men with strike committee executive badges on, and they were crying to the crowd: "Only returned men admitted here. Show your badges." So the impression gained was that only veterans were inside. Finally Premier Norris said he had told the men all he could and that their government would consider their complaint. "We are in sympathy with labor," repeated the premier.

"How about the postal employees?" asked one.

Mr. Norris: "That's a federal matter."

Question: "How about the telephones?"

Mr. Norris: "There is no ultimatum in that connection."

Question: "How about the foremen?"

Mr. Norris: "They are under the civic jurisdiction. I have stated my case. I have told what we are going to do."

(Shouts of "Nothing," and "Resign Resign.")

No Demonstrations

At the C.P.R. shops in Weston and the C.N.R. shops in Ft. Rouge, demonstrations were reported to the police station when 10 o'clock arrived, the hour the men were to return or have their old positions filled. None had returned. There were no acts of violence, but angry demonstrations, and crowds, and constables were hurriedly dispatched to the scene by Chief MacPherson. Now no strikers will be employed by the shops of the railways, according to the ultimatum, but there have been no applicants for the jobs yet, it is stated.

The street cars did not run today and General Manager McLarmot stated that service would not be attempted for some days. He did not say why, but it is believed to be due to the increasing restlessness of the strikers since the city authorities ordered the cars started. The members of the Committee of One Thousand are sticking grimly to their jobs and members are disregarding their personal business in their determination to finish the job. The bureau is surrounded by fleets of cars day and night and every where is heard the remark: "We have them beat but we must keep on. We are fighting all Canada's battle. We are winning."

Strikers Cheer Veterans

The otherwise drab surroundings were broken during the morning by the arrival of the Strathcona Horse and Fort Garry Horse direct from France, together with the Seventh Cavalry Field Ambulance, and they marched through the streets with great crowds cheering them, among whom were many strikers, who hurrahed viciously. The Fort Garries will be demobilized here instead of at Calgary, as was originally planned, will be no demobilization for the present. All marched to barracks, where military preparedness has not slackened. The city council again today postponed action on enforcing the demand for a pledge against sympathetic strikes until Tuesday. The metal trades mediation by the railway brotherhoods continues, but with nothing definite.

Saved the Flag

Howard E. Lloyd, a member of the Committee of One Thousand, resented the efforts of the parading strikers to remove the flag from his coat, and fought it out on the street corner with a dozen piling on top of him. He was mauled badly, but saved his flag There was no arrests.

The Telegram construed this as a feature regarded as violence. In an editorial it says: "A climax in the strike situation is rapidly approaching. Reports reached the police from a number of sources this morning that mobs, composed mostly of foreigners, were attacking automobiles with stones in several sections of the city. At Redwood bridge, it was declared, many cars were stoned and two car owners reported to the Telegram that they had been attacked at the foot of the Arlington Street overhead bridge. In one case, at least, the driver of a car was injured with stones. Drastic measures to put down this form of rioting will be instituted at once, and it is stated that if the police force is unable to cope with the situation other and adequate steps will be taken."

Labor News Side

The Labor News has the following in striking head lines over the report on Page 1 of the parade to the parliament buildings. "Soldiers back strikers to the limit. Ten thousand wearing buttons march to parliament buildings. Tell Premier Norris to call off the committee of One Thousand. Urge special session to legislate re collective bargaining. Denounce treatment of telephone girls. Going back to interview the government Monday morning. Visit the city hall and demand withdrawal of the ultimatum to civic employees. Insist that police remain on duty. City council leaves matter to stand over till Tuesday morning. Give policemen ovation. Carry flag to Labor Temple. Say sympathetic strike cannot be called off until collective bargaining is established. Resent press campaign of villification. Say it must stop. Give three cheers for the Labor News."

Telegram From Calgary

At Labor Temple the strike managers remain tranquil and today displays a telegram they had just received from Calgary, which they said had been sent to Borden. It reads:

"Hon. Robert Bordon, Ottawa, Ont.:

"Sir:——Wish to bring to your notice that at the peace conference which you attended it was decided that labor must be recognized also collective bargaining. Inasmuch as this is a fact, why is it that common labor is forced to strike to obtain what we understand is internationally recognized.

(Signed) Central Strike Committee, Labor Hall, Calgary."

The Labor News also says of a great mass meeting held last night:

"Thrilling, pulsating, wonderful, was the meeting of the labor church in Victoria Park on Sunday night. The industrial bureau had been refused, so the enormous congregation of 7,000 to 9,000 that surged into the park stood for three hours and listened [illegible] address packed with information and enthusiasm."

Take Comfort in This

The labor organ makes prominent the following statement from the Grain Growers' Guide, which is at present considered significant of the feelings in strike circles: "A forecast that is realized. In Canada there is yet none of that terrible poverty and only the beginning of ruling plutocracy, but at the present rate 25 years will see the wealth of Canada controlled by 100 men, and the most of it by a score. It is coming with tremendous speed, and then only one thing will prevent hopeless misery for the poorer classes. That will be a revolution that will shake Canada to its very foundations.—Grain Growers' Guide, Sept. 28, 1910."

Bankers assert that many strikers have been drawing out their savings lately. This morning at one branch a long line of men with strike buttons on their coats had formed before the opening hour and they drew out their deposits as rapidly as they could be accommodated.

Eating Houses Closed

WINNIPEG, June 4.—The strike committee has issued an order calling from work all employees in the few restaurants operating during the past week. All were closed at 11 o'clock today. Orders have also been given calling out all milk and bread wagons drivers, beginning tomorrow.

Motion picture theatres, operators and stage hands go off duty also tomorrow. The Labor News is gleeful in today's issue over the backdown of the police commission on Tuesday. The city is again under strike committee rule directed from the Labor Temple. No daily papers are allowed to be sold on the strets.

Drivers Quit Work

WINNIPEG, June 4.—James A. Duncan, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, Seattle, arrived in Winnipeg this morning and will address the strikers at Victoria Park this afternoon. The unions of engineers, bakeries and creameries were called out this morning by the central strike committee. First reports said most of the men obeyed the order. Some men driving milk wagons and bread wagons have also quit work.

VANCOUVER, June 4.—Unless the second day of the Vancouver strike involves the street railway men and electrical workers as a whole in the walkout, the comfort of the citizens will not be seriously disturbed by the industrial tie-up. With the resumption of general business this morning, after yesterday's holiday, the effect of the strike is hardly noticeable. Stores are open, telephones and telegraphs are undisturbed, postal deliveries normal, gas, electric light and power and city water are at full pressure, and the street car service is up to standard. Of the unions operating these utilities only the street railway [illegible] even considering a strike.

Newspapers Still Publish

The newspapers are publishing as usual, but one result of last night's meeting of the Typographical Union was disclosed this morning when an [illegible] paper publishers, which in effect establishes a censorship by the strike committee of all news remotely connected with the industrial upheaval.

Each member of the Typographical Union claims the right to refuse to set up any news item or editorial which seem to reflect on the motives and methods of organized labor. Strike news and editorial comment will be submitted to the foremen in charge, who reserves the right to reject it for publication. The chairman of Vancouver local typos will be the court of last appeal in deciding whether such matter will be published in Vancouver. Any newspaper contesting the decision will promptly be left without a staff of compositors to set up its newspaper.

"Old Bill" says "If you can find a "better 'ole than the Grand" go to it.

MICHEL NOTES

MICHEL NOTES BY OBSERVER

The men on the government road here are still working. They have made demands for that 'two bits' which has been taken away since last summer, whether they get it or not remains to be seen. Another kick which those workers seem to have is that they cannot get pay sooner than once a month. Apparently those men were not covered by the two weekly pay days and the government has forgot its own employees.

Great interest is now being shown by the Returned Men, also the Miners here on the possibility of a good Soldier's and Workman's Club at Natal. The near future will no doubt see this necessity a real fact.

The bushmen here are awaiting instructions from the Loggers Union before they quit work. Word has been received here that they may quit when they choose but this is not sufficient for the bushmen, they want their instructions direct and will remain at work until they get them.

The dance held for the benefit of the Baseball Club was a pronounced success, the club cleaned up about $45. clear of expenses. This will at least buy a ball or two during the coming season.

The question is being asked by some of the workers in both Fernie and Michel, "are the men on the government road scabbing?" The observer has been informed by Returned Vets, who are working on this work, that they do not intend to do anything one d—n cent cheaper than any other worker. The observer who has been around here for sometime, has a recollection of the government road men striking in the year 1918 for 50c increase which they got; this made their wages $4.00 per day. Since that time the H.C.L. has gone up at least 15 per cent and the are now working for $3.50 per day. If this is not a fact will someone please correct Observer.

A Grand Smoker and Concert was held at the Great Northern Hotel on Wednesday May 28th, under the auspices of the Fernie Veterans Football club. The Vets could not understand why the Michel Team did not receive them in a more gentlemanly manner. The Observer was informed by several of the Fernie Boys that it was customary to provide some kind of a reception, but owing to the fact that this was not done, they decided to hold a smoker and dance on their own, which evidently was a success, as the Vets did not leave Michel until the wee sma' hours of the morning. The miners' secretary who was present, explained to the Vets that this error was due to some misunderstanding on the part of the Michel Committee and was not intentional by any means. In the future we trust that the home committee's will prepare for a more cordial greeting for the eVts.

The O. B. U. Conference At Calgary

Special to The District Ledger

CALGARY, June 5.—Delegates from Port Arthur, Fort William, Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, Saskatoon, Vancouver, and other points are now in session for organization of ONE BIG UNION. President Christophers and Secretary Browne are representing District 18. Committees are working on draft of constitution and other details.

Premier Borden's repeated announcement that striking Postal Employees will not be reinstated has caused other Unions in Calgary and Vancouver to enter the strike. A cable from Liverpool, England, says that the dock workers will refuse to discharge any Canadian steamer until the Winnipeg strike is settled.

The convention of the O.B.U. in Calgary which opened yesterday will be of much more than a little public interest. The blame of the whole Winnipeg and the following sympathetic strikes is laid by some to the demands of the O.B.U. for collective bargaining and a pronouncement of the policy of the organization which will be effected at the Calgary convention will therefore be awaited on this point.

The local situation is largely overshadowed by the great general strike.

—o—

WILL STAND BEHIND THE FIREBOSSES

The District Board met at Calgary on Tuesday. Among other resolutions passed was one pledging unwavering support to the Firebossess who have gone out on strike. The resolution declares that the firebosses will be backed to the limit and that no work ers in District 18 will return to work until the firebosses are re-instated.

—o—

NOTES FROM THE CAMPS

BRULE.—"Things are looking brighter every day." We have just finished delivering a two thousand dollar supply of groceries we bought in Edmonton and all the single boys have gone to the bush. We are comfortably settled down for the summer. Give our regards to the boys all over District 18 and tell them to stick it out.

DRUMHELLER.—This section has just had a visit from Secretary Ted Browne. He heard that we were bothered with scabs in the Drumheller valley but found everything closed up tight. This valley has no room for scabs. We want to keep the air pure and healthful and free from such vermin.

BLAIRMORE.—All is well. Some so-called "business men" have been "shooting their mouths" quite freely and will receive our consideration in due time. In the meantime all our men realize that we are out in a good cause but cannot understand why certain of the companies were willing to allow a strike which is bound to cause them a big loss, all for the satisfaction they can get out of the Department of Labor refusing an investigation. There is a nigger in the wood-pile somewhere.

LETHBRIDGE.—Unfortunately we have a few scabs in this camp but we are going to win out. The operators here are whining over the fact that there is going to be a lot of coal brought in from the United States, which they tell us is being mined by "union miners." Such a union.

COAL CREEK.—Yes, we have some scabs here. They say they are not scabs but that it is part of a pit bosses sacred duty to the government to preserve property and incidentally their jobs. Harry Miard, who was on strike when he was fireboss in 1906 is horrified to think the firebosses of today would strike. The "English Gentleman" absolutely refuses to associate with anyone who would call him a scab. Barney came to the smoker and it is said he thinks he is too smooth for a coal mining job and may enter politics. All of the scabs wear a hunted look and know that the stigma will stick for life.

CORBIN.—For some reason the management is wearing a smile that won't come off. They say they are not worrying. A copy of The Ledger's extra about the new camp at Sparwood reached town and the only comment it raised was: "Well, they won't be able to mine coal with a steam shovel at Sparwood as we do in Corbin.

—o—

RESERVE MINE AT NANAIMO CLOSES

NANAIMO, May 31.—By the closing down of the Reserve Mine of the Canadian Western Fuel Company yesterday [illegible] out of employment. It is anticipated that upwards of 100 of the men will be placed in other mines of the company at once.

Notices posted on the pit head stated [illegible] The expense of operating, together with a slump in the coal market is said to be the cause of the suspension of operations.

—o—

Presentation to George Welsby—Last Monday night, upon the eve of the departure from Fernie of George Welsby, late Chief of City Police, Mayor Uphill, as speaker for the many friends of the ex-chief presented him with a handsone gold watch, accompanying the same with a gold watch for the little son of Mr. Welsby, who goes with his father to his new home in Newark, N.J. Mr. Welsby left by the G. N. Train, Tuesday morning.

—o—

Horace Bowen at the Grand, Wednesday and Thursday singing "When you look into the heart of a rose. The feature song in "The Better 'Ole."

GLADSTONE LOCAL NOTES

Mr. Editor: Chancing along the C.P.R. depot the other day, I saw an engine and five cars pull in. There were also all kinds of automobiles lined up outside. On making enquiries as to why all the excitement, I was told it was the President of the C.P.R. railway honoring Fernie with a visit. And what do you think? He also consented to drop off in this neck of the woods for ten minutes. Now if each man was to have a whole train to himself, how many trains would it take to carry the pick and shovel men to Coal Creek? Another thing, Mr. Editor, what was the total cost of running this special across the continent and who paid for it? And yet these Coal Companies and other corporations will see all their property go to h—l, before they will spend a few more cents on their employees. Well, wait a little longer, yea, a short time longer.

Semi-Annual Holidays

The miners are still on strike. No, by gosh, excuse me, Parker Williams of compensation fame, says it is our "semi annual holidays." It does not matter anyway; we are still enjoying it, and I don't think we will die any sooner for it. The secretary is still on one leg but he says, he doesn't care if the one leg will carry him, until after the convention of the O.B.U. We expect something big from that.

Another Undertaker

Mr. Editor:—Have you heard the rumor that there is another Undertaker looking at Fernie with avaricious eyes? I cannot think what he looks here for, I don't know if he thinks there is another explosion, epidemic, bumps, blow-outs, or what he is figuring on; but he says there is lots of rooms for two undertakers here. Well, I don't. According to the size of the town and the size of the cemetery. Some of the boys say: "Maybe there is." Well, we shall see, KISMET.

Resolution Re Loggers

WHEREAS, In the past when the miners have come out on strike, certain members have gone into the logging camps, and worked for a wage less than loggers,

AND WHEREAS, At that time certain loggers were out of work,

AND WHEREAS, The B.C. Loggers have formed a union of their own, in connection with the O.B.U.,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That any person seeking work in the logging camps must first interview the Miners' Secretary, who will then introduce them to the Loggers' Camp Delegate:

Be It FURTHER RESOLVED, That if any member of the above union is found violating these instructions his name shall be sent to the central committee of the O.B.U. as a scab and he shall be expelled from Gladstone Local Union:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That this resolution be sent to the District Ledger and posted up in conspicudus places where all may read.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

—o—

PRESENTATION AT COAL CREEK

An event which caused more excitement in Coal Creek than the strike was the great smoker and presentation to Joe Boardman on the evening of June 3. Fernie's new chief of police was presented with a gold watch and also with a beautiful pendant for his esteemed wife. The presentation was made by Dr. Workman and Joe made a fine response. The T-W company provided the cheese and crackers and a spring of two per cent was opened for the occasion.

The big feature of the evening was the boxing competition between Kid Barker, champion light weight of Crows' Nest Pass and Pete Dawson.

1st round—Barker led with left to Dawson's jaw. Dawson reached floor

2nd round—Both played for an opening. Honors even.

3rd round—Dawson came up fresh, reached Barker's nasal organ and drew first blood. Dawson came back and fouled. Round was Barker's.

4th round—Barker showed increased steam and finding Dawson's weak spot (resulting from effects of Hun gas) effectively punished him with left jabs.

5th round—Dawson recovered rapidly and with several rapid fire jabs put Barker to the floor and seemingly asleep.

6th round—Dawson started in with rapid rights and lefts. Barker countered with his famous Bob Fitzsimmons solar plexus which sent Dawson [illegible] ship still in the hands of Kid Barker.

After Dawson's recovery the fighters shook hands. The champion made a speech in which he told of twenty-seven fights he had had in the old country, winning twenty and drawing [illegible] too old for the fighting game and would probably soon retire. Dawson was one of the gamest and pluckiest oppoments he had ever met.

Superintendent Barney Caufield suggested that a championship belt should be secured for Barker whom, he [illegible] had the ability to hold the championship of the Pass for many a [illegible]

In the fight Barker strained some of the tendons of his left arm and has been laid up ever since and is much missed at the club. Electric treatments are being administered. A dispatch from Jimmy Clark, the famous lightweight of the coast asks for a match with Barker at an early date.

—o—

'Ullo look who's at the Grand next Wednesday. Old Bill, Bert and Alf—the three musketeers.

Fernie Sporting Notes

The ladies of the F.A.A.C. are already for there big dance on the 10th in Hawthorne's hall. This will be one of the big events of the season, as the ladies have gone to all kinds of trouble to make this a big success and have left nothing undone. A big crowd is expected and a good time is anticipated.

Derby Day at the Creek

Next Sunday will be Derby Day at Coal Creek and a big football game is called for three o'clock between Michel and Coal Creek, as these two teams are on the top of the ladder for the Fernie City league championship. No doubt there will be a big crowd going to Coal Creek.

Baker had a little hard luck in the garden on Tuesday night and let two high flys drop through his hands. Cheer up, Baker, better luck next time.

Conroy Colton went into the pitcher's box in Tuesday's game and pitched good ball for the first time he ever twirled.

Kid Dragon was off color on Tuesday night and had a few errors chalked against him. Cheer up, we all have our off days, maybe Dragon was out the night B4.

Manager Pep (old dear) will have to get those high ones as all the pitchers know that Pep bites best at a "high ball."

—o—

Monday Evening's Baseball Game

The F.A.A.C.'s played against the Hula Hula's in a very evenly balanced game Monday night.

The line up was as follows:

Hula Hula's		F.A.A.C.'s
Costa	3rd b	C. Colton
Ricketts	2nd b	Anderson
A. Dunlop	p	R. Colton
M. Hovan	c	Sofkol
W. Biggs	s s	Dragon
F. Dunlop	c f	Campbell
McLaren	l f	Wilson
Quillman	r f	Baker
Spence	1st b	Glover

Umpire:—Liphardt.

The Hula Hulas went to bat and in the first inning Costa went out at first, Ricketts struck out; A Dunlop got to first on a good hit; and Hoven struck out.

The F.A.A.C.'s made two tallies. R. Colton made good and Wilson followed him with a score. Dragon went out at 2nd, while C. Colton went to first. Anderson was thrown out at first on a good throw from Dragon.

The Hula Hula's failed to score in first of the second. Biggs was caught stealing from first to second; Dunlop was thrown out at first; McLaren was given first on balls but was caught off first; Quillman died at bat.

The F.A.A.C.'s had no better luck in the last half of this inning.

Campbell went out at first on a throw from Quillman; Baker got first on a body stopper; Sofkol was put on a pretty fly to Costa; and R. Colton struck out.

Third inning:—

Though Quillman made a two-bagger and Spence went to first on a good fly to right, the other batters went out leaving the bases full.

In the last of the third, Wilson was put out at first by Spence; Dragon got as far as second; and C. Colton struck out.

In the first half of the fourth Ricketts tsruck out; A. Dunlop, Hovan and Biggs reached the home plate; while Quillman and Spence started on the rounds but Costa struck out leaving them on the bags.

Anderson struck out; Glover made first; Campbell struck out; and Baker was thrown out of first.

Ricketts struck out in the first of the fifth; A. Dunlop got as far as second [illegible] was thrown out at first.

In the last of the fifth, Sofkol was first at the bat and added a tallev to the score; R. Colton struck out; Wilson and Dragon got away to a good start but C. Colton and Anderson struck out.

In the first of the sixth, F. Dunlop struck out; A. Dunlop (running for McLaren) was killed at third; Quillman made a good hit but died when Spence struck out

In the last half of this inning Glover struck out; Campbell went to first on a wild pitch which hit the batter and made the rounds of the bags.

Baker struck out Sofkol and R. Colton scored; Wilson got as far as second but Dragon went out at first

In the first of the seventh C. Colton went into the pitcher's box to relieve Sofkol. Costa scored; Ricketts struck out; A. Dunlop scored; Hovan and Biggs followed and F. Dunlop went out at first.

[illegible] R. Colton [illegible] out at first [illegible] Anderson scored; Glover was put out on a foul along third base; Anderson [illegible] passed ball but Baker went out at first

[illegible] struck out; Quillman struck a sky-scraper which Wilson landed behind second base; Baker muffed a fine fly from Spence's bat but the runner was down trying to reach second

Sofkol got his base and Wilson followed with a foul to McLaren; Dragon struck out and C. Colton got to first on balls. Anderson finished the inning [illegible]

Ninth inning:—

Costa went out on a fine fly to Dragon; Wilson went out to McLaren, who seemed to be at the right place at the right field at the right time. Dragon struck out; Colton got to first on balls and Anderson died at first.

Costa went out on a fly to Dragon. Ricketts got to first on a short throw from Sofkol to first; Dunlop got to second on a bad throw; Hoven was put out at first; Biggs went to first on a muff by Wilson; McLaren struck out.

The last half of the ninth yeilded one score for the F.A.A.C.'s. Glover flew out to Spence; Campbell struck out; Baker got his base on balls; but Colton went out at first.

The score by innings:—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
F.A.A.C.'s	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	—7
Hula Hula's	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	—8

—o—

Old Timers vs. F.A.A.C.'s
(Crowded out last week)

The ball game Monday evening, between the Old Timers and the F.A.A.C.'s drew another good crowd of spectators who were well rewarded for their trouble in going to the grounds.

The line up was as follows:

Spence	1st b	Colyton, C
Winters	3rd b	Dudley
Gates,	c	Colton, R.
Oliver,	2nd b	Dragon
McLaren	s s	Wilson
McIntyre	p	Quillman
Carmichael	l f	Glover
Dahl	c f	Campbell
Leeland	r f	Anderson

Score by innings:—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Old Timers	0	0	1	0	9	1	— 2
F.A.A.C.'s	1	0	1	0	0	5	— 9

Umpire—Kastner.

The F.A.A.C.'s went to bat first, with McIntyre and Gates in the box.

Owing to some new players, the Old Timers did not show such good team work as usual and the result shows in the score.

The Colts did their usual lively fielding and running which helped their side of the score.

The game started at 7 p.m. and had to be called at the end of the sixth on account of darkness.

Dragon, in the first, went out at second after making a good base hit. Wilson sent a fly into Dahl's mit. C. Colton was thrown out at first.

The Old Timers went out in one, two three order.

Spence struck out, Winter got as far as second, when Gates struck out and Oliver was caught at first.

2nd Innings:—

Quillman struck out, Campbell went out at first, Dudley struck out, Glover got to first on a fly to center, Baker got to first but Winter went out at first.

McLaren was shut out at first, when the Old Timers went to bat, McIntyre got as far as third; Carmichael struck out and Dahl died at first.

Third innings:—

Dragon went as far as third; Wilson followed; R. Colton went out on a fly to third baseman, and Quillman went out on a high foul to Gates.

Leland, of the Old Timers struck out; Spence got to first by being hit on the head by a swift one from Quillman; Winter was out at first; and Gates was thrown out at first by a good throw from third base.

In the first of the fourth, Campbell struck out; Glover could not make first on a short grounder, and Baker struck out.

Oliver, of the Old Boys, got to first on a passed ball, but was run down by Quillamn in trying to reach second; McLaren was out at first and McIntyre struck out.

Dragon, in the fifth, got to first on balls but was put out at second; Welson got first on a good fly; Conton went to first on a fine fly to Dahl who muffed it; Quillman got his base on balls; Dudley went out at first and Campbell was out at first.

Carmichael struck out; Dahl went to first and was followed by Leland, who died at first. Spence struck out.

In th sixth, Glover got his base on balls; Anderson struck a good grounder to center; Wilson went out at third; Colton sent up a good fly which Dahl muffed; Colton stole home from third; Quillman fouled out to Gates; Dudley got first on balls; and Campbell struck out.

The last time to bat, Winters got first on a passed ball. Gates got second on Oliver's sacrifice hit; McLaren was put out at first on his short hit to Quillman who threw him out. McIntyre struck out.

In twenty-two time at the bat the Old Timers got credit for two runs, two base hits, one sacrifice hit and two stolen bases

In thirty times at the bat the F.A.A.C.'s were credited with [illegible] runs, five base hits and were charged with three errors

—o—

FERNIE'S NINE BREAKERS OF THE PROHIBITION ACT

The arrest last week of nine hotel men of Fernie for violation of the Prohibition [illegible] enunciation for the "spotter" who took advantage of his Returned Soldier's [illegible] confidence of an officer of his old battalion, Major C. C. Moffatt and got the [illegible] whiskey would be obtained. It would not have been so bad if the major had not also been a police commissioner of the city of Fernie in whom the hotel men had every confidence.

A man recently arrived from the coast informs us that the recent attack on Fernie and the endeavor to secure a sealed bottle from different [illegible] Judge Thompson's recent decision in the Watson case in Cranbrook where his lordship ruled that the sale of one bottle did not constitute a violation of the act. It is not yet certain tha Judge Thompson will sit on the Fernie cases. The Fernie men have declared that they will carry the case to the Privy Council if necessary before they will go to jail.

—o—

You can't afford to miss seeing "The Better 'Ole" at the Grand.

The workings of a Big Corporation are clothed in mystery. It will be well for the citizens of Fernie if they do some thinking for themselves. They should think and their thoughts should be productive of action.

IS IT FERNIE'S FINISH?

How Western Coal Operators' Association Proved Soft As Putty In the Hands of Their Master

This is to be an article which we commend to the interest and attention of EVERY BUSINESS MAN and also to EVERY PROPERTY OWNER in Fernie.

We are also sending marked copies of this issue of The District Ledger to every coal mine operating concern in British Columbia and Alberta.

We believe that instantaneous action on the part of the other operators, apart from the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, will be the means of quickly ending the general strike in District 18. And we further believe that the citizens of Fernie when they read what we have to say and think it over will rise en masse and in a forceful way DEMAND THAT THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY SEND THE MINISTER OF MINES AND A COMPETENT AND TRUSTWORTHY COMMISSSION TO FERNIE TO MAKE A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION.

Something will have to be done and **done quickly** or Fernie will pass into the list of those beshuttered mining towns wherein have died the hopes and been lost the savings of many a small business man and honest toiler when insatiable capital deemed them no longer profitable.

At the outset let us consider the present strike in District 18.

One half of a cent per ton on the coal produced would fully pay the wage reduction that has come upon the few men at Coal Creek because of Order 124. An investigation into the conditions of the men effected was asked for and refused and consequently the strike was called. At other collieries proportionately small amounts would have made up the difference. Why then should the entire District be on strike over so small a matter and why should a number of **collieries be allowed to speed fast to their complete destruction with a loss of hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars?**

In this issue will be found copies of the corrrespondence that has passed between the District president and the Director of Coal Operations. The average reader will not be able to gain very much enlightenment from this correspondence and will still wonder why a strike, which cannot help but be disastrous, is allowed to continue.

It is not the intention at this time to go into the matter of the *principle involved on the part of the men in striking* where so few of their fellow workers were effected. Under their accepted motto that "an injury to one is the concern to all," there was no other action to take under the circumstances.

Very briefly, considering the magnitude of the matter, we propose to examine the underlying causes of the strike and to show the working of a great corporation—**an alien corporation by the way.** We propose to point out that a heartless policy has been adopted, a policy which will mean the **utter ruination of Fernie, the destruction of a number of coal mines in Alberta, the going hungry for weeks, and possibly months, of hundreds of women and children and the bankrupting of scores of small business men who during the years when profiteers have been amassing millions have been growing gray rapidly with the worries that accompany increasing taxes and increasing debt.**

This article may prove to be enlightening to certain members of the Western Coal Operators' Association who are not altogether satisfied with the Director of Coal Operations' decisions. And we may also be able to show certain members of that association that they are but pikers in the big game and are but victims of a condition they have yet failed to comprehend through a man whom they recognized as their mental superior when they elected him as president.

There is no doubt, whatever, but what W. R. Wilson, General Manager of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company (also director and second vicepresident of that organization) stands head and shoulders as a manager, a diplomat and a financial wizard above any other man belonging to the Western Coal Operators' Association. Every member of that body will bear us out in so stating. Mr. Wilson is a splendidly preserved man. He is full of vitality. Despite the fact that for almost half a century he has been a manager of coal mines he is far from the border line of the "has beens." He still enjoys the big game and as he gets older he prefers for the game to get bigger. Action is the breath of his life. He could afford to retire but retirement is not to his liking.

There are many men in the world who have volumes written about their achievements besides whom Mr. Wilson looms like a giant. He has never courted publicity. He is noted for his reticence and because of that reticence the following story will be lacking in many details which would make it read like a romance.

We will leave for the biographers of Mr. Wilson the story of his childhood and youth across the seas. To those who have to do with *coal mining* in the old country there is much that is not pleasant, "much that sears and embitters." Mr. Wilson's pathway was not over rose petals, there were more thistles than roses, but his courage was indomitable and employers soon found in him those qualities which are necessary in a manager. He developed a hand of steel within a glove of velvet and where other managers had failed to keep the workers disciplined by harsher means Mr. Wilson succeeded by diplomacy. He has often said that his first strike occurred in Fernie.

His biographers can also tell of his experiences in Pennsylvania and the laurels that he won there in the mining industry. They can write pages of his career in South Africa during the progress of the South African war. It is a noteworthy fact that after the Boers had accepted the terms of peace offered by the British Government at the conference at Veereniging, those terms were later signed on May 31, 1902, in Mr. Wilson's office in Pretoria.

The present term of Mr. Wilson's management of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's mines, is not his first. He was here for a time a good many years ago. If our information is correct he was manager at the time of the great explosion in the early years of this century when it became necessary to dig the graves for over a hundred miners who had finished doing their bit toward making the Crow's Nest field noted and profitable.

It was upon assuming the management for the second time that the directors of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company put it up to Mr. Wilson: **"Can you produce cheaper coal?"** His answer was confidently in the affirmative **and he made good.** There are men working at Coal Creek today (or, to be more exact, were working before the strike) who well remember the opening up of One-South and One-East under Mr. Wilson's management and they also well remember how quickly, easily and cheaply the coal was produced and rolled away to the market. But, as the months and the years passed on and the distance to the face became greater the cost and the danger increased. A corporation has no worry about danger so long as it does not interfere with profits but when a government steps in with compensation laws, and forces the use of safety devices, expenses are added to and if profits are to be maintained the squeeze on the workers has to be made more and more severe.

Hastening along to the year preceding the war we find Mr. Wilson worried over the fact that the cost of production was growing greater. Like all successful managers his soul called for cheaper coal so that he could give to his directors greater dividends for distribution among the share holders. There was no question of their being an abundance of coal at Coal Creek but certain engineers had blundered while timbering, haulage and the frequent "bumps" which wrecked large areas combined to make the cost of production greater than it should be where the volume of coal is so immense.

Leaving Mr. Wilson to the side for the moment it is interesting to refer to another man who has been given greater publicity—James J. Hill. It was in 1893 that Mr. Hill became president of the Great Northern Railway Company **but it was not until 1904 that the United States Government proceeded against the Northern Securities Company of which Mr. Hill was organizer.** The Morgan-Harimann Hill fight is remembered even by those who have reached middle age and the coming of the Great Northern up from Rexford to Fernie and Michel is a comparatively recent piece of railway construction. The bringing in of this railway followed an investigation by the greatest geologists and engineers Mr. Hill's millions could control, men without superiors and with but few peers in their professions. It is told that even the imperturbable Mr. Hill was astounded at their report which revealed that within a short distance of his great system lay massive mountains of coal of excellent quality and so near the surface as to make the cost of production a mere **bagattelle.**

At this time we do not need to go into the origin of the Crw's Nest Pass Coal Company nor tell the story of how it acquired lands under which lay greater coal riches than rest in the coal fields of Great Britain, France and Belgium combined. **There was a merry game among the financiers and the politicians and the "statesmen" of the day, to show how sincerely they were protecting the people's interests, took care to see that certain "Government Reservations" of coal lands were made.** At a later date we may print the maps and the story of these "reservations" which are so carefully "reserved" that they are unapproachable by railway. **The far seeing men of the government of that day knew that the time was approaching when air transportation would be feasible and they "reserved" coal lands which can only be reached by airplanes.**

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company manipulated the big steal of the public domain and then the Great Northern manipulated the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company and became possessor of a majority of its stock by "perfectly legal" means. **Having acquired the coal company it then became a customer of the company and was hungry for cheap coal.**

And now we come back to Mr. Wilson. But we do not propose to forget to continue regarding James J. Hill and his successors.

Just before the war we find Mr. Wilson busy looking over the prospects in the vast coal field owned by his company. Not satisfied with the reports of surveyors and engineers he devoted close personal attention to prospecting and at last became satisfied that at **Sparwood was the ideal location for securing cheap coal.** Tests proved that there would be a harder roof than at Coal Creek and that at least one half of the expensive work of timbering could be eliminated. That there was abundance of coal was certain. "Look," said Mr. Wilson to a friend of his as they were passing through Sparwood on the train, "there lie forty seams of coal uncovered, a beautiful place, and how easy it would be to place a tipple right over there and what an admirable site for a town." **Not days, but weeks, and months Mr. Wilson spent in satisfying himself regarding Sparwood** and we only wish we could have the liberty to publish the glowing report he made to his directors regarding the prospect. That report of Mr. Wilson's preceded his being elected second vice-president of the company and being made one of the directors. **That report was not pigeon-holed**; it was considered most seriously and had it not been for the government insisting on increased production to the limit during the war the development of Sparwood would now likely be under way and the boards would be in course of preparation for the covering up of the **windows in Fernie.**

Very assiduously for several years Mr. Wilson has been spreading the idea abroad that "labor trouble" has been making profitable mining in Fernie impossible. We were told repeatedly that if it were not for the egitated and agitating conditions of the workers in Fernie the company would have gone ahead with more extensive development, would have erected a million-dollar bye-products plant and would have done much toward making Fernie a bigger, busier city. Lots of the small business men, admirers and friends of Mr. Wilson have joined in the chorus of denunciation of the workers who "have never been satisfied," etc., etc. But in spite of the "unprofitable" nature of the operations at Coal Creek we find that the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company even after selling coal to its "daddy," the G. N. R. at a price only a little more than half that charged to local consumers and after having paid Mr. Wilson's and others' salaries was still able to have net profits for the year 1918 amounting to $340,501. We give herewith a summary of the company's financial report for the year 1918:

CROW'S NEST COAL HAD BETTER YEAR

Operations Continuing on Satisfactory Basis, but Labor Outlook Uncertain

A marked improvement in the affairs of the Crow's Nest Coal company was indicated in the report for 1918 as compared with that of 1917, which reflected the adverse influence of a strike lasting five months. The net profits amounted to $216,984, compared with $57,635 in the previous report. However, the showing was still considerably below that for 1916, when the income amounted to $340,501 in addition to $76,834 for subsidiaries. The profits from these subsidiaries—power and railway companies—amounted to about $3,700 in 1918, but were set aside for depreciation.

Dividends took $279,199, which had the effect of reducing the available surplus from $381,013 to $318,497. Dividends of $372,666 were paid in 1916, but none in 1917. Comparative figures of the profit and loss account for the three years follows:

The coal mined during the year amounted to 681,942 tons, as against 504,768 tons mined in 1917, and 910,839 tons in 1916, and the coke produced was 183,771 tons, as against 146,533 tons in 1917, and 268,989 tons in 1916.

Total assets stands at $6,852,005, compared with $6,883,871 a year ago. The capital stock paid up stands at $6,212,666. Accounts receivable, cash in bank and inventories reach a total of $783,676, compared with $576,510 last year. Accounts payable are $195,373 compared with $141,878 last year.

At the annual meeting W. R. Wilson, general manager, was made a director and elected to the office of second vice-president. Mr. Wilson, in addressing the meeting, referred to the labor conditions in western Canada as very uncertain; the men were now at work, but there was no assurance as to the future in view of the general unrest. This uncertainty is also a factor in relation to the company's dividend policy, and while a declaration of 1 1-2 per cent for the quarter was made, there was no promise made as to the future. President Elias Rogers spoke briefly on the assets of the company, showing that they included $220,000 in government bonds, including Anglo-French, British and Canadian.

Profits, lands, etc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Profits, coal, coke	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Net profits	$216,984	$ 57,635	$340,501
Balance forward	$381,013	$322,481	$431,499
Coal account paid	......	[illegible]	......
	$597,997	$381,013	$772,000
Dividends	$279,199	......	$372,664
Profits subs	......	......	76,834
Surplus	$318,497	$381,013	$322,180

In spite of the favorable showing of the above report the cost of production at Coal Creek is considered by the Great Northern octupus to be entirely too great. **It is costing approximately $2.75 per ton to produce coal at Coal Creek. It can be produced at Sparwood,** declares the expert report which Mr. Wilson sagaciously had prepared several years ago, at a much lower figure. **It is anticipated that it can be produced for a little more than a dollar per ton at the new loca-**

Continued on Page Three

Correspondence Preceding Call For A General Strike in Dist. 18

To The District Ledger:

Aiming, as I do, at all times to keep the members of the district in close touch with what is at all times transpiring throughout the district the following may be of some interest to them.

On my arrival in Calgary from the Crow on the 27th inst, I received the following communicatioin:

May 14th 1919

P. M. Christophers,
Pres. District 18 U. M. W. ofA.
Calgary.

Dear Sir:-

With further reference to communication of the 7th inst, your letter indicates belief that the Director of Coal Operations is not being permitted to conduct a desirable investigation. The attitude of the Department of Labor is that it expects compliance with orders issued by the Director, but in no way objects to further investigation or amendments of orders which the Director believes justifiable. Order One Twenty-four was issued with the knowledge and consent of both parties interested, hence should be respected by both.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. HARRISON

In reply to this communication the following was sent to the Director:

"F. E. Harrison, Esq.,
Assistant to the Director of Coal Operations;
Calgary.

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 14th inst.. to hand and contents noted, in reply I may say that your letter does not bear out the same contention as wired from the Minister of Labor.

The wire from the Minister says that 'Further investigation is not consistent' this you will allow denies us further investigation. whether the Commissioner decides it to be in the best interests of the parties involved or not.

You say that Order No. 124 was issued with the knowledge and consent of both parties, this is, to say the least, hardly correct, on the 23rd of April while in Fernie I received from your office a wire to come to Calgary in connection with the order which I understood you were about to issue, I wired that I would be in Calgary the following morning, and that I had further evidence to submit with reference to the dispute. I was informed some two hours after receiving your wire that an order had already been issued, If this was your intention, why ask me to come to Calgary in connection therewith? The Order was issued without either the knowledge or consent of this office, and when the Commission was offered evidence to support our contention, it was refused and we were told that there was no further discussion in the matter. This you will, I believe, allow is hardly the correct attitude for an arbiter to take in such a serious dispute, and one having such a wide range of possibilities.

If it is your intention to enquire further into the dispute, I shall be only too willing to give you every assistance possible and shall be at all times at your disposal.

Your sincerely,
P. M. CHRISTOPHERS
Pres. Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.

On the 17th inst., I also received the following communication:

"P. M. Christophers,
Pres. Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.
Dear sir: Re No. 399

With further reference to your communication of the 7th inst., Mr. Armstrong requests that you will be good enough to supply him with the additional [illegible] have regarding certain rates of wages on receipt of this evidence he will take the matter into consideration.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. HARRISON
Assistant to the Director of Coal Operations.

In reply to this communication the following was handed to Mr. Harrison:

"F. E. Harrison, Esq.,
Assistant to the Director of Coal Operations, Re No. 399
Calgary.

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 12th inst is to hand, in reply I would draw your attention to the following:

The Fanmen are under this order brought under a new classification which is paid at a lower rate of pay than the unclassified labor. Anyone who understands the work of a fanman will, I believe, concede that the rea-

(Continued on Page Six)

IS IT FERNIE'S FINISH?

Continued from Page Two

tion. So confident is Mr. Wilson and the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company and the Great Northern Railway Company in the success of the proposed operations at Sparwood they have already had prepared the complete plans for the work and these plans include the site of a "modern mining town" **to take the place of Fernie which has outlived it usefulness.**

It would be sad to see Fernie deserted; to see grass growing in the streets and the rank weeds hiding the graves in the cemetery on the hill, the graves, in great part, of men who died that cheap coal might be produced. It would be sad to witness the exodus from the little homes of those who had staked their all in Fernie as they contributed their toll to the C.P.R. or the G.N. for freight on their household goods. **But there is no sentiment in business.** It is good business for a company to get cheap coal and the cheaper the coal that can be secured the better the mine manager and, as we have stated and re-stated, there is no better mine manager in Western Canada today than W. R. Wilson.

For every ton of coal produced at Coal Creek twenty-five cents has to be paid to a subsidiary company, the M. F. & M. Ry., which brings the coal the six miles to the main track. At Sparwood there would be no need of a branch line expense. At Coal Creek there have been engineering blunders made which can be avoided at Sparwood and the cost of production thereby greatly lowered. At Coal Creek the appliances are becoming or already have become, antedated and more modern equipment will be more efficient. At Sparwood the lower measures of the series can be better reached and the dip at the tip of the measures is very satisfactory. In brief in the output of say 800,000 tons per year at Sparwood, as compared with Coal Creek, $1,200,000 can be saved and the necessary equipment for this production need not cost more than half a million dollars which will be wiped out in less than six months.

Perhaps by this time some of our readers are commencing to see a ray of light in regard to the company's attitude on the strike. Perhaps they are commencing to realize what we stated at the beginning that the rest of the Western Coal Operators' Asssociation are but pikers in the big game alongside of Mr. Wilson.

But let us go along a little farther.

The strike was not more than three days old before a special train came in on the Great Northern to Fernie with leading officials of that railway. C. O. Jenks, the general manager of the G. N. system was at the head of the party and speaking of Jenks brings us back again, as promised, to the late James J. Hill.

Mr. Hill was a good judge of men. One of the men of his choice was the late Captain Jenks who was placed in headquarters at Crookston, Minn. He was a man who had worked up from the ranks and was of pioneer parentage. Much of Mr. Hill's success was due to Captain Jenks. The present manager of the Great Northern, the man who visited Fernie the other day, has the qualities of his father. In his youth C. O .Jenks acquired a reputation as a fighter. At an early age he became superintendent of a division. It is recorded that James J. Hill repeatedly expressed the wish that his son, Louis, possessed the fighting spirit of young Jenks. Louis possessed the cunning of his father but lacked the courage. In the days of the superintendency of a division on the G. N., C. O. Jenks had a decisive way of dealing with conductors and others with whom he had trouble. The western conductors of the early days were scrappers. Mr. Jenks would call them into his office and tell them what he wanted; if there were strenuous objections off would come the superintendent's coat and before the conductor left he might be a bit battered but he was sure to be "convinced."

When C. O. Jenks and his companion officials came to Fernie on Wednesday last week they were met at the G. N. depot by an automobile and brought to W. R.Wilson's office for a discussion of the strike problem and incidentally of a change to be made in the running of the G. N. train into Fernie. Hereafter we are not to have the early morning train which has been such a convenience for those wishing to reach the coast with greater speed and comfort than is possible by the C.P.R. route.

Neither Mr. Wilson or Mr. Jenks showed any particular regret because of the present strike. Their exchange of confidences, could the same be published, would be an eye-opener to the "rank and file" of the Western Coal Operators' Association and would even cause the genial Mr. Armstrong, Director of Coal Operations, to open his eyes in astonishment. Nothing was put on record regarding these confidences but a plan of action was decided upon to fight the miners to a finish— **that finish will be the finish of Fernie and the commencement of operations which will produce dollar a ton coal at Sparwood.**

The publication of this story will not be to the liking of either Mr. Jenks or Mr. Wilson. We have not obtained their permission to publish it nor have we had their confirmation that everything we have stated is authentic. We anticipate a flat denial, a shocked denial, a heated denial. We anticipate being told that The District Ledger is only endeavoring to "stir up trouble," that the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company has the best interests of this city at heart and that the survey at Sparwood, the drawing up of plans for a new town, the keeping out of use the new fans, compressors and other machinery that lie idle at Coal Creek, the recent visit to Sparwood of survey men and the more recent visit to Mr. Wilson of General Manager Jenks have no bearing whatever on the strike situation.

Before General Manager Jenks came to Fernie he had a consultation with the management of the mining and smelting interests which are controlled by the Great Northern. The consultation was held in Spokane and like the consultation held in the office of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company no report has been published regarding the same. We make the statement, however, without fear of successful contradiction, that the manager of the smelting interests, Mr. Warren, expressed the opinion that it was very desirable at the present time that there should be a strike.

We [illegible] Mr. Wilson [illegible] in District 18 [illegible] has not forthcoming because during the progress of the war, when the mines were supposed to be under government supervision, Mr. Wilson has frequently expressed the determination that at the proper time he would fight [illegible] has arrived.

We have already said that we anticipate a flat denial from the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company that they have any intention whatever in abandoning Fernie. We will also be accused through some of those who are within the squeezing powers of the tentacles of the big octupus of publishing a story which will injure the city, injure the credit of its business men, destroy confidence, bring irreparable loss to all property holders and make the big insurance companies withdraw their security. We are prepared for all this.

The citizens of Fernie need to be aroused. They need to be reminded that this city grants exemption from taxation to the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company which in turn for the kindness unloaded on the city an antiquated electric lighting plant and a wooden piped water system at an unreasonable price which forces the city to charge for power a price far in excess of what would induce new industries to spring up. In addition to this they have charged citizens a hundred per cent higher price for coal than what they sell to "aliens."

Just for a moment let us look at the price of coal. If we had the space we would give the full charter rights of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company and show where the citizens of Fernie were supposed to be protected against high price for coal. Citizens were to receive run of mine coal at $2.00 per ton. For a time this price held good and then people commenced to receive the poorest trash the mines could produce. They were told that if they wanted better coal they would have to pay more money, gradually all got into the habit of paying more and more until the present outrageous price was reached. It is our candid opinion that a citizens' league properly organized and advised by strong legal authority could successfully recover the hundreds of thousands of dollars which have been taken from them through the increasing price in spite of the charter provisions.

We also wish to remind the citizens of Fernie that the period for which the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company was exempted from taxation will soon draw to a close. It is proposed that a similiar deal will be pullled off in the new town of Sparwood.

It may be argued that the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company would not wish to see all the work they have done at Coal Creek count for nothing—that would be poor business. They do not propose to have it "count for nothing" if they can help it. We can expect to hear a cry very shortly for the Government to take over the mines at Coal Creek and operate the same, the company on its part generously(?) offering to accept a small trifle of a million dollars or so in payment for the works. That will not dispose of the Sparwood project—not in the least. The Great Northern wants that cheap coal at Sparwood and would have no objection to competing with a government owned mine at Coal Creek where the production is $2.75 per ton with a mine at Sparwood where it hopes to produce dollar coal. It would be "another evidence of the foolishness of government ownership."

We will have to leave for another time the story of the possibilities through the Elk Valley and of the so-called Imperial Coal Company which has immense holdings through that valley along the route of the proposed railway to Calgary. The archives of the Great Northern contain much of interest in regard to this "Imperial" company and all of it has a **very sinister significance when the future of Fernie is considered.**

Some citizens of Fernie may exclaim: "Well if all this is true what can we do about it?"

That question should be answered by those men in public position who are paid for keeping a watch on the interests of the public. Fortunately the head of the civic government in Fernie at the present moment has no connection with the coal company. Without doubt he has had no intimation that such a thing as the building up of a Sparwood and the digging of a grave for Fernie is in progress. Had he had such intimation he doubtless would have taken action in this matter before this late date. But it not too late. He can call a meeting of citizens together at once and have the matter discussed. Such a meeting can develope sufficient enthusism to compel the attention of the government of British Columbia and if necessary even the attention of the already badly distracted government at Ottawa.

Let us presume for a moment that the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company does not intend to abandon Fernie for a year or two. There can be no harm in having their plans brought out to the public gaze and the public protected. The cloud over Fernie is menacing. If it can be removed it should be removed and an aroused citizenship can have it removed.

If the foregoing does not awaken the property holders of Fernie to the dangers of their position and if it does not open the eyes of the various members of the Western Coal Operators' Association then their case is hopeless. We believe it will cause an awakening. If it does not we may feel called upon to delve **still more deeply** into the matter and our only regret is that we cannot give the names to substantiate everything we have said without violating the confidence of some men who could be made to suffer by the octupus.

And in closing let us again remind our readers that THE PRESENT STRIKE COULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED AT A COST OF ONE-HALF OF A CENT PER TON, and call their attention to the following paragraphs from a Lethbridge publication:

> "In the meantime arrangements are being made to import coal from the United States in large quantities. This will give the C.P.R. a long haul during the slack times before harvest, and will send millions of dollars out of the country --money that is badly needed during the period of reconstruction.
>
> "Thus, the 1919 strike, like the Nanaimo strike, of about seven years ago, will enrich the American coal owners at the expense of Canada."

NEW RECORDS

Results secured during the past year re-affirm the position of the Sun Life of Canada as the **largest life assurance organization of the Dominion.**

Fair-dealing and progressive business methods have given it leadership in annual New Business, Total Business in Force, Assets, Surplus Earnings, Net Surplus, Total Income, Premium Income and Payments to Policyholders.

M. A. KASTNER
AGENT

Returned Soldiers Take a Hand in Winnipeg Strike

(By Asssociated Press)

WINNIPEG, Man., May 31.— A parading crowd of 2,000 or more returned soldiers and union men, espousing the labor side of the general strike in Winnipeg, today swept through the provoincial house of parliament and then marched to the city hall where they broke up a council meeting.

In both buildings speakers, using violent language, charged that Premier T C. Norris and Mayor Charles F. Gray were not dealing properly with the strike situation and shouted that "something had better be done soon."

Second Parade in Two Days

This was the second parade to parliament in two days. The marchers notified Premier Norris that they would pay him a third call on Monday Tonight city and federal officers were considering the advisability of asking for military forces to guard public property, in the face of a situation more serious that it has been since the general strike began on May 15.

Only a few of the marchers were military uniforms.

Many of the remarks from the crowd at parliament and the city hall indicated that their leading grievances were the determination of the Premier not to take an atcive part in the settlement of the strike until the sympathetic walkout is called off, and the action of the city in demanding that its union policemen sign new pledges in which they afree not to participate in general strikes.

The crowd which marched to parliament was larger than that which went there yesterday.

Richard McDonald, secretary to George A. Grierson, minister of public works, was on the floor of the chamber. He wore a small Canadian flag. Several men rushed toward him In a twinkling the flag was removed and an army officer who attempted to interfere was swept aside. Premier Norris also wore a flag.

Refuses to Remove Flag

"Take it off," screamed men in the crowd: the premier refused. He told the men it was the first time he had ever heard such references to his country's emblem.

When partial quiet was restored the premier was asked by a half dozen men, whether "this thing (meaning the strike) was going to be settled."

Norris replied that the sympathetic strike must be called off before he would act. Hisses, catcalls and profane comments resulted.

The marchers declared they "were not satisfied;" that they would return to parliament on Monday and that they "wanted action."

The parade reformed in front of parliament and moved toward the city hall. Department stores and newspapers offices were booed. Many returned soldiers were among the crowds on the sidewalks, but the uniformed soldiers declined invitations to join the march on the city hall.

Council in Session

The city council was in session considering the street-car situation, and had decided to "request" the street railway company to resume its service. The trend of the council discussion, however, was to the effect that service would not be urged until the police problem was disposed of.

Two days ago the city notified the police officers that they must sign an agreement not to participate in general strikes. Most of the patrolmen refused to sign and remained on duty. The council today agreed to "modify" the pledge.

The issue was under discussion when tumult was heard outside the council chambers. Quickly shouting, men began to pour through the various entrances. Several of the men rested on top of large paintings of King George and Queen Mary of England, which hang from the council gallery.

"What are you going to do about the cops?" was one of the first cries.

Mayor Gray finally was successful in urging the visitors to listen to him outside and faced a gathering packed in a small square in front of the city hall

Mayor Friend of Labor

The mayor [illegible] declared that he was a friend of [illegible] labor and pointed out that every government agency had repudiated the sympathetic strike which, on May [illegible] [illegible] ers' council for higher wages and a collective bargaining agreement.

The mayor was hissed and [illegible] and cheered. His declaration that the city officials would retain law and order and must meet the issues developed [illegible] ployees, was followed by various com[illegible] up

Mediation Board Sits

While all this turmoil was taking place, the railway brotherhoods [illegible] committee was in session attempting to mediate the differences between the metal workers' council and the industrial employers. A general discussion of the various view points on collective bargaining marked the session, it is understood.

Winnipeg was outwardly quiet tonight, but all through the downtown district were small groups of men, discussing the issues.

Firemen Threaten to Quit

TORONTO, Ont., May 31.—With no progress made today toward settlement of the general strike called yesterday in sympathy with striking metal workers unionized members of the Toronto fire department issued an ultimatum tonight that they would walk out Thursday unless their wage demands are granted.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF FERNIE

NOTICE

All Ratepayers whose taxes are still unpaid for the year 1918 are hereby reminded that interest is being charged at the rate of 8 per cent per annum.

A tax sale will be held on September 30, 1919.

Calgary Postal Strikers To Be Blacklisted

(Calgary Herald)

Calgary post office employees who walked out on a sympathetic strike have lost their positions and will not be taken back.

This is the gist of an emphatic message sent today to Acting Postmaster J. B. Corley by Postmaster General P. E. Blondin at Ottawa.

The message is the culmination of a series of telegraphic dispatches between M. Corley and the postmaster general, the Ottawa government exhibiting the most firm and express determination that the business of the country shall not be tie up again without reason by a sympathetic strike of postal employees.

Corley has no Option

As a result, Mr. Corley has no option but to proceed at once to employ other permanent men to take the places of the strikers. Up to date, Mr. Corley has been fairly swamped with applications for these positions, but has been holding off pending final word from the department at Ottawa. The acting-postmaster said this morning that the new employees would be carefully selected and that returned men will be given the first choice.

Volunteers Sort Mail

Since the men walked out distribution of mail at the postoffice has been proceeding with the aid of voluntary workers. The organization is getting better all the time, but owing to the changes and shifts necessary under the voluntary system of help, it is difficult to make permanent arrangements. With the employment of new and permanent employees, however, the business of the office is expected to be on a completely normal basis within a few days.

Postal Workers Warned

When the postal workers' sympathetic strike was called at 11 o'clock Monday morning, before the men left the office, they were called together by Postmaster G. C. King and a message from the Ottawa department read to them to the effect that if they walked out on a sympathetic strike, they would be considered as having forfeited their positions. This had no effect and the men departed in a body.

Acting Postmaster Corley, who has been in charge of the situation since, held off on employing other men to take the places of the strikers. He chose to get along for a time with voluntary aid until it was definitely assured that the department would not recede from its stand that the men lost their positions when they struck. One message was received yesterday from the Ottawa department to the effect that any of the striking employees who sought to come back to work would not be taken into the service again, "either at the old rate of pay or as new employees."

LAUDS RUSSIANS FLAYS HANSON

(From the Spokesman Review)

Persistent ridicule of Ole Hanson, mayor of Seattle, an explanation of the failure of the Seattle general strike a declaration of full sympathy with the Russian workmen, discussion of a reconstruction program for the American Federation of Labor and a long argument in favor of Tom Mooney were the outstanding points in a two and one-half hour talk given Saturday night in the Lewis and Clark high school by James Duncan, secretary of the Seattle central labor council.

Turner Hall Crowd in Evidence

Duncan is on his way east to attend the sessions of the American Federation of Labor at Atlantic City. Largely the same crowd were in attendance, numbering 600 to 700, that frequent the meetings at Turner hall.

"Bolshevism as it is used in America today simply means some one with whom we disagree," he said. "According to what Ole Hanson thinks it is, it has only just started here and it is not dead as he says. "The labor movement is something that Ole knows nothing about. Personally I look upon the workers of Russia as mybrothers. They may be right or they may be wrong, but they are workers and we are brothers in misery.

Likens Bolsheviki to Forefathers

"I have looked toward Russia with concern and the highest possible hope All we as Americans have gained and all the Russians have gained has been gained by revolution. If the bolsheviki are bad then our forefathers are bad, criminally bad.

Derides Ole Hanson

Mr. Duncan then took some time reading excerpts from press accounts of Ole Hanson's doings and sayings and derided them. He devoted himself in attempting to show that really Mayor Hanson was a very small factor in bringing the strike to a close and that the workers didn't quit until they wanted to, in other words, in his language, "a general strike hurts the workers before it hits the people that it is intended to hurt."

Not I.W.W. but Wants Free Speech

"I am not an I.W.W. but I am opposed to any form of memorial that does not provide for the fullest right of free speech. I want to see the constitution of the United States mean something. There are too many halls here today where free speech is curbed. I want to see the right given to speak in any hall as freely to the I.W.W. as to the Red Cross or any other organization. If you want any movement to grow, then just try to suppress free speech and see what happens. This is the only way that America can weather the storm through which she is passing."

Mooney Strike Talk Wins Applause

With reference to the American Federation of Labor, he advocated the doing away with the [illegible] al trades unions and having one central authority, though he thought the trade union to be necessary in the var[illegible]

[illegible] a five-day strike here starting on July 4, another five-day strike starting on Labor day, if the first should not be [illegible] the first anniversary of the commutation of the Mooney sentence to life imprisonment if necessary. Finally, if the three five day strikes be ineffective he urged a general indefinite strike. He was loudly applauded by the crowd.

WHY 'EDUCATED' MEN ARE ORGANIZING

HARTFORD, Conn. In our most expensive New England city, a decade ago, drivers of wagons or carts which transported coal from the storage [illegible] where it was burned, worked ten hours a day, with Saturday half-holidays from April to October. They received from $12 weekly for a driver of one horse, to $14 weekly for the driver of a three-horse truck.

If the schedule of hours and wages which the drivers now propose—and purpose to enforce—for the eleven months beginning May 1, 1919, goes into effect, drivers will receive from $24 to $30 for a week of substantially 44 hours. That is, they will work eight hour s a day except on Saturday, when the day will end at noon. Ten holidays a year will be recognized, on which the men will rest at full pay or will work at double pay, the same being true of Sundays. Overtime work in general will be paid at the rate of time and a half.

A coal driver of the highest class in Boston then, will receive a salary of $1,500 a year for working about as many hours a day as the average office worker, for less time than most teachers are required to give. Overtime might easily add to this $140 necessary to bring it up to $1,700 a year, if we speak in terms of remuneration. We shall no longer speak of the man who drives the coal wagon with anything but respect. As for "coal heavers," their wages have experienced a similiar advance, and they get $24 a week instead of the $9 they received twenty years ago.

Comparisons, with their damnable iteration, are still necessary. The man who, after eight or ten years of continuous study above the so called common school grades, graduates from the university, may fortunately secure a position as instructor in his college at $1,250 a year, this being on a new and 'modern' schedule. If he is not satisfied with that remuneration he may take a six week course in chauffering and hold a position at the wheel of a coal truck, which will pay him $1,500 and possibly $1,700 a year. Or, if he is an idealist, he may study three years longer and receive as minister of the Gospel a salary of $1,000 or $1,100 a year.—Hartford Times.

STRIKE MOVEMENT SPREADS TO ONTARIO MINING CAMPS

COBALT, May 30.—The labor situation in the mining camps is acute, according to reports here today. At Kirkland lake the miners' union has presented demands for a 44-hour week, recognition of the union and a minimum wage of $4.50 per day.

Ten days have been given the operators to consider the demands. A meeting arranged for last evening has been postponed until Tuesday next.

Nothing officially has been done yet in Cobalt, Porcupine or Gowganda camps, but a meeting of local unions has been called for Sunday evening and similiar action as that at Kirkland lake will be taken in the other camps immediately

CLERKS' DEMANDS IN WINNIPEG

The following demands formulated by the organized clerks and warehouse men of Winnipeg may probably be taken to fairly represent the standard of wages and hours sought by clerks in the Western cities:—

1. Forty-four hours shall constitute a week's work.
2. One hour for lunch at noon each day.
3. Employees shall receive full pay for holidays.
4. No overtime except at stock-taking, then the pay shall be at the rate of time and a half.
5. When reduction of staff becomes necessary, juniors shall be let out first.
6. When the staff is reduced, employees shall be given [illegible]
7. Seniority shall govern cases of promotion.
8. [illegible] [illegible] to do heavy work.
9. No boys under sixteen shall be employed in any store governed by [illegible]
10. Employees shall be paid at the end of each week.
11. Apprentices must be over sixteen years of age when entering, and shall serve four years.
12. Only one apprentice shall be allowed to every five employees.

Rates of pay, male $[illegible], female $20 per week.

Rates for apprentices, first year, $[illegible]; second year, $[illegible]; third year, $[illegible]; fourth year, $[illegible].

The above rate shall be known as the minimum rate of pay.

H. OSTLUND
Solicitor for District 18, U. M. W. of A.
MacDonald Block
Lethbridge, Alta.

The District Ledger

Owned, controlled and Published by District 18, United Mine Workers of America. Subscription price $1.25 a year in advance. Advertising rates on application. Thoroughly equipped for high-class job printing of every description.

Phone No. 9 P. O. Box 380

ONLY LEGISLATION CAN SAVE FERNIE FROM GETTING IN THE HOSMER CLASS

On Tuesday The District Ledger issued an extra edition containing the story which appears on pages two and three of this issue. Fernie citizens read the story with interest and the "man on the street" could hear very many comments

The prevalent state of mind was "it cannot be true." It is difficult for our citizens to think that this town with its handsome provincial building and post office, with its city hall and several brick blocks, with its many handsome residences and small homes will ever be deserted. **But we can assure these citizens that unless some action is taken by the government it will be true and that in a much shorter space of time than they might imagine.**

The denial by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company that such a step is being contemplated will probably be for sale on the streets by the time this is read. It will be a strong denial and, unless we are much mistaken, there will be an attempt made to make our charges appear ridiculous. Such a denial will be in line with other denials which have been made by the same corporation which controls the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company when it abandoned other towns when the occasion suited the purpose.

Over in Montana there is a town called Belt. The coal mines around which this town was located were profitable producers for a time and Belt became about the size of Fernie and had days of prosperity. Little businesses were built up and numbers of workers by dint of much sacrifice became the possessors of their own homes. There was a hint that the town might be abandoned and there was a prompt denial just as there will be a denial that Fernie is to be abandoned. When the people of Belt woke up it was too late to act, just as **we fear it will be too late to act when the people of Fernie wake up.**

At Kalispell the Great Northern wanted certain lands and because the people would not give the lands gratis to Mr. Hill he made the boast that he would make the grass grow in the streets of Kalispell and he made good his threat, Whitefish became the divisional point while Kalispell practically died, its resurrection later being due to the fact that it was the natural centre for a good horticultural region. Fernie it not the centre for either horticulture or agriculture and the lumbering is well nigh a thing of the past. Without the operation of the mines at Coal Creek there would be no Fernie.

If there is no foundation for the story that operations at Coal Creek will be abandoned so that cheaper coal can be secured at Sparwood then the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company should have no objection to the government stepping in and by legislation guaranteeing against the dreaded contingency. Such legislation would restore confidence in Fernie and be of immense benefit to the city and all its property holders. JUST WATCH WITH WHAT WIDE OPEN ARMS OF WELCOME THE COMPANY WILL RECEIVE THE OFFER OF ANY SUCH LEGISLATION!

If it is true that the abandonment of Coal Creek is contemplated (and we are absolutely convinced that it is) then it is time for the people to awaken and *protect their own interests*. Such protection is possible.

In Minnesota, Jim Hill's own state, several towns were abandoned by both milling and mining interests, in at least two cases the people were alive to what was going to take place and they put pressure on both state and Federal governments. In one instance a good sized town was moved almost bodily at the expense of the corporation and in another instance the corporation was forced by legislation to take over the bonded indebtedness of the town and to make good property losses. That is what can be done in Fernie if there is enough spirit shown by the citizens. In Fernie however, **too many of our "prominent citizens" are hand and glove with the corporation and they will do all in their power to prevent any legislative action being called for, they will be loud in their support of the company's contention that never did anything like abandonment enter their mind.**

One citizen informs us that "if Sparwood is opened it will not hurt Fernie for trains can be run up from Fernie just as they are run to Coal Creek." That might happen for a brief period but as soon as there were shacks enough to house the miners at Sparwood, Fernie could only expect to receive week end visits and those would become more and more infrequent as Sparwood grew.

Another citizen informs us that he hears the opinion expressed that "the editor of The District Ledger has some land up in Sparwood district and was starting a boom." We can assure that citizen that the Great Northern meth[illegible] every possible dollar that can be brought in their direction for themselves or, as President Elias Rogers of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company often says, "for the widows and orphans who are really marvellous what a philanthropic institution the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company is—if anyone doubts this let them ask our esteemed contemporary The Fernie Free Press which is absolutely without bias in this matter

Don't fail to see ALF The strike a Light" kid in "The Better 'Ole

L. H. PUTNAM
Barrister, Etc.
BLAIRMORE, ALBERTA

FORCED TO RETRACT

Some weeks ago a Lumbering concern on the coast published in an advertisement in the Vancouver Province an attack on the B. C. Loggers' Union and its secretary, E. Winch. Mr. Winch is president of the Trades and Labor Council of Vancouver. The outcome of the attack is thus described in The Critic:

"Be sure you are right, then go ahead" is a good adage for newspapers as well as individuals.

Vancouver dailies have found that it is not safe to publish advertisements which reflect upon the character of any man. The advertisement which on or about May 5 appeared in all the Vancouver dailies, and which The Critic severely criticized on the following Saturday, made a serious reflection upon the honesty of purpose of Mr. Winch.

We are pleased to know that Mr. Winch took the matter up with his solicitors and that the outcome has been an apology and complete backdown by the Province. We understand that Mr. Winch may not be content with an apology from one of the offending papers, but may proceed with his suit for libel.

Mr. Winch suggested to the papers apologizing that there should be a pecuniary damage and that they voluntarily pay to the returned soldiers' club a certain sum of money. Mr. Winch is not the sort of man to seek pecuniary advantage for himself on an occasion of this kind. He is looking for a retraction and a vindication of his character.

The lesson taught these papers should be remembered. There is a limit beyond which they cannot step even in their anxiety to serve their masters, the controllers of wealth.

The following appeared in Thursday's Province:

AD REFLECTING ON PRESIDENT WINCH

Province Explains Circumstances and Regrets Publication

On May 5 an advertisement was inserted in the Daily Province which made certain allegations against the President of the Trades and Labor Council, and Secretary of the B. C. Loggers' Union, in connection with the strike of workmen at Princeton. This advertisement was inserted by The Province in good faith but without any knowledge of the truth or falsity of the facts alleged. On complaint being made by Mr. Winch further insertion of the advertisement was stopped at once. The Province having, as stated, no knowledge of the facts alleged in that advertisement and believing that a wrong and injustice may have been done Mr. Winch and others interested, regrets publication of the same and further expresses its regret if publication resulted in any injury or injustice to any of the parties mentioned.

'ULLO OLD BILL

Bert and Alf at the Grand, Wednesday and Thursday—The Three Famous Muskateers—Go and Meet Them.

Captain Bruce Bairnfather's creations are always welcome, and his three best figures, Old Bill, Bert and Alf, are sure of a cordial welcome in Fernie when they make their bow in the film version of "THE BETTER 'OLE ot the Grand Theatre, Wednesday and Thursday.

Captain Bairnsfather's cartoons of the British Tommy at the front have become world-famous, and will go down thru the ages as typifing the spirit of the British soldier who has done so much in winning this war. Their cheery optimism, under all circumstances, their unflagging sense of contempt for danger, are all shown in "The Better 'Ole," the film version of the play.

The film is invested with a real live plot, in the shape of an excellent spy story wherein villainy is confounded and virtue rewarded in the appropriate.

Back in the billets Old Bill discovers that the keeper of the inn is in reality a spy, who means at a given time to signal the Germans of the movements of the French. How Old Bill frustrates his plans, obtains his papers and incidentally is handed a substantial roll of money by the spy in return for what he believes to be the papers he has lost, and which are really valueless, is a delightful bit of humor.

Bert is the "ladies man" of the trio, but his love making is always interupted by the arrival of either Old Bill or Alf. His oftrepeated remark to each little French girl to turn that "after the war is over I'd like a nice little [illegible]" is one of the funny bits of humor which runs thru the play.

Mail day in the trenches, the rounding of the comrade, the trip home to Blighty, and the return again to the firing line, is skilfully told, and it is safe to say that "The Better 'Ole" will be one of the most popular screen pictures shown in some time, for it is something new, something different, from the war plays we have been seeing, and visualizes a side of life at the front in which we have all been interested—the every day life of our men when not actually fighting.

SCABS

Among all the camps of District 18 Lethbridge seems to be the only place affected by scabs who are really members of the local. In the other camps a few pit bosses and other officials are willing to take on the stigma that will stay with them for life but no men really members of the union have failed us as yet.

At Lethbridge the following statement signed by Charles Peacock was handed the Herald for publication.

"The miners complain that certain of their women were insulted by the police who addressed them in obscene language on Thursday. They also resent the action of Billy Lamb who is a Probation officer, being employed on the police force against them.

The miners say that they are perfectly willing to obey the law but they see no reason why their womenfolk should be insulted. Inspector Mundy used all diplomacy and gave the miners all the rope possible in the melee on Thursday, but the men under him when he left them with the prisoner were not so diplomatic.

For the sake of law and order the miners consider that no fuel should be added to the flame by any unnecessary work or act by the police."

(Signed) CHARLES PEACOCK
On behalf of Strike Committee.

THE GRAND
Direction Harry M. Eccles

TWO DAYS Commencing
Wednesday JUNE 11
Two Shows Nightly Commencing at 7 p. m. sharp

OLD BILL SAYS: "If you can find a better 'ole than the Grand go to it."

MAKE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF
OLD BILL
and his two pals
ALF and BERT

The Three Famous Musketeers of The Great War
IN
THE BETTER 'OLE

A Screen Adaptation of New York's Current Stage Success By Captain Bruce Bairnsfather and Arthur Eliot

THIS IS NOT AN ORDINARY MOTION PICTURE— IT IS THE GREATEST CINEMA OF THE DAY, CARRYING A MESSAGE FROM THE BRAVE BOYS WHO SPENT FOUR LONG AND WEARY YEARS IN THE TRENCHES, AT TIMES UNDER TERRIFIC BOMBARDMENT, BUT ALWAYS FIGHTING WITH GRIM DETERMINATION THAT FINAL VICTORY MIGHT BE ASSURED FOR THE ALLIES.

"THE BETTER 'OLE" IS A DIFFERENT STORY OF THE GREAT WAR—THERE ARE NO THRILLING BATTLE SCENES—NO HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING, NO ARTILLERY FIRING—YOU SEE THE DAILY ROUTINE LIFE OF THE LADS WHO FOUGHT SO GALLANTY FOR VICTORY.

OLD BILL, BERT and ALF, the three famous cartoon characters of Captain Bruce Bairnsfathers, are famous the world over in "THE BETTER 'OLE." They are brought to life in the most wonderful motion picture of the war.

THE SECRET of the story's wonderful fascination is its close and true analysis of the spirit which animates the men in the trenches, that spirit which keeps them cheerful under conditions almost indescribable. The army is full of Old Bills, Berts Alfs with their sorrows and pleasures—Pleasures that make the very word seem a mockery—but true reflections of what the daily life of the boys has been "Over There." "THE BETTER 'OLE" will do more than raise a laugh, and dim the eyes with tears at the pathos so piquantly drawn. It will make the people at home understand as never before why the Great War was fought to a bitter finish and how much is due to the Berts and Alfs and Old Bills who stood as a living wall of protection for the people at home

EXTRA

Mr. Harold Bowen, our local tenor, will introduce the following song hits from the stage success of The Better 'ole:

"When You Look Into The Heart of A Rose," "Tommy" and "My Word But Aren't We Carrying on"

This picture played to standing room only for three weeks at the Allen Theatre Toronto and we stand behind it with our personal guarantee. It's the grand cheer up play of the day. You can't afford to miss it. Ask the boys who have been over there about it.

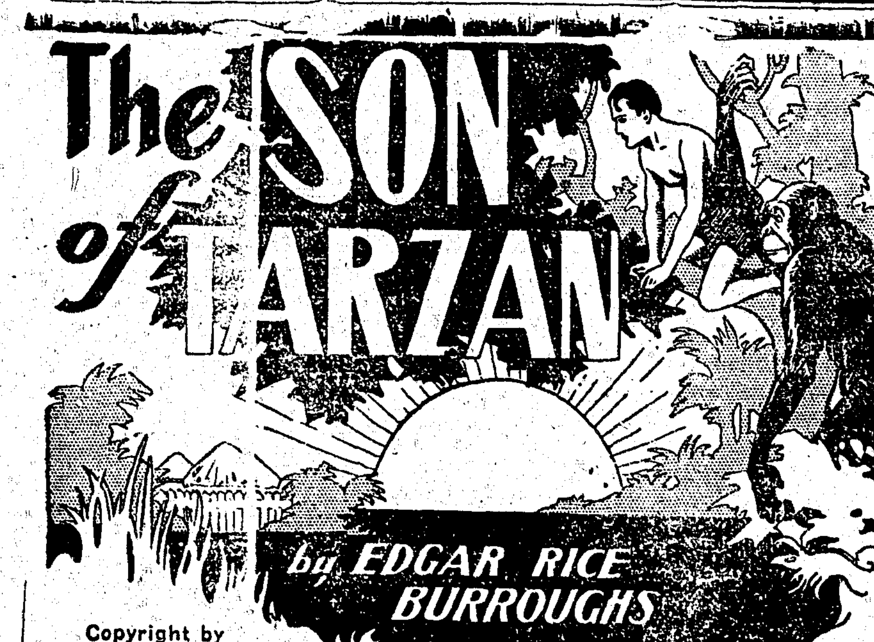
Twice Nightly Commence at 7 p.m. sharp
REMEMBER THE TIME

JUNE 11th and 12th
THE DATES

THE PLACE
THE GRAND

ADMISSION

Adults 50c. - - - - - Children 20c.



Copyright by
Frank A. Munsey Co.

The boy was in the lead, excitement and anticipation carrying him ahead of his companion. And it was the boy who first saw the rear guard of the caravan and the white men he had been so anxious to overtake.

Stumbling along the tangled trail of those ahead a dozen heavily laden blacks who, from fatigue or sickness, had dropped behind were being prodded by the black soldiers of the rear guard, kicked when they fell and then roughly jerked to their feet and hustled onward. On either side walked a giant white man, whose heavy blond beards almost obliterated their countenances.

The boy's lips formed a glad cry of salutation as his eyes first discovered the whites—a cry that was never uttered, for almost immediately he witnessed that which turned his happiness to anger as he saw that both the white men were wielding heavy whips brutally upon the naked backs of the poor devils staggering along beneath loads that would have overtaxed the strength and endurance of strong men at the beginning of a new day.

Every now and then the rear guard and the white men cast apprehensive glances rearward, as though momentarily expecting the materialization of some long expected danger from that quarter. The boy had paused after his first sight of the caravan and now was following slowly in the wake of the sordid, brutal spectacle.

Presently Akut came up with him. To the beast there was less of horror in the sight than to the lad, yet even the great ape growled beneath his breath at useless torture being inflicted upon the helpless slaves.

He looked at the boy. Now that he had caught up with the creatures of his own kind, why was it that he did not rush forward and greet them? He put the question to his companion.

"They are fiends," muttered the boy. "I would not travel with such as they, for if I did I should set upon them and kill them the first time they beat their people as they are beating them now. But," he added after a moment's thought, "I can ask them the whereabouts of the nearest port, and then, Akut, we can leave them."

The ape made no reply, and the boy swung to the ground and started at a brisk walk toward the safari. He was a hundred yards away, perhaps, when one of the whites caught sight of him.

The man gave a shout of alarm, instantly leveling his rifle upon the boy and firing. The bullet struck just in front of its mark, scattering turf and fallen leaves against the lad's legs. A second later the other white and the black soldiers of the rear guard were firing hysterically at him.

Jack leaped behind a tree, unhit. Days of panic ridden flight through the jungle had filled Carl Jenssen and Sven Malbihn with jangling nerves and their native boys with unreasonable terror. Every new note from behind sounded to their frightened ears the coming of the sheik and his bloodthirsty followers.

When, after conquering their nervousness, the rear guard advanced upon the enemy's position to investigate they found nothing, for Akut and the boy had retreated out of range of the unfriendly guns.

Jack was disheartened and sad. He had not entirely recovered from the depressing effect of the unfriendly reception he had received at the hands of the blacks, and now he had found an even more hostile one accorded him by men of his own color.

"The lesser beasts flee from me in terror," he murmured half to himself; "the greater beasts are ready to tear me to pieces at sight. Black men would kill me with their spears or arrows. And now white men, my own kind, have fired upon and driven me away.

"Are all the creatures of the world my enemies? Has the son of Tarzan no friend other than Akut?"

The old ape drew closer to the boy.

"There are the great apes," he said. "They only will be the friends of Akut's friend. Only the great apes will welcome the son of Tarzan. You have seen that men want nothing of you. Let us go now and continue our search for the great apes—our people."

CHAPTER VII.

A Rescue.

A YEAR had passed since the two Swedes had been driven in terror from the savage country where the sheik held sway. Little Meriem still played with her doll Geeka, lavishing all her childish love upon the now almost hopeless ruin of what had never, even in its palmiest days, possessed even a slight degree of loveliness.

The sheik had been away for a long time, conducting a caravan of ivory, skins and rubber far into the north. The interim had been one of great peace for Meriem. It is true that Mabunu had still been with her to pinch or beat her as the mood seized the villainous old hag, but Mabunu was only one. When the sheik was there also there were two of them, and the sheik was stronger and more brutal even than Mabunu.

Little Meriem often wondered why the grim old man hated her so. It is true that he was cruel and unjust to all with whom he came in contact, but to Meriem he reserved his greatest cruelties, his most studied injustices.

As the little girl played she prattled continuously to her companion, propped in a sitting position with a couple of twigs. She was totally absorbed in Geeka—so much so that she did not note the gentle swaying of the branches of the tree above her as they bent to the body of a creature that had entered them stealthily from the jungle.

In happy ignorance the little girl played on, while from above two steady eyes looked down upon her, unblinking, unwavering. There was none other than the little girl in this part of the village, which had been almost deserted since the sheik had left long months before upon his journey toward the north.

And out in the jungle, an hour's march from the village, the sheik was leading his returning caravan homeward.

A year had passed since the white men had fired upon the lad and driven him back into the jungle to take up his search for the only remaining creatures to whom he might look for companionship—the great apes. For months the two had wandered eastward, deeper and deeper into the jungle.

The year had done much for the boy—turning his already mighty muscles to thews of steel, developing his woodcraft to a point where it verged upon the uncanny, perfecting his arboreal instincts and training him in the use of both natural and artificial weapons of offense and defense.

He had become at last a creature of marvelous physical powers and mental cunning. He was still but a boy, yet so great was his strength that the powerful anthropoid with which he often engaged in mimic battles was no match for him. Akut had taught him to fight as the bull ape fights, nor ever was there a teacher better fitted to instruct in the savage warfare of primordial man or a pupil better equipped to profit by the lessons of a master.

As the two searched for a band of the almost extinct species of ape to which Akut belonged they lived upon the best the jungle afforded. Antelope and zebra fell to the boy's spear or were dragged down by the two powerful beasts of prey, who leaped upon them from some overhanging limb or from the ambush of the undergrowth beside the trail to the water hole or the ford.

Akut and Jack, now called Korak in the ape language, were moving slowly down the wind, and warily, because the advantage was with whatever beast might chance to be hunting ahead of them, where their scent spoor was being borne by the light breeze. Suddenly the two halted simultaneously. Two heads were cocked upon one side. Like creatures hewn from solid rock they stood immovable, listening. Not a muscle quivered.

For several seconds they remained thus. Then Korak advanced cautiously a few yards and leaped nimbly into a tree. Akut followed close upon his heels. Neither had made a sound that would have been appreciable to human ears at a dozen paces.

Stopping often to listen, they crept forward through the trees. That both

And Then the Killer Paused.

were greatly puzzled was apparent from the questioning looks they cast at one another from time to time.

Finally the lad caught a glimpse of a palisade a hundred yards ahead and beyond it the tops of some goat skin tents and a number of thatched huts.

His lip upcurled in a savage snarl. Blacks! How he hated them! He signed to Akut to remain where he was while he advanced to reconnoiter.

He heard a voice beyond the palisade, and toward that he made his way. A great tree overhung the inclosure at the very point from which the voice came. Into this Korak crept.

His spear was ready in his hand. His ears told him of the proximity of a human being. All that his eyes required was a single glance to show him his target, then, [illegible], the missile would fly to its goal.

With raised spear he crept among the branches of the tree, glaring downward in search of the owner of the voice which rose to him from below.

At last he saw a human back. The spear hand flew to the limit of the throwing position to gather the force that would send the iron shod missile completely through the body of the unconscious victim. And then the Killer paused. He leaned forward a little to get a better view of the target.

He lowered his spear cautiously that it might make no noise by scraping against foliage or branches. Quietly he crouched in a comfortable position along a great limb, and there he lay with wide eyes, looking down in wonder upon the creature he had crept upon to kill—looking down upon a little girl, a little nut brown maiden.

Korak wondered what the girl would do were he to drop suddenly from the tree to her side. Most likely she would scream and run away. Then would come the men of the village with spears and guns and set upon him. They would either kill him or drive him away.

A lump rose in the boy's throat. He craved the companionship of his own kind, though he hardly realized how greatly. He would have liked to slip down beside the little girl and talk with her, though he knew from the words he had overheard that she spoke a language with which he was unfamiliar.

At last he hit upon a plan. He would attract her attention and reassure her by a smiling greeting from a greater distance. Silently he wormed his way back into the tree. It was his intention to hail her from beyond the palisade, giving her the feeling of security which he imagined the stout barricade would afford.

He had scarcely left his position in the tree when his attention was attracted by a considerable noise upon the opposite side of the village. By moving a little he could see the gate at the far end of the main street.

A number of men, women and children were running toward it. It swung open, revealing the head of a caravan upon the opposite side. It trooped in motley organization—black slaves and dark hued Arabs of the northern deserts; cursing camel drivers urging on their vicious charges; overburdened donkeys, waving sadly pendulous ears while they endured with stoic patience the brutalities of their masters; goats, sheep and horses.

Into the village they all trooped behind a tall, sour old man, who rode, without greetings to those who shrank from his path, directly to a large goatskin tent in the center of the village.

Here he spoke to a wrinkled black hag.

Korak from his vantage point could see it all. He saw the old man asking questions of the black woman, and then he saw the latter point in the direction of the tree beneath which the little girl played.

A grim smile curved the thin, cruel lips of the Arab. The child essayed to crawl away, but before she could get out of reach the old man kicked her brutally, sending her sprawling upon the grass. Then he followed her up to seize and strike her as was his custom.

Above them in the tree a beast crouched where a moment before had been a boy—a beast with dilating nostrils and bared fangs—a beast that trembled with rage.

The sheik was stooping to reach for the girl when the Killer dropped to the ground at his side. His spear was still in his left hand, but he had forgotten it. Instead his right fist was clinched, and as the sheik took a backward step, astonished by the sudden materialization of this strange apparition apparently out of the clear sky, the heavy fist landed full upon his mouth, backed by the weight of the young giant and the terrific power of his more than human muscles.

Bleeding and senseless, the sheik sank to earth. Korak turned toward the child. She had regained her feet and stood, wide eyed and frightened, looking first up into his face and then horror struck at the recumbent figure of the sheik. In an involuntary gesture of protection the Killer threw an arm about the girl's shoulders and stood waiting for the Arab to regain consciousness. For a moment they remained thus, then the girl spoke.

"When he regains his senses he will kill me," she said in Arabic.

Korak could not understand her. He shook his head, speaking to her first in English and then in the language of the apes. But neither of these were intelligible to her.

She leaned forward and touched the hilt of the long knife that the Arab wore. Then she raised her clasped hand above her head and drove an imaginary blade into her breast above her heart.

Korak understood. The old man would kill her.

The girl came to his side again and stood there trembling. She did not fear him. Why should she? He had saved her from a terrible beating at the hands of the sheik. Never in her memory had another so befriended her. She looked up into his face. It was a boyish, handsome face, nut brown like her own. She admired the spotted leopard skin that circled his lithe body from one shoulder to his knees.

And Korak looked at the girl. He had always held girls in a species of contempt. Boys who associated with them were, in his estimated, mollycoddles. He wondered what he should do.

He stood for several minutes buried in thought. The girl watched his face, wondering what was passing in his mind. She, too, was thinking of the future.

She feared to remain and suffer the vengeance of the sheik. There was no one in all the world to whom she might turn other than this half naked stranger who had dropped miraculously from the clouds to save her from one of the sheik's accustomed beatings. Would her new friend leave her now? Wistfully she gazed at his intent face. She moved a little closer to him, laying a slim, brown hand upon his arm.

The contact awakened the lad from his absorption. He looked down at her, and then his arm went about her shoulders once more, for he saw tears upon her lashes.

"Come," he said, "the jungle is kinder than man. You shall live in the jungle and Korak and Akut will [illegible] you."

She did not understand his words, but the pressure of his arm drawing her away from the prostrate Arab and the tents was quite intelligible. One little arm crept about his waist, and [illegible] sade.

Beneath the great tree that had harbored Korak while he watched the girl at play he lifted her in his arms and throwing her lightly across his shoulder, leaped nimbly into the lower branches.

And so Meriem entered the jungle with Korak, trusting in her childish innocence the stranger who had befriended her and perhaps influenced in her belief in him by that strange intuitive power possessed by woman.

The two had gone but a short distance from the village when the girl spied the huge proportions of the great Akut. With a half stifled scream she clung more closely to Korak and pointed fearfully toward the ape.

Akut, thinking that the Killer was returning with a prisoner, came growling toward them. A little girl aroused no more sympathy in the beast's heart than would a full grown bull ape. She was a stranger and therefore to be killed. He bared his yellow fangs as he approached, and to his surprise the Killer bared his likewise, but he bared them at Akut and snarled menacingly.

"Ah," thought Akut, "the Killer has taken a mate!" And so, obedient to the tribal laws of his kind, he left them alone, become suddenly absorbed in a fuzzy caterpillar of peculiarly succulent appearance.

The larva disposed of, he glanced from the corner of an eye at Korak. The youth had deposited his burden upon a large limb, where she clung desperately to keep from falling.

"She will accompany us," said Korak to Akut, jerking a thumb in the direction of the girl. "Do not harm her. We will protect her."

Akut shrugged. To be burdened by the young of man was in no way to his liking. He could see from her evident fright at her position on the branch and from the terrified glances she cast in his direction that she was hopelessly unfit.

By all the ethics of Akut's training and inheritance the unfit should be eliminated, but if the Killer wished this she there was nothing to be done about it but to tolerate her.

Meriem spent an evening and a night of unmitigated terror.

CHAPTER VIII.

Korak and Meriem.

FOR many months the strange life of the three went on unmarked by any unusual occurrences—at least without any occurrences that seemed unusual to the youth or the ape—but to the little girl it was a constant nightmare of horrors for days and weeks until she, too, became accustomed to gazing into the eyeless sockets of death and to the feel of the icy wind of his shroudlike mantle.

Slowly she learned the rudiments of the only common medium of thought exchange which her companions possessed—the language of the great apes. More quickly she perfected herself in jungle craft, so that the time soon came when she was an important factor in the chase, watching while the others slept or helping them to trace the spoor of whatever prey they might be stalking.

Akut accepted her on a footing which bordered upon equality when it was necessary for them to come into close contact, but for the most part he avoided her. The youth always was kind to her, and if there were many occasions upon which he felt the burden of her presence he hid it from her.

Finding that the night damp and chill caused her discomfort and even suffering, Korak constructed a tight little shelter high among the swaying branches of a giant tree. Here little Meriem slept in comparative warmth and safety, while the Killer and the ape perched upon nearby branches, the former always before the entrance to the lofty domicile, where he best could guard its inmate from the dangers of arboreal enemies.

After the construction of the shelter the activities of the three became localized. They ranged less widely, for there was always the necessity of returning to their own tree at nightfall.

A river flowed near by. Game and fruit were plentiful, as were fish also. Existence had settled down to the daily humdrum of the wild—the search for food and the sleeping upon full bellies. They looked no further ahead than today.

If the youth thought of his past and of those who longed for him in the distant metropolis it was in a detached and impersonal sort of way, as though that other life belonged to another creature than himself. He had given up hope of returning to civilization, for, since his various rebuffs at the hands of those to whom he had looked for friendship, he had wandered so far inland as to realize that he was completely lost in the mazes of the jungle.

Then, too, since the coming of Meriem he had found in her that one thing which he had most missed before in his savage jungle life—human companionship.

The little girl idolized him, as she might have idolized an indulgent brother had she had one. Love was a thing unknown to either. But as the youth neared manhood it was inevitable that it should come to him, as it did to every other savage jungle male.

As Meriem became proficient in their common language the pleasures of their companionship grew correspondingly, for now they could converse, and, aided by the mental powers of their human heritage, they amplified the restricted vocabulary of the apes until talking was transformed from a task into an enjoyable pastime.

When Korak hunted Meriem usually accompanied him, for she had learned the fine art of silence when silence was desirable. She could pass through the branches of the great trees now with all the agility and stealth of the Killer himself. Great heights no longer appalled her. She swung from limb to limb, or she raced through the mighty branches, sure footed, lithe and fearless. Korak was very proud of her, and even old Akut grunted in approval where before he had growled in contempt.

A distant village of blacks had furnished her with a mantle of fur and feathers, with copper ornaments and weapons, for Korak would not permit [illegible] light spear and a long knife were her weapons of offense or defense.

Her body, rounding into the fullness of an early maturity, followed the lines of a Greek goddess, but there the similarity ceased, for her face was beautiful.

As she grew more accustomed to the jungle and the ways of its wild denizens fear left her. As time wore on she even hunted alone when Korak and Akut were prowling at a great distance, as they were sometimes forced to do when game was scarce in their immediate vicinity. Upon these occasions she usually confined her endeavors to the smaller animals, though sometimes she brought down a deer and once even Horta, the boar, a great tusker that might have made even Sheeta think twice before attacking him.

After Korak had left the village of the blacks following his last thieving expedition the screams of women and children had brought the warriors in from the forest and the river. Great was the excitement and hot was the rage of the men when they learned that the white devil had again entered their homes, frightened their women and stolen arrows and ornaments and food.

Even their superstitious fear of this weird creature who hunted with a huge bull ape was overcome in their desire to wreak vengeance upon him and rid themselves for good and all of the menace of his presence in the jungle.

And so it was that a score of the fleetest and most doughty warriors of the tribe set out in pursuit of Korak and Akut but a few minutes after they had left the scene of the Killer's many depredations.

The little party of warriors was led by Kovudoo, the chief, a middle aged savage of exceptional cunning and bravery. It was he who first came within sight of the quarry which they had followed for hours by the mysterious methods of their almost uncanny powers of observation, intuition and even scent.

The white youth and the white maid stood alone in the jungle when they were discovered by Kovudoo's band. Akut had been made king of his ape tribe, and Korak, to Akut's sorrow, had left him to dwell with Meriem in the jungle. One of Kovudoo's men leaned close to the ear of his chief.

"Look!" he whispered and pointed to something that dangled at the girl's side. "When my brother and I were slaves in the village of the sheik my brother made that thing for the sheik's little daughter. She played with it always and called it after my brother, whose name is Geeka. Just before we escaped some one came and struck down the sheik, stealing his daughter away. If this is she the sheik will pay you well for her return."

Korak's arm had gone around the shoulders of Meriem. And then from behind him broke a hideous bedlam of savage war cries, and a score of shrieking blacks were upon them.

Korak turned to give battle. Meriem with her own light spear stood by his side. An avalanche of barbed missiles flew about them. One pierced Korak's shoulder, another his leg, and he went down.

Meriem was unscathed, for the blacks had intentionally spared her. Now they rushed forward to finish Korak and make good the girl's capture. But as they came there came also from another point in the jungle the great Akut and at his heels the huge bulls of his new kingdom.

Snarling and roaring, they rushed upon the black warriors when they saw the mischief they had already wrought. Kovudoo, realizing the danger of coming to close quarters with these mighty ape men, seized Meriem and called upon his warriors to retreat.

For a time the apes followed them, and several of the blacks were badly mauled and one killed before they succeeded in escaping. Nor would they have got off thus easily had Akut not been more concerned with the condition of the wounded Korak than with

A Score of Shrieking Blacks Were Upon Them.

the fate of the girl, upon whom he had always looked as more or less of an interloper and an unquestioned burden.

Korak lay bleeding and unconscious when Akut reached his side. The great ape tore the heavy spears from his flesh, licked the wounds and then carried his friend to the lofty shelter that Korak had constructed for Meriem. Further than this the brute could do nothing. Nature must accomplish the rest unaided or Korak must die.

He did not die, however. For days he lay helpless with fever, while Akut and the apes hunted close by that they might protect him from such birds and beasts as might reach his lofty retreat. Occasionally Akut brought him juicy fruits which helped to slake his thirst and allay his fever, and little by little his powerful constitution overcame the effects of the spear thrusts. The wounds healed and his strength returned.

All during his rational moments as he had lain upon the soft furs which lined Meriem's nest he had suffered more acutely from fears for Meriem than from the pain of his own wounds. [illegible] regain his strength that he might set out in search of her. But it was many a day before strength returned to him.

• • • • • • •

(To be continued)

STAY AWAY FROM BRULE

Men should stay away from Brule owing to lack of sleeping accommodation, hotel and bunk houses being over-crowded. Notice will be given when things get righted.

A. McFegan,
Secretary Local Union No. 1054

COAL MINE FOR SALE

A country coal mine in good location; seam 3 ft. 10 inches; good dry roof and dry mine; newly developed; also storage bin to hold sixty tons, and blacksmith shop with all necessary equipment. For particulars apply to

GEO. WM. HALLIDAY
Box 185 DELIA, ALBERTA

Trades Unionists

What is the use of Increased Wages if the Manufacturer, Wholesaler and Retailer are to add to the increased wage cost, their usual percentages of profit, and compel you to buy back the commodities you produce with three scales of excess profit added.

Protect Wage Values by joining the Co-Operative for the distribution of these commodities, and ultimately Co-Operative production of the merchandise for which your wages are exchanged.

FERNIE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.
Incorporated 1907

If You Want the BEST in Meats Phone or Call on
The Meat Man
BENSON
Dealer in
Fresh and Cured Meats, Fish, Poultry, Butter, Eggs, Etc.
Delivery Prompt Prices Same to All
Phone 163 Corner of 7th Ave. and Victoria St.
Blairmore, Alberta

June Weddings

Look over our line of Wedding Presents consisting of Cut Glass and Heirloom Silverwear which we just received and are now showing. Many other useful articles to select from.

FERNIE OPTICAL PARLORS

ORPHEUM
THE HOME OF GOOD PICTURES

Saturday Matinee 2.30. Saturday Nights First Show at 7

Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7
CHARLIE CHAPLIN in his second million dollar comedy
"Shoulder Arms"
"Take those feet in," commands the sergeant.
"[illegible] where?" asks Doughboy Charlie Chaplin, and then the trouble begins.
The [illegible] of Charlie's idea of how to kill the Huns.

"The Lure of The Circus"
First episode of the greatest film show on earth, featuring EDDIE POLO and Big Circus Cast. The serial for every person from 8 to 80.

Universal Current Events
The final episode of the serial "Hands Up" is still tied up at Winnipeg, on account of the big strike and we cannot tell when it will get through.

Monday and Tuesday, June 9 and 10
CORINNE GRIFFITH in
"The Clutch of Circumstance"
A powerful drama of the shadowed path of sacrifice that led a woman into the the sunlit highway of love
"The Woman In The Web"-chapter 6
One Reel Comedy

Wednesday and Thursday, June 11 and 12
MME. PETROVA in the great story of theatrical life
"Tempered Steel"
A "First National" Attraction

COMING
(Sir Johnson Forbes Robertson) in "Passing of The Third Floor Back"
Veleska Surrat in "The Victim"
Mary McLaren in "Creaking Stairs"

Correspondence Re Strike

(Continued from Page Two)

ponsibilities of his work should at least entitle him to a greater remuneration.

Again, the Fan Engineers at Coal Creek are paid at a less rate than the firemen who are at work under their instructions, and this I hardly think you, yourself, will concede to be fair.

The Ashmen are at present doing the same amount of work as they previously did but suffer a reduction in pay. What reason exists in this case for a reduction in pay?

At Michel the Stablemen were formerly paid 12 hours per day for this work. Four men were engaged. Five men now do this work but the five men receive only 45 hours pay. Thus it is, under the order, cheaper for the company to employ five men than it was formerly to employ four.

There are many other things which enter into the dispute, but which could not be treated in a communication of this kind, and in which the evidence could only be given on the spot. There are at least five or six camps where evidence would have to be taken if the Commission wished to get the details in the dispute.

Believing the foregoing are sufficient to warrant an investigation as asked for by the Policy Committee.

I remain, yours sincerely,
P. M. CHRISTOPHERS
Pres. Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.

In company of Secretary Browne and Vice-President McFegan, I had an interview with Assistant Commissioner Harrison on the 17th and he informed us that Commissioner Armstrong would be in Calgary on the 18th and would like a conference as soon as possible after his arrival. Mr. Armstrong on the afternoon of the 18th requested us to meet him on the following day. This was done and the interview was, to say the least, anything but pleasant. On the morning of the 20th, we received the following communication which will in itself show the trend of the interview:

"P. M. CHRISTOPHERS,
Pres. Dist. 18, U. M. W. of A.
Calgary.

Dear Sir:—I have before me your communication of the 24th and the 25th of April and subsequent correspondence between this office and yours regarding the application of the Policy Committee for the appointment of a committee of six to investigate the working conditions and rates of wages for employees who were formerly working ten or eleven hours on the surface at the mines in South eastern British Columbia.

In view of the fact that you decline to accept the findings of such committee, I cannot see the advantage to be gained by the appointment of a commission as suggested. You have also been offered the proposal to refer the question of Order No. 124 to Frank J. Hayes, International President of U.M.W. of A. to decide whether it was in contravention of the policy of your international.

This suggestion was also declined by you. In view of the foregoing I would suggest the following:

(1.) That with regard to the alleged grievances in South Eastern British Columbia I am willing to send my assistants Mr. Harrison and Mr. Jones to that area immediately to investigate these matters.

(2.) If the employees who have formerly worked ten and eleven hours outside the mines in Alberta desire to work the same number of hours as previously, those working ten or eleven hours will receive nine hours pay for eight hours work and two and three hours overtime respectively. All other men who were formerly working nine hours will receive nine hours pay for eight hours work.

(3.) Or in view of the objection re Order No. 124 as stated by you I am quite willing to rescind the order as far as it relates to the Province of Alberta. This would leave matters with regard to that Province in exactly the same position they were when your organization wrote asking for an extension of the present agreement.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. ARMSTRONG
Director of Coal Operation

In reply to the foregoing the following communication was sent to Mr. Armstrong:

May 20th, 1919

"W. H. Armstrong,
Director of Coal Operations,
Calgary.

Dear Sir:—Yours of today received and contents noted, in reply I beg to say; you say that in view of the fact that we decline to accept the findings the commission asked for you see no advantage to be gained in its appointment. The advantage as we see it will come from the fact that the public will be in possession of the information submitted and should we reject the findings of the commission the public would be the final judges in the matter.

With respect to the dispute being left to the International President, I may say that he is at present in Europe [illegible] before he will return [illegible] od of settlement of the question altogether too far into the future.

In regard to point No. 1 you offer to send your assistants to investigate the grievances in South Eastern B.C. if you would consent to the investigation extending to such camps as we may desire in the Province of Alberta this might be considered.

In regards to point No. 2. As these men affected in the Province of Alberta have already been placed under Order No. 124 by the action of the operators we cannot ask or consent that they again return to the ten and eleven hour shift.

Hoping the foregoing will receive your serious consideration,

I remain, yours sincerely,
P. M. CHRISTOPHERS
Pres. Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.

In reply to the above the following communication was received from Mr. Armstrong:

May 20th, 1919.

"P. M. Christophers,
Pres. Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.
Calgary.

Dear Sir:—I have for acknowledgement your communication of even date. With regard to the remarks contained in the preamble of your letter, I beg to reply as follows.

You have already intimated to me that you will not accept the findings of such a commisison unless they concede your demands in full.

With refernece to the fact that President Hayes is now in Europe it is assumed that Vice-President Lewis or some other officer is acting in his place during his absence and would, no doubt, act in his stead. You were asked if you would be willing to accept the decision of the President of the International. You replied: 'We will not accept the decision of the President of the International or any other President. We will be our own judges.'

Regarding item No. 1 of my communication to you dated on the 20th, I am still willing to carry out the suggestion made in the said letter. Refering to item No. 2, you say that the operators in Alberta have already placed the men on the eight hours shift. This may be the case in some mines. I am quite willing to have an order issued instructing the operators to continue the same hours of work on the surface as exists under the present agreement of which you requested an extension in your communication of the 2nd of April.

As already pointed out to you this proposal is simply tentative and until a new agreement has been negotiated.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. ARMSTRONG
Director of Coal Operations

In reply to the above the following communication was adddressed to Mr. Armstrong:

May 20th, 1919

"W. H. Armstrong,
Director of Coal Operations,
Calgary.

Dear Sir:—Yours of even date received and contents noted, I beg to reply as follows. Your letter to me seems to beg the question, I have stated that if an investigation is held and the evidence adduced made public, I have no doubt but what we can sustain our position, even if the decision is against us in the dispute. I, personally, see no reason to fear a thorough investigation into the dispute, and the deeper the investigation the more pleasing to us and of much greater benefit to the public.

As far as the International President is concerned in the dispute we do not desire to see repetition of what occurred in this district in 1917, and we fully believe the membership of this district are fully capable of conducting their own business now as they were in doing so with you during 1917. We are not willing nor will we consent to outside employees in Alberta going back to the ten and eleven hour shifts. If however you wish to order the operators to do so, that is a matter of no concern to us. Regarding the investigation offered by you, such investigation to be made by two of your assistants we accept subject to the following conditions:

(1) That the investigation shall be conducted in any part of the district and in any camps named either by yourself, the operators or the resident officers of this district.

(2) That either the operators or their representatives, or the officers of this district or their representatives shall have full permission to question witnesses from either side during the investigation.

An early reply to the above will be greatly appreciated by,

Yours sincerely,
P. M. CHRISTOPHERS

In reply to the foregoing, the following was received:

May 20th, 1919

"P. M. Christophers,
Pres. Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.
Calgary.

Dear Sir:—I have for acknowledgement your second letter of today. My communication of this morning is quite clear and I have no intention whatever of begging the question.

With a view to bringing about an amiable adjustment of this dispute I made certain proposals to you in my first letter of this date. In these proposals I feel I have made every concession possible and in accord with the terms of the tentative agreement and to which your organization is a party.

Yours faithfuly,
W. H. ARMSTRONG
Director of Coal Operations

In reply to the foregoing the following was sent to Mr. Armstrong:

May 20th, 1919

"W. H. ARMSTRONG,
Director of Coal Operations,
Calgary.

Dear Sir:—The membership of the district have by a large and overwhelming majority rejected Order No. 124 issued by you which provided for an extension of the present agreement.

As no agreement now exists between your department and the district, and unless some action is taken by your department either to extend the present agreement or make a new one, all workers in and around the mines will [illegible] the hour of three on the afternoon of May the 24th, this will include the following classes of labor, Engineers, Firemen, Pumpmen, Fanmen, Lampmen and Stablemen,

Yours sincerely,
P. M. CHRISTOPHERS
Pres. Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.
(Signed) ED. BROWNE,
Sec'y Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.

On the morning of the 21st the following was received from Mr. Armstrong:

"P. M. Christophers,
Pres. Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.
City.

ment your third communication of the 20th inst. I desire to point out to you that Order No. 124 has nothing to do with the extension of the Tentative Agrement but deals only with the wages of the outside employees under the agreement. Order 116 extended the agreement until your organization was in a position to negotiate a new one. This was impossible on your return from Indianapolis, for according to a statement read by you to the Minister of Labor at Ottawa, you pointed out that you would only be in a position to negotiate a new agreement after the peace terms were confirmed by the United States Senate, and at the same time you asked for a further extension of the agreement until the formal declaration of peace. This action on your part was further confirmed by the following letter from Secretary Browne, under date of April 2nd:

'The Policy Committee of District Eighteen, U.M.W. of A. desire to meet the representatives of the Western Coal Operators association on Wednesday, April 9th, 1919, for the purpose of asking for an extension of the agreement as outlined by the International Policy.'

Up to the time of writing no objection has been received by me from the officers of District 18 with regard to Order 116, as a matter of fact, said order was issued by the request of members of your organization and reads as follows:

'The Tentative Agreement expires on March 31st, 1919, but owing to the fact that representatives of District 18, United Mine Workers of America are unable to meet the Western Coal Operators Association thirty days prior to its expiration as provided, the following was mutually agreed to:

(1.) That there be no change in working conditions or orders as laid down by myself in the tentative agreement and subsequent orders except there will be no sittings of the Cost of Living Commission.

(2.) There will be no suspension of work during the negotiations for a new agreement.

(3.) That for the purpose of making a new agreement officers of District 18 and the operators will meet as soon as possible after the return of the men's representatives from the special convention at Indianapolis on the 18th of March.

(4.) By virtue of the authority vested in me by orders of the Privy Council, passed under the War Measures Act of Canada, 1914, I hereby direct that the foregoing rates and conditions shall be in force and effect until further notice.

So that there can be no misunderstanding with regard to the contents of the Order 124, the following is a copy thereof:—

'Application has been received for further consideration of Order One Hundred and Twenty-three, after full consideration of the matter I am of the opinion that the rates of wages for outside work in District 18 shall be adjusted upon the basis,

(1.) That the present rates covering a nine hour day shall be made to apply to a eight hour work day.

(2.) That the present rates as outlined in the Tentative Agreement for an eight hour work day shall remain as at present.

(3.) That the present rates covering ten and eleven hour work day shall be adjusted on the basis of nine hours pay for eight hours work.

Order number One Hundred and Twenty-three is hereby cancelled and Order One Hundred and Sixteen is hereby amended to the foregoing effect.

This order shall not establish a precedent.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by order of the Committee of the Privy Council, passed under the War Measures Act of Canada, 1914, I hereby direct that the foregoing rates and conditions shall be in force and effect from the 1st day of April, 1919, where mines in Eastern B.C. are under my jurisdiction and from the 16th of April for all mines in the Province of Alberta.'

Having regard to the fact that an agreement is still in existence, the threat contained in your letter to pull out all workers is a direct contravention of your agreement and of a communication signed by the President and Secretary of District 18, dated February 27th, 1919, which reads as follows:—

'Owing to the International Executive Board having called a convention for the purpose of outlining a policy to govern its membership during the period of reconstruction and as we are not in a position to meat the Western Coal Operators Association for the purpose of making a wage scale agreement until we are informed of the policy which will be outlined at that convention which will meet on the 18th of March at Indianapolis, we would ask for an extension of our present agreement until the conclusion of peace along the following lines:

(1.) That there shall be no change in the present wages or working conditions, (wage to include the B.C.L. awards.)

(2.) That the continuation of the present agreement until the declaration of peace shall in no way prejudice this district in asking for an increase of the wage rates.

(3.) That the present commission for settlement of disputes shall continue in force at least until an agree[illegible]

(4.) That negotiations for a new agreement shall be entered into within thirty days after the declaration of peace.

Hoping the foregoing will receive your earnest consideration.

(signed) TOM BIGGS
EDW. BROWNE

A further threat to call out the Engineers, Firemen, Pumpmen, Fanmen and Stablemen would not only be a direct contravention of the general terms of the agreement but would be a violation of the following clause:

"Empfeyees to care for mine."

'In case of either local or general

(Continued on Page Seven)

Workers of the World Unite

LOGGERS and CAMP WORKERS

THIS MEANS YOU

JOIN THE

B. C. LOGGERS UNION

61 CORDOVA ST. W., VANCOUVER, B. C.

DO IT NOW

ONE BIG INDUSTRIAL UNION FOR ALL CAMP WORKERS

Loggers of the Interior Country Take Notice

The Loggers of the Coast Districts have formed an organization known as the B. C. Loggers' Union, industrial in its scope, comprising all workers in the lumber industry, and construction camps, affiliated with the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council and the B. C. Federation of Labor.

We invite all Loggers in the interior to join hands with us in a united effort to better our conditions, which can only be done in this manner.

Organizers are now on the road and will pay you a visit in the near future.

So get ready!

For further information communicate with **E. Winch**, secretary-treasurer, 61 Cordova St. W.

VANCOUVER, B. C. PHONE SEYMOUR 7856

MONUMENTS

Kootenay Granite and Monumental Co., Ltd.

P. O. Box 865 Nelson, B. C.

The only Monumental Works in the Kootenays

NOTICE

Miners are hereby notified to stay away from Greenhill Mine, Blairmore, Alta., until further notice.

Many miners on the spare link.
ROD McDONALD,
Secretary 2163,
Blairmore, Alta.

L. H. PUTNAM
Barrister, Etc.
BLAIRMORE, ALBERTA

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

Twenty-three (23) acres of Fruit Land, in Creston district; half mile from Ericson Station; a clear title. Will exchange for a house, or good auto. For further information apply

OSCAR NORTH
Bellevue, Alta.

Poultry

WHITE WYANDOTTES

Eggs for hatching from matings of pure white, large bone, finely shaped birds at from $2.00 to $3.00 per sitting. Satisfaction guaranteed.
C. GILLETT Box 501, Fernie, B. C.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Pedigreed, bred to lay. First and second hen; first and second pullet; first, second and third cockerel; second cock; first and special utility pen at Fernie Poultry Show. Eggs, $2.00 per sitting. Duck Eggs for sitting. Fifteen pound Flemish Giant Buck for stud.
F. STREET, Hand Avenue,
West Fernie, B. C.

ROSE COMB RHODE ISLAND REDS

Tomkins' strain. At Fernie show won best male, second pullet, first pen and best display eggs. Two dollars and five dollars per fifteen.
ALEX. AITKEN, Box 512
West Fernie, B. C.

Single Comb Buff Leghorns and Barred Rocks. $1.50 per setting. Heavy winter layers. Two Buff Leghorn cockerels for sale.—Joe Turner, Hand Ave., West Fernie.

Painting

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR

by the day

43 **BAKER AVE.**

Wm. Robson

For Sale—A Magnet Separator; nearly new; cost $100.00; will sell for $75.00.—G. Parnell, Flagstone, B. C. Apr25-4t

Piano Tuning—If your piano needs tuning send a note to Box 498, Fernie and I will call and do the work for you at a reasonable cost.—L. O. Sherman.

For Sale Cheap.—A twelve seat Ferris Wheel and Organ; in first-class condition; a good money maker for this summer. Apply to S. Trono, Blairmore, Alberta. 38-4t*

Wanted to Rent—Furnished house in a good location for months of May and June. Reply Box 888, City.

FERNIE LODGE, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS, NO. 31

Will meet regularly every Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock.
Visiting members cordially welcome.
W. Pennington, C. C. Alfred Baker, K. R. S.

JAMES WHITEHOUSE
Teacher of
Piano and Organ
Theory, Harmony, Counterpoint, Transposition, Composition, Orchestration

Dr. W. H. Pickering
Dentist
Bank of Hamilton Bldg. Opposite Suddaby's Drug Store
Phone 188

SECOND HAND STORE
Fernie, B.C.
Under new management. The best prices paid for all kinds of second hand furniture, stoves, etc.
Rawson & Meek, Prop.

Mrs. E. Todd
LADIES' FURNISHER
Fernie British Columbia
Seasonable Millinery in the Latest Styles from the Great Fashion Centers
Coats, Capes, Suits, Gowns, Dresses, Whitewear, Hosiery, Fancy Work Materials, etc.
Special attention to Mail Orders.

NORTHERN HOTEL
INVITES YOUR PATRONAGE
Alberta readers of The District Ledger will find it to their advantage when visiting Fernie to stop at the Northern. They will find it cosy and home-like.

HIGH CLASS CAFE

ALWAYS OPEN

License No. 10-1770
High Class Day and Night Cafe in Connection
European and American Rates. See Us for Special Rates
Phone 29 Private Booths

Nugget Jewelry

Come in and see the most beautiful display of Solid Gold Nugget Jewelry at the Fernie Optical Parlors this week.

FERNIE OPTICAL PARLORS

COAL MINERS, ATTENTION

$2.60 per month provides you against any accident and every sickness, and pays $40.00 a month from the day you are laid up.
Particulars from
THE B. WINNETT INSURANCE AGENCIES,
Bank of Hamilton Bldg. **Fernie, B. C.**
Claims promptly adjusted from this office

NOTICE
Reliable Used Autos
I have several for sale, including Chevrolet, Dodge, McLaughlin, Chalmers
Prices asked are very reasonable, and it will pay you to see me before buying elsewhere
Special Bargain in a Ford Five Passenger.....$250.00
Special Bargain in a Gray Dort.....$825.00
Be sure and look this up. Correspondence invited
FRANK WADDINGTON
AUCTIONEER
Phones 770—469 S. O. E. Building, Tenth Street
LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA.

Wanted Tenders

For the whole of the lumber, etc., contained in the buildings of Queens Hotel, Hosmer, B. C.
The buildings are large and contain a great quantity of first-class material.
Tenders must be received by June the 15th.
ELK VALLEY BREWING CO., LIMITED
NATAL, B. C.

Tony Derico
Communicate At Once With
NORTH AMERICAN COLLIERIES, LTD.,
809 McLeod Building, Edmonton, Alta.

E. PICK
Sole Agent for the Pass for
Lethbridge Brewery Products
Best Wholesale Prices to the Trade
GET OUR PRICES ON ALL TEMPERANCE DRINKS
Top-Notch Prices Paid for Bottles
E. PICK, "The Bottle King"
The Alberta Hotel Blairmore, Alberta

Correspondence Re Strike

(Continued from Page Six)

disputes or suspension of mining, the engineers, firemen and pumpmen shall not suspend work but shall, when mining is suspended, fully protect the company's property under their care and operate fans and pumps and lower and hoist such men and supplies as may be required to protect the company's property and any and all coal required to keep up steam at the company's plant, but it is understood and agreed that the company will not ask them to hoist any coal for sale on the market.'

Notwithstanding that negotiations are still in progress between your office and mine you have seen fit to issue a strike order which is in direct violation of our agreement. As intimated to you previously, I am willing to appoint a commission as requested in your communication of the 25th of April provided your organization is willing to accept the findings of said commission.

Having regard to the fact that in accordance to your own statement you are not in a position at present to negotiate a new agreement and also from your letter it would appear that you desire to repudiate the extension of the present agreement which was made at the request of your organization, I fail to see where any services of this office would be of value in the negotiations of a new agreement at the present time.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. ARMSTRONG
Director of Coal Operations

You will see from the foregoing that Mr. Armstrong assumes that a strike order had already been issued, but such was not the fact and from what sources Mr. Armstrong was receiving his information I am at a loss to understand, and further it was at Mr. Armstrong's request that we asked for the consideration of a new agreement which both knew would be but a temporary one, however in answer to the foregoing, the following letter was sent to Mr. Armstrong:

May 21st, 1919

"W. H. Armstrong, Esq.,
Director of Coal Operations,
Calgary.

Dear Sir:—Yours of even date to hand in reply I beg to say, that in our opinion the extension of our agreement depends on the revision of Order No. 124 under which the outside employees are governed both as to wages and conditions during any extension to which we might agree. In consequence if no agreement is made on this point, then no extension is agreed to.

With reference to our being willing to accept the findings of the committee who might investigate the dispute, you are no doubt aware that you stated in our conversation of the 19th inst., 'That nothing would change your mind' this was said in regards to an investigation being held. If this is the state of your mind there is every reason to believe that your assistants—who would conduct the enquiry and report to you on the investigation—would be more or less influenced thereby, it would therefore be foolishness on our part to agree to abide to a decision in which we have every reason to think that the investigators would be more or less prejudiced in their opinion previous to the investigation being held.

As to the general clauses of the agreement which you quote, I may say that in my opinion, whenever the agreement expires, the clause quoted by you depends on the goodwill alone of the employees and we do not feel bound to let a portion of our men protect the property of the man or men, who are trying to separate us or our wives and children from their means of livelihood.

If you wish to give the investigation as asked for in my communication of yesterday and subject to the conditions contained therein, the strike may yet be avoided, if not the orders for the suspension of work along the lines indicated in my third communication of yesterday will be wired to all locals at three o'clock this afternoon.

Yours sincerely,
P. M. CHRISTOPHERS
Pres. Dist. 18, U.M.W. of A.

In answer to the foregoing the following was received:

May 21st, 1919

P. M. Christophers,
Pres. Dist. 18, City.

Dear Sir:—I have for acknowledgement your communication of the 21st inst.

Referring to the request for the appointment of a commission as contained in your letter of the 25th of April, I am quite prepared to recommend the Minister of Labor that he appoint a commission to investigate the matters under dispute. Provided, however, you are willing to accept the findings of such commission. I would further recommend to him that no officers connected with this office should have anything to do with the investigation or its findings, which would then [illegible] in regard to the impartiality of the officials of this office.

If acceptable to you this would be arranged by wire. In view of the fact that I have been creditably informed that you have already issued an order for a general strike I cannot see the force of your threat to issue another order this afternoon at three o'clock.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. ARMSTRONG
Director of Coal Operations

Anyone can readily see that it would be an impossibility to accept the offer contained in this letter, as to agree to accept the findings of this commission which was to be appointed from Ottawa was to simply put our neck in the noose and instruct the Minister of Labour to pull as hard as he pleased, better in fact to accept the famous Lemieux Act which has already been repudiated by nearly all organized labor bodies. It will be noticed that Mr. Armstrong was still bent on recognizing only the communication of the 25th of April in spite of the fact that it was very clearly pointed out to him, that when this communication was sent, the policy committee did not know that the operators of Albertaetaoinshrd that the operators had put Order No. 124 into operation in the province of Alberta, he still persisted to claim that the men in Alberta had no grievance under the order.

In the foregoing letter he again says that he has creditable information that the strike order had been issued but does not say from whence the information is derived.

After considering the whole correspondence on the subject, your officers thought it better to personally interview Mr. Armstrong, and did so on the afternoon of the 21st. It was pointed out to him that we had no objection to his assistants making an enquiry into the dispute, providing the enquiry embraced the whole district if such was desired. This he agreed to but still insisted that the enquiry should only be held on the stipulation, that the district officers agreed that the district as a whole should abide by the decision that might be handed down, and after leaving him the following letter was received:

May 21st, 1919

P. M. CHRISTOPHERS,
Pres. Dist. 18
City.

Dear Sir:—Referring to your verbal request that my assistants, Messrs Harrison and Jones make an investigation as per your letter of April 25th, I am willing to accede to your request, as before stated to you, **Provided, you are willing to accept the findings of the investigation.**

Yours faithfully,
W. H. ARMSTRONG
Director of Coal Operations

After receiving the above I had a talk with Mr. Armstrong and was informed by him that this was as far as he was prepared to go in the matter. It was pointed out to him that it was utterly impossible for the district officers to accept a proposition of this kind, as they well knew that were they to accept it, it would be against the wish of the policy committee, and tantamount to their recall from office.

Mr. Armstrong was, however, very definite that this was his last word on the subject, and in consequence the district officers acting under the instructions of their policy committee issued the order for a general strike, which there is every reason to believe, if carried to its logical conclusion, and every man in and around the mines drops his tools, irrespective of his occupation, the point in dispute is bound to be conceded by the Commission.

F. M. CHRISTOPHERS

THE WINNIPEG STRIKE

("J. H." in Red Flag, Vancouver)

On Thursday, May 15, a general strike was called in Winnipeg. It was carried into effect by some 30,000 workers representing some sixty trades. It has completely paralyzed industry in that city. So far as we can learn, the only disturbance to date was caused by some people demonstrating outside the building occupied by the strikers' central committee. We have no information of the personel of this crowd. They were dispersed by the police. These conditions are common to general strikes. We do not require the word of "a well-known Winnipeg journalist" as assurance. There are, however, some features which are not common to sympathetic strikes, in the news dispatches from Winnipeg. The printing trades, the telegraphers, and the fire fighters, and, according to late reports, the police, have made common cause with industrial workers. That must be distressing news for the poor "public." Particularly so, after all the nice things the "public" has been saying of late, about the sane and practical craft union. "Ingratitude more strong than traitor's arms," thou art sharper than a serpent's tooth—such and so forth must be the mental comment of the dear, long-suffering public.

The strike committee controls Winnipeg and there has been no disorder. The "well-known Winnipeg journalists" are very doleful. It is difficult (aside from the opportunity riots would offer to the master class to club and shoot the workers into submission) to make much money, at so much per column, out of an orderly strike. The "well-known journalists" cannot conceal their chagrin.

No sensational happenings occuring, the next best means to attract the exclusive dollars is to imagine things. John Swinton at a press dinner in New York, half a century ago, used harsher terms: "to pervert, to vilify, to lie outright." So our local press scare the dear, long-suffering public out of five nights' sleep by a flaring headline, "Soviet Government proclaimed in Winnipeg." Horible! Some one ought to start a society for prevention of cruelty to timid business men.

Monday, May 19, the Vancouver Daily Province carried over two columns of news which described circumstancially the inauguration of a Soviet government in Winnipeg at that dread hour that Tam O'Shanter mounted his beast in the conspirators hour, when graves yawn (and no wonder). Midnight found three thousand strikers at some place "on the river front within a stone's throw of the police station, and a few blocks from the City Hall," erecting a Soviet government. A reverend gentleman was the principal speaker. There was no disorder, some cheering. Two representatives of the city council were to be invited to sit on the Soviet directory. We pause to express our dissent to this method of inaugurating a Soviet directory (?) and shall certainly use our influence to prevent Winnipeg obtaining a charter. The scheme had been "discussed for weeks by Socialistic organs circulated, some openly and others surreptitiously, through the streets of Winnipeg. Some protests from returned soldiers have been heard but apparently without provoking energetic action, though numerous wires of protest have been sent by citizen bodies to Ottawa urging that the mounted police be instructed to act. But in spite of this novel proceeding by the strikers, Winnipeg has not got excited. In fact the feeling that blooodshed will be avoided was actually more general on Sunday at noon than in the earlier days of the strike."

Those few sentences are provocative of battle, murder and sudden death. Particularly such elegant English as "Winnipeg has not got excited" and "the feeling that bloodshed will be avoided was actually...." If a twelve-year-old school boy handed such wretched composition to his teacher, bloodshed would be unavoidable. But the direct appeal to violence comes later: "Perhaps the news of the Soviet proceeding did cause some of the citizens to take a firmer grip on themselves, and their jaws became a little more resolutely set." Perchance they bespoke each other, after the manner of the gent whose wife was momentarily expecting to add to his joys and sorrows, "Be British boys! Be British!" At any rate the business men "districted" the town, and still there was no trouble. Lawyers, doctors, big merchants, etc., enrolled in the citizens' army. For what? All that silly Buffalo Mick, or Whalebone Dick, the Gun-eater, stuff is denied in the same edition of the "Province," in which it appeared. Denied in small print headings. Funny, how things work out. Since the Commissioner of the Mounted Police visited Vancouver the editorial columns of our press have been remarkably free from the riot-inciting matter which formerly occupied plenty of space. Well, the day after this dispatch we are discussing appeared, the "Province" has an editorial abjectly apologizing for the nonsensical lies of previous day, and putting the blame on G. C. Porter, a well-known Winnipeg journalist. We hazard the opinion that G. C. Porter will be even better known in the future.

But again, on May 21, we are told that the Winnipeg strike is a revolutionary move. This time Ernest Robinson, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, is quoted as saying that word has been received from all points between Winnipeg and the coast that they will follow the example set by the Manitoba town. The report continues, that the "citizens' paper," whatever that might be, said: "It is the public of Winnipeg that we speak in stating without equivocation that this is not a strike at all in the ordinary sense of the term, it is a revolution. It is an attempt to overturn British institutions in his western country, and supplant them with the Russian Bolsheviki system of Soviet rule."

All true citizens are urged to unite to defeat the revolution—and still there is no disorder.

If the wage slaves of Canada do not learn to ignore the frantic nonsense of the press, it will be not the fault of that institution.

No doubt to the business men in Seattle the strike in that city, looked at through their fear-crazed eyes, with sixty thousand slaves suddenly withdrawn from the buying of commodities, with the spring stock on hand, the banks demanding payment and the sheriff pounding on the door, must indeed have looked mountainous to them. On the other hand the stupid and bombastic utterances of the nerve broken Mayor Hanson must have caused much merriment among the slaves. And now Winnipeg and its lawyers, doctors and big merchants, are cutting an equally lucidrous figure. The fact stands out, above all this melodramatic hurly-burly, that the working class is being organized, disciplined and educated by the very force of capitalistic production, to a point where they can and will end the mad scramble to live on the husks in a world of plenty.

Every strike finds them more united, and more minded to attend to their own business; as it also finds the business element, that class which is neither fish, flesh nor good red herring, more fear-stricken, and less capable of acting the part of men.

Strikes and lockouts, panics and industrial depressions are inevitable in a social system, which is based on purchase and sale of everything produced. And no society can continue to bear the shocks which have long enough and frequently enough, strained the feeble bond of cash nexus which holds the contending classes together.

It may be that some half-baked Socialist is voicing revolutionary phrases in Winnipeg. We doubt it. We know that a bunch of workers who are able to keep their heads in spite of the extreme provocation to which they are being subjected, will not allow any muddle head from their own ranks to precipitate trouble. We prefer to believe that the press is twisting and perverting utterances of strike officials in an effort to start something. We ask all Socialists to form a press clipping bureau and forward to us all provocature stuff, with the periodical and date clearly indentified. We have need of it like Christ had for the ass

MANIFEST DESTINY

(By SCOTT NEARING)

The United States emerges from the Great War in a position of unprecedented economic power. In 1913 America was still a borrowing nation. In 1919 she is the creditor of the world.

The property of other nations is heavily mortgaged by war debts. The debt of Great Britain equals 44.8 per cent of her total wealth. The debt of Italy is 50.6 per cent; the debt of France 54.6 per cent; the debt of Germany 50 per cent; and that of Austria, Hungary 96 per cent of the total wealth.

The United States has loaned the Allies a total of nine and a quarter billions. She holds a mortgage on almost ten per cent of their net wealth. The net wealth of Great Britain (wealth minus debt) is 50 billions; of France 30 billions; of Italy 12 billions; of Japan 27 billions. The net wealth of the United tSates is 225 billions. The United States has been forced to bond less than 10 per cent of her total wealth. Her net wealth is greater—nearly 100 per cent greater—than the combined net wealth of her principal allies.

The value of exports over imports (the trade balance) for the calendar year 1918 amounted to over three billions of dollars in favor of the United States. The indications are that for 1919 there will be a trade balance almost as heavy.

Before the war, billions of American Securities were owned in Europe. Of these Securities two and a half billions have been brought back to the United States.

There is in the United States over three billions in gold money. Compare this amount with the 400 million stock of gold in the Bank of England, and the one billion, one-hundred million stock of gold in the Bank of France. The United States has vastly more than her share of the world's gold supply.

The United States is the greatest manufacturing nation on earth. She produces, through high industrial efficiency, a huge annual surplus of wealth, which must seek investment somewhere. Prior to the war, the foreign investments of Great Britain, Germany and France totaled nearly forty billion dollars. The foreign investments of the United States were a mere nothing compared with this amount.

Now the tables are turned. German foreign investments are wiped out. Her surplus is gone. Great Britain and France will be busy restoring the economic life at home. The United States today is prepared to invest more money in foreign securities than any nation in the world. From this time forward, she will be in a position of financial imperialism that will eclipse anything that modern society has known. Resources, efficiency, investable surplus, freedom from heavy debt, equipment with adequate man-power, the United States far out-distances her nearest competitor.

Competition for trade and for investment opportunities wil be very bitter during the next few years. It is little wonder that France and Great Britain are seeking protection in a triple alliance with the huge reservoirs of American credit. Will this Triple Alliance hold when these reservoirs, filled to overflowing, threatens to submerge the capitalism in less favored lands?

Manifest destiny is calling the United States to take her position as the greatest financial imperialist nation on earth. Her economic future possesses all the allurements that vast wealth and unchallengable power can command. In a few—in a very few years—there will be, not a "Big Five;" not a "Big Three," but a "Big One," and that one will be the United States.

The bankers already have recognized this fact. They have accepted it in the person of Thomas W. Lamont, member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., financial advisor to the American peace delegation in Paris; and leader of the group of international bankers that is to be responsible for the Chinese loans.

The economic supremacy of the United States is not a theory. It is a fact. Manifest destiny is directing the Ship of State. Isolation has been abandoned. The theory that American diplomacy could not be expected to back American investments has been forgotten. Administration officials and financiers agree on the principle and on the practice. The United States is to be the money-lender of the world!

Thus far, it is the bankers who have spoken. These plans are bankers' plans. The people are still to be heard from.

What do the American people think of imperialism? Are they content to pay the price? Are they willing to support a huge navy; equip and maintain a large standing army; bind themselves in alliances with foreign powers; engage in petty quarrels; participate in devasting wars, give their fathers, husbands and sons for cannon fodder; labor, sweat, produce the immense surplus of wealth that will be needed to supply the demand for American capital? Are they satisfied—the masses of the people—to live narrow lives in narrow houses, while the owners of wealth and the holders of power wallow in luxury? Are the American people ready to pay this price?

Others have been willing to pay. The Roman workers paid. So did the workers of France. The British workers have been paying for more than a century. Now the turn of the American worker has come.

To the people of America, as to every other empire, Fate has presented this question.—"The Question of all time."

(Written by E. E. Miller.)

"Beside the road of time the gaunt
[illegible]
[illegible]
A mighty nation came with ringing tread;
The monster rose, the traveler stood at bay
And heard the riddle: 'What is there to say
When idlers feast and toilers lack for bread?'
No answer came; a struggling gasp instead
Told that the Sphinx had clutched another prey
Empire on empire fell, the question still
Unanswered, and today our young land hears
It asked. She hears, her lips half apart with will
To speak; yet she is silent and appears
To halt in sudden doubt 'twixt two reproaches—
Still closer draws the Sphinx with baleful eyes."

Manifest destiny is calling to America,—the manifest destiny of imperialism and world dominion that called to Carthage, Rome, Spain, Germany, Russia and England. The rulers of American economic life,—the bankers, manufacturers, merchants, traders—and the profiteers are answering the summons eagerly, gleefully. For them it means riches, unimagined and boundless power. But the workers who must carry this imperial program upon their backs—what is their answer to this manifest, imperial destiny?

To The Secretaries Of All Locals in District 18 U. M. W. of A.

The District Ledger believes that it deserves a wider measure of encouagement from the membership.

There should be an immediate increase in circulation, not only because of the fact that the expenses are increasing and more money is needed but because more and more workers should be kept closely in touch with the ideas of the progressive forces of the movement.

We appeal to all secretaries, or others interested to bring this matter to the attention of the membership at once. There is scarcely a camp where more than twenty-five per cent of the membership has subscribed. A few camps have done very much better.

Do it today or at your very first meeting. It is a part of your share in the big struggle that is now convulsing the whole world.

We have not the time to write to individuals and trust that all interested will take this as a personal appeal.

The District Ledger

FERNIE . . B. C.

Vancouver's Demands

(B. C. Federationist, May 30.)

The Vancouver Trades and Labor Council has taken up the gauntlet thrown down by the government. On Wednesday evening a special meeting of the council was held, and the Winnipeg situation thoroughly discussed. As a result it was decided that a general strike vote be taken by the affiliated unions, the returns to be in the hands of the executive by Sunday evening at 9 o'clock. All local unions are being asked to call special meetings for the purpose of taking the vote. The strike is to take place on Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock if the vote is favorable, with the exception of the men engaged in the operation of the street railway system, who will cease work on Tuesday at midnight.

Thurdays night at the regular meeting of the central body, the executive recommended that the following seven demands be the minimum on which the strike will be settled, the council taking the stand that all the questions raised in the recommendations needed to be settled and they might as well be settled while the trouble is on and save any further delay in their settlement.

Aims of Labor in the General Strike

Realizing that while there are many problems that face the workers that cannot be solved under capitalism, and that the end of that system is not yet; also realizing that the present situation is a political one, due to the action of the Dominion Government in the Winnipeg strike, and that as the taking care of the soldiers who were disabled, and the dependents of the men who have died on the fields of France and Flanders are working class problems, the majority of the soldiers being members of the working class, therefore be it resolved that the following be the policy of the workers of Canada now on strike, or about to come on strike in support of the Winnipeg workers:

1. The reinstatement of the postal workers who struck in Winnipeg.
2. The immediate settlement of the postal workers' grievances.
3. The right of collective bargaining through any organization that the workers deem most suited to their needs.
4. Pensins for soldieds and their dependents on the basis laid down by the soldiers' organizations.
5. The minimum recompense for service overseas by the granting of the sum of $2,000 gratuity.
6. The nationalization of all cold storage plants, abattoirs and elevators, with a view to removing the evil of hoarding of foodstuffs.
7. The enactment of legislation to provide for the six-hour day in all industries where unemployment is prevalent.

Failing the granting of these demands by the Dominion Government, the workers continue the strike until the present government resigns and places these matters before the electorate.

The policy has been wired to every central body in the Dominion and to the government at Ottawa.

Late in the evening, after the council had decided upon its policy, J. W. Elrick of the Postal Workers of Winnipeg, addressed the council. He stated that the strike committee in Winnipeg had decided to spread the truth as to the situation by sending out ten members of organized labor throughout the country, and that he had called at Regina and Calgary on the way up. He stated that at Regina there was little interest until the situation was placed before the workers, in the true light, but that at Medicine Hat the workers were solid, and that Calgary was all out with the exception of one or two locals. Dealing with the Winnipeg situation, he stated that the trouble was brought about by the metal and building trades councils. Later the employers of the metal trades, including the Dominion Bridge Company and the Vulcan Iron Works, had made some effort to arrive at a basis of negotiations, but the financial interests stepped in and took the matter out of the hands of the ironmasters, who were in the hands of the financial interests, not having capital of their own. Referring to the committee of 1,000, which was supposed to be handling things in Winnipeg, he stated that there was only six or seven individuals on the committee, and that at no time had more than this been seen to enter the rooms where they met, and on the municipal and provincial authorities failing to handle the situation, the Dominion Government had been appealed to. He said that the financial interests had decided to establish a soviet government and handle things, but the strike was pulled too quick for them. Bakers and milkmen had been allowed to work, and cards were given to them by the strike committee. This aroused the ire of the employers, who stated that so long as the cards were in force there would be no chance of negotiations, and that the strike committee were asked if they were so small as to allow the cards to prevent negotiations being opened, but nothing was done by the employers to bring about a conference. He stated that everything was orderly, the strikers staying at home or attending the union meetings. In spite of this everything had been done to have military rule established, but that this had not yet been accomplished. Later a communication was sent by the employers, asking for a conference. The men replied, giving names of the representatives of labor to attend the conference. Mr. Elrick read the strikers' letter to the employers, and also read a letter received in reply from the employers, which stated that no offer for negotiations had been made. Dealing with the issue, he stated it was to secure the right of collective bargaining, and that as things were going too smooth for the liking of the employers, the Federal Government was asked to take charge. He appealed for the assistance of organized labor in Vancouver, stating that since the Minister of Labor and Mr. Meighen had been in Winnipeg, nothing had been done with the exception of misrepresentation and confusion as to the situation. He stated that there were thirty-five thousand workers, organized and unorganized, out on strike, and that not more than 20 per cent had gone back to the post offices. In concluding, he stated that Winnipeg always looked with respect on any proposition emanating from Vancouver, and would welcome the assistance of organized labor on the coast at this time.

"RING OUT THE OLD, RING IN THE NEW"

A Plea for the Returned Man—From 'The Critic,' Vancouver

"I see the people pass before my eyes in the livery of wretchedness and political subjugation, ragged and hungry, painfully gathering the crumbs that wealth tosses insultingly to it, a lost and wandering in riot and the intoxication of a brutish, angry, savage joy; and I remember that those brutalized faces bear the finger-print of God, the mark of the same mission as our own. **I lift myself to the vision of the future and behold the people rising in its majesty, brothers in one faith, one bond of equality and love, one ideal of citizen virtue that *ever grows* in beauty and might:** the people of the future, unspoilt by *luxury, ungoaded by wretchedness*, awed by the *consciousness* of its rights and duties.—Mazzini.

Justice demands that the returned men, particularly those who **are unfitted for manual labour through being maimed at the front** *in resisting Hun world domination*, **should be protected by the state to the last dollar in the treasury. Canada's slogan, "the last man and the last dollar," should be lived up to.** Yet, even before peace is signed, patriotic Sir Thomas White says that the Canadian treasury will not stand the strain of a two thousand dollar gratuity to returned men, although this gratuity had been recommended and endorsed by a majority of returned soldier organizations throughout Canada. Sir Thomas has practically told the returned soldiers to go to hell. Millions for the profiteers—sackcloth and ashes for returned men.

In taking this stand Sir Thomas will no doubt have the united support of his friends—railway magnates, food trust promoters and controllers and profiteers. They will pat him on the back. "'At a boy!" "You are right, Sir Thomas," they shout. Didn't we pay them a dollar and ten cents per day for fighting. What more do they want?" "Yes," says an old soldier, "and they even charged up the dead soldiers for their rubber blankets in the early part of the war."

The returned soldiers' organizations will perhaps say: "Sir Thomas, you have evidently forgotten that there would have been no Dominion treasury, no Canadian railway magnates, food trust, controllers or profiteers, if we hadn't beaten the Huns." The stand returned boys thinking. He must be in league with the profiteers," they say. These ghouls, who have made hundreds of millions of blood money since August, 1914, seem to have the protection of Sir Thomas and his advisers. How many millions have these leeches made in Canada? Why not confiscate this ill-gotten wealth and divide it among the returned men and their dependents? The profiteers of Canada have outdone Morgan and Kidd. Returned men express themselves in very bitter terms. Is this the freedom that sixty thousand Canadian supermen gave their lives in France and Belgium and 200,000 more maimed for life?

There are thousands of Canadian men who saw active service in France and Belgium who were 50 years old when they signed up. Many have returned and are absolutely unfitted for work through disability and age. Owing to ailments contracted overseas they can not take up land and are debarred from taking advantage of Government assistance. But Sir Thomas, backed by his railway magnates, food trust promoters and profiteers, dole them out pensions ranging from two and a half dollars to ten dollars per month. A country's gratitude. Ye gods. The Government promised them protection when they returned home. Huns outdone Canadians!

Why should an officer, who was too cowardly to consent to go with his comrades to France, receive a greater pension than the old man of fifty who volunteered and did his duty on the firing line? Why should not these old veterans, many of whom are disabled through wounds and disease contracted at the front, get a two thousand dollar gratuity to help them into some little business? Fruit stands, cigar stands and many other small businesses, now run by foreigners, would then be replaced by our soldiers, and their families would thus be ensured of a fair livihood. But Sir Thomas says the Canadian treasury won't stand the strain. This treatment makes Bolsheviks. Surely Sir Thomas is not a Bolshevik propagandist.

There is now a new war, dark and menacing, looming on the horizon. Organization, co-operation, determination by the returned men and labor is necessary to confront and overthrow this class menace in Canada. It is time for all laboring men and returned soldiers to be up and doing. Much has already been done on this line. Still we are only on the threshold. A solid voting unit of returned men and labor would give the returned men a majority of representatives in civic, provincial and federal governments. Then, patriotic Sir Thomas and his band of railway magnates, food trust controllers and profiteers would be forced to disgorge. Returned men and their dependent ones and the laboring classes would come into their own.

There is certainly something wrong with the administration at Ottawa when it admits that the Dominion treasury will not stand the strain of a two thousand dollar gratuity to the soldiers who fought the great fight and who saved the treasury from Hun spoilation. Yet the government is paying out large sums daily to maintain reconstruction boards which, judging from reports, are far from competent. **How many privates are among the personnel of these boards?** The cancerous growth responsible for these conditions must be cut out.

If Sir Thomas and the class he represents would pay more attention to *abolishing poverty among the working classes* and the returned men and their families instead of catering to the financial and food trusts and profiteers and also in removing the barriers that divide the different sections of the Dominion, poverty, which causes unrest and breeds bolshevism would soon disappear in the Dominion.

The old party life, with its corrupt system, and government political trusts, which supplies corruption funds by millions, will not satisfy the returned soldiers or labor. Sir Thomas and his colleagues must play the game: "Ring out the old; Ring in the new!" Canada's industrial system must be built upon a basis of justice, truth, common sense, mutual sympathy and fellow feeling. Returned soldiers and their families must unite with labor and fight and vote for the same ideals. Their interests are mutual. It is time to amalgamate. Let us get ready for the work ahead. Unity means success. Great issues have to be met and solved right. Let us unite all our forces and end for all time the railway and food trusts—confiscate the profiteers blood-money—and distribute it to the deserving returned men and their families, cut out lobbying and campaign funds—*and protect all who are in need, and, if necessary, give a five thousand dollar gratuity to all returned men who are disabled or unable to follow manual labor.*

WHAT BREEDS BOLSHEVISM

A writer in the Winnipeg Free Press says:

As there seems to be considerable speculation among the members of this page as to what a Bolshevist really is, perhaps I could clear of the page as to what a Bolshevist really is, perhaps I could clear the air a little by quoting parts of an article which stated that the writer had put the question up to W. G. Sheppard. "What Breeds Bolshevism?" Mr. Sheppard is famous as a war correspondent and saw the start of the revolution in Russia. He knows Russians of all political and economic views. He understands how Bolshevism originated in the land of its birth.

That makes him peculiarly fitted to write on the subject. Mr. Sheppard's reply is as follows: Hunger, injustice, persecution and resultant from these, anger. Get people mad, give them a grouch at something and you have the germs of Bolshevism.

That's the way it was in Russia under the czar.
with a good cause.

Mr. Sheppard goes on to say that "plain members of the Baptist church in 1913 officials took the notion that Baptists were anti-czar. Police watched their meetings. They wouldn't let the preachers read the bible; were not even allowed to celebrate Easter."

Also "college professors: they couldn't talk freely to their classes without danger of being transferred to Siberia. * * * There was more Bolshevik sentiment in Russia under the czar than there is today under Lenine and Trotzky."

Further, Mr. Sheppard said, "Wherever injustice was greatest in Russia, wherever people had the greatest cause for anger and the best reason for holding a grudge, there the Bolshevik call found the largest following."

POWER

The workers of France gave a significant exhibition of power on May 1st by folding their arms and ceasing, to work. Factories were shut down; railroad trains stopped temporarily; taxis no longer rushed about the busy Paris streets; lights were cut off for a short time in the morning; hotel waiters took a day of rest. The results of this general tie up were startling.

The Big Three,—masters of the fate of the world—walked to work. The leading diplomats laid in a supply of food on the 30th of April and had a cold breakfast on the first of May. The workers ceased to work and even the masters of the world's destiny found themselves no stronger than their hands and no faster than their feet.

The workers would do well to learn this lesson,—that breakfast is as necessary to diplomats as it is to coal miners; that a Supreme Court Judge sits in a chair no larger than that in the ordinary barber shop; that the suit of clothes worn by the bank president is as necessary to his welfare as the suit of overalls worn by the locomotive engineer; and that the men who produce these necessary goods and services are really the masters and not the servants of the titled rulers of the world.

CONSUMERS URGED TO PURCHASE THEIR FUEL NOW

CHICAGO, June 3.—The United States will be in the grip of a coal famine within 60 or 90 days with prices in excess of the highest war-time figures, unless consumers immediately enter the market with more orders. The prediction was made by J. D. Morrow, general director of distribution for the coal administration.

Lack of fuel orders, a grave labor situation, curtailment of production and insufficient railroad facilities were advanced as the cause for the expected famine and high prices

Coal buying at present is comparatively small. Consumers are holding off because they look for lower prices and are using up their surplus stocks.

Due to the lack of buyers, many coal mines are producing 50 percent. normal. During the next few months the mines will lose about 40,000 workers, Mr. Morrow estimated, when the foreign born element will return to Europe.

LABOR NEWSPAPER STATEMENT HAS BEEN REPUDIATED

EDMONTON, May 30.—The local strike committee in a statement issued this morning, repudiates the editorial in the Edmonton Free Press, the official organ of the Trades and Labor Council, advising organized labor to return to work, and declares its determination to continue the strike.

"We are out for a principle," says the statement, "and mean to stay out until the powers that be see fit to form a labor policy big enough, broad enough, and far-seeing enough, to

The statement then goes on to say that the city utilities employees re-meet the present situation."
turning to work will have no effect on the strike situation. It claims that the basic trades will remain out until some definite and satisfactory solution is in view, and suggest the following points for the settlement of the strike in this city and in other parts of the country as follows:

1. An amicable settlement of the Winnipeg dispute.
2. Government recognition of the

LABOR AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Will the League of Nations benefit labor? The workers; the nine-tenths; the plain people, who fight wars, suffer poverty and sweat under oppression,—will the League of Nations answer their cry for help?

The plain people want peace, bread, enlightenment, liberty. These things and these alone are benefits. The League of Nations will provide none of them.

The five states which dominate the League of Nations are capitalist empires in each of which the industries are run for the private profit of a favored few.

Capitalism cannot bring peace because it is based on the principle of war. The League of Nations is a league of capitalist governments; not a league of free peoples. Capitalist governments in the past have waged war to safe guard dividends, and when the time is ripe, they will do it again.

Bread, under capitalism, goes not to those who make it but to those who can pay for it,—the property owners. The worker, with his pittance wage, cannot buy back what he produces. The property owner, with his ample income of rent, interest and dividends lives upon the fat of the land. Capitalism today is built on the same barbaric system of exploitation that has existed in England since the middle of the eighteenth century, and that exists today in Japan, Italy, France and the United States. That system will give the worker neither a fair share of bread nor any of the other economic opportunities of life. The system has been tried out for generations, and to his sorrow the worker knows it for what it is.

Will the League of Nations give enlightenment to the workers? [illegible] the capitalist countries, and also whether enlightenment is being spread by individual nations. Are the masters enlightening Japan? Are they spreading knowledge in France? The

The French Socialist papers still come to the United States with great blotches of "censor" marks on them. Are the masters spreading enlightenment in the United States? They have blanketed every organized avenue of education with ignorance, and individuals who try to illuminate this darkness with the light of truth get from five to twenty years for their pains. The capitalist nations united are not going to spread enlightenment any more than capitalist nations individually. The League of Nations will do no more to enlighten the world than Britain has done to enlighten Egypt. The capitalist nations, united, will practice exploitation, oppression and tyranny just as they have done it individually with this one difference,—"In union there is strength."

Will the League of Nations give the people liberty? Are the masters of the United States going to extend to the other portions of the earth the liberty of Everett, Ludlow, Bisbee and Lawrence? The liberty of Bill Haywood, Tom Mooney, Kate O'Hare and Eugene V. Debs? Will Britain give more liberty to the world than she has given to Ireland and India? Will Japan spread Korean liberty among the nations?

Labor needs peace, bread, enlightenment and liberty. None of these things will come through the League of Nations, therefore, the League of Nations will not benefit labor.—SCOTT NEARING.

principle of collective bargaining.

3. The introduction of a real policy of food control.
4. Immediate commencement of public works to meet the problem of unemployment.

TO INSURE INDUSTRIAL PEACE

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Former President Taft, William Jennings Bryan, Secretary Lane, Speaker Gillett and other public men today announced approval of a project for a great national conference in Washington to insure industrial peace.

The Washington Star, which proposed the conference, will publish the indorsements of these and others tomorrow.

The purpose of the conference is to "obtain some general agreement" between capital and labor as to the rights and obligations of each, to the [illegible] friction between them may be reduced.

SUMMER WOOD

Don't bother with coal fires as the days grow warmer

No. 1 Tamarack $3.00 per rick

Also big stock of good summer wood

McGLADERY BROS.
Phone No. 69 Fernie

DOCTOR WANTED

The position of Doctor in Michel, B.C. is open for Tenders. Doctors applying will state the amount per man per month. The mines employ 520 men, with about 50 others who will sign up. Doctor to furnish Hospital and equip same, also residence adjoining. Every requisite to be furnished by the doctor. Tenders to be in to Secretary H. Beard, Michel, not later than May 28th, 1919. Contract can be secured for two or three years. Families of employees to come under contract. —40.2t*

SYNOPSIS OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT

Pre-emption now confined to surveyed lands only.

Records will be granted covering only land suitable for agricultural purposes and which is non-timber land.

Partnership pre-emptions abolished, but parties of not more than four may arrange for adjacent pre-emptions, with joint residence, but each making necessary improvements on respective claims.

Pre-emptors must occupy claims for five years and make improvements to value of $10 per acre, including clearing and cultivation of at least 5 acres, before receiving Crown Grant.

Where pre-emptor in occupation not less than 3 years, and has made proportionate improvements, he may, because of ill-health or other cause, be granted intermediate certificate of improvement and transfer his claim.

Records without permanent residence may be issued provided applicant makes improvements to extent of $300 per annum and records same each year. Failure to make improvements or record same will operate as forfeiture. Title cannot be obtained on these claims in less than 5 years, with improvements of $10 per acre, including 5 acres cleared and cultivated, and residence of at least 2 years.

Pre-emptor holding Crown Grant may record another pre-emption, if he requires land in conjunction with his farm, without actual occupation, provided statutory improvements made and residence maintained on Crown granted land.

Unsurveyed areas, not exceeding 20 acres, may be leased as homesites; title to be obtained after fulfilling residential and improvement conditions.

For grazing and industrial purposes, areas exceeding 640 acres may be leased by one person or company.

PRE-EMPTORS' FREE GRANTS ACT.

The scope of this Act is enlarged to include all persons joining and serving with His Majesty's Forces. The time within which the heirs or devisees of a deceased pre-emptor may apply for title under this Act is extended from one year from the death of such person, as formerly, until one year after the conclusion of the present war. This privilege is also made retroactive.

TOWNSITE PROPERTY ALLOTMENT ACT.

Provision is made for the grant to persons holding uncompleted Agreements to Purchase from the Crown of such proportion of the land, if divisible, as the payments already made will cover in proportion to the sale price of the whole parcel. Two or more persons holding such Agreements may group their interests and apply for a proportionate allotment jointly. If it is not considered advisable to divide the land covered by an application for a proportionate allotment, an allotment of land of equal value selected from available Crown lands in the locality may be made. These allotments are conditional upon payment of all taxes due the Crown or to any municipality. The rights of persons to whom the purchaser from the Crown has agreed to sell are also protected. The decision of the Minister of Lands in respect to the adjustment of a proportionate allotment is final. The time for making application for these allotments is limited to the 1st day of May, 1919. Any application made after this date will not be considered. These allotments apply to town lots and lands of the Crown sold at public auction.

For information apply to any Provincial Government Agent or to

G. R. NADEN,
Deputy Minister of Lands,
Victoria, B. C.

THE GRAND Where everybody goes—
the Coolest Place in Town

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, June 6th and 7th
Matinee Saturday at 3:30 p.m.
ARTCRAFT PICTURES Present
Mary Pickford
IN
"Amarily of Clothes Line Alley"

Greater than "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm"—Greater than "Stella Maris"—Mary will tell why she preferred to marry a bartender and resume her old trade of scrubbing theatres than marry a society youth.

Also MACK SONNOTT COMEDY
Regular Admission
MONDAY and TUESDAY, June 9th and 10th
Pauline Frederic
IN
"La Tosca"
FRIDAY and SATURDAY, June 13th and 14th
Douglas Fairbanks
"Reaching For The Moon"
Don't fail to see Doug at his best!

The United Church
Rev. C. F. Batzold, Pastor

Services, Sunday, June 8, 1919
11.30 a.m. "Hearing and Life"
7.30 p.m. "The Gap Without a Man"
12.15 p.m. Sabbath School
A Cordial Invitation To All

Canadian Pacific Ry.
WEEK END FARE
FERNIE TO ELKO
& RETURN $1.15
On Sale every Saturday and Sunday (May 24 to September 28 inclusive) Good to return not later than Monday following.
J. E. PROCTOR
District Passenger Agent, Calgary
June 6 to July 31