

DAY, 1916

be put in full, and given a certificate of the Chairman.

SETTLEMENT OF LABOUR DISPUTES AFFECTING CERTAIN ASBESTOS MINES IN THE TRETTFORD MINES DISTRICT, QUEBEC

REFERENCE was made in the August issue of the *Labour Gazette* to an application which was received in the Department of Labour on July 21 for the establishment of a Board of Conciliation and Investigation under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act to deal with a dispute between The Asbestos Corporation of Canada, The Johnson Mines, The Jacob Mining Company, Limited, the Bell Asbestos Mines, Limited, and Martin-Bennett, Limited, and the workmen employed in these mining properties, members of Local Union No. 143

of the Western Federation of Miners. The application claimed that 900 employees were directly concerned in the demand which had been made for an increased wage scale and the recognition of the Western Federation of Miners through the "check-off" system, and 500 others indirectly.

Before the foregoing Board application was received the Minister of Labour had endeavoured to promote a settlement of the matters at issue by a conference in his office of representatives of the employing interests concerned and of the

workmen affected, and had advised that the outstanding differences should be taken up with each company separately through committees of its workmen.

However, a general strike of the workmen employed in the above mentioned mines occurred on August 3. On the same date Mr. C. A. E. Blanchet, barrister, of Ottawa, was appointed by Order-in-Council as a Royal Commissioner under the Inquiries Act, to inquire into the existing union in the asbestos mining industry in the Thetford Mines district and the nature and cause thereof, with a view to the establishment of more harmonious and satisfactory relations between employers and employees in question. Mr. Blanchet spent some days in the district with the foregoing objects in view, and reported that a settlement was reached on August 23 of the labour difficulty in question. The settlement referred to was embodied in a signed agreement in the terms following:

In the matter of the strike now existing among the employees of the following firms:

- (a) The Asbestos Corporation of Canada, Limited,
- (b) The Bell's Asbestos Mines Company,
- (c) The Martin-Bennett Asbestos Mines, Limited,
- (d) The Jacob's Asbestos Company, Limited,
- (e) The Johnson's Company,

the following settlement has been made:

- (1) An increase of 2½ cents per hour will be granted to all employees, except those that are on contract work and those who receive monthly wages;
- (2) As to these, as conditions differ in each mill,

separate agreements will be made with them within ten days from the date hereof;

(3) The above wages shall stand so long as the present conditions of the trade obtain and so long as the work of the employees shall be satisfactory;

(4) This settlement is made with the employees individually, regardless of any union to which they may belong, and shall be executed by two of the said employees of each mine on behalf of them all;

(5) The said employers are to have a free hand and an absolute discretion in the engagement or re-engagement of their employees;

(6) The employees who will be re-engaged agree to use their best efforts to render their services as productive and effective as possible, in order to give satisfaction to their employers;

(7) The different mines shall re-open on Thursday, twenty-fourth August instant.

(One marginal note good.)

For the King's Mine:

(Sgd.) UYPRIEN MORISSET.
(Sgd.) HERMÉRIAGILE LAIGNON.

For the Johnson Mine:

(Sgd.) ISAAC ROUSSEAU.
(Sgd.) WILLIAM SHARPE.

Pour la Martin-Bennett:

(Sgd.) LOUIS VERMETTE.
(Sgd.) ARCHILAS MORIN.

Pour la Mine Beaver:

(Sgd.) ALPHONSE MARTINEAU.
(Sgd.) ALFRED GAGNE.

For the Bell Mine:

(Sgd.) JOSEPH VALLEE.
(Sgd.) WM. McKEEN.

For the Jacob's Mine:

(Sgd.) CHARLES LABRANCHE.
(Sgd.) ARTHUR LAPPER.

For the said Companies:

(Sgd.) J. A. LANG.

For the Department of Labour:

(Sgd.) CHAS. A. BLANCHET,

Commissioner.

Thetford Mines, August 23rd, 1916.