

STATEMENTS OF MANAGERS AND OTHERS.

Below is given for convenience of reference abstracts from the evidence of mine managers and others, which have an important bearing on the situation:-

George Alexander - Representing the "Ruth", "Whitewater", "Jackson", "Antoine".

"Q. Could you tell me what amount of capital is invested; in round numbers ?

A. Yes sir; the "Ruth" represents an investment of \$120,000, say \$600,000. The "Whitewater", about the same. The "Jackson" from \$150,000 to \$200,000. The "Antoine" in the vicinity of \$150,000. The "K.S.Lee" about the same.

Q. And the others of less importance, aggregate how much ?

A. A considerable sum, certainly \$100,000.

(See Evidence page 46.)

8 Hour Day - "Q. Was it the desire of the Companies to reduce the rate of wages ?

A. Certainly not. The miners were prohibited by the law from doing more than eight hours work. We said to the miners: "We do not want this law and you do not want it. We have

"been paying 35 cents per hour, but under this law we will pay you 37 - 1/2 cents per hour." The mine owners offered instead of paying 35 cents to pay 37 - 1/2 per hour.

Q. Has there been a conference between the mine owners and the men ?

A. I understand there has quite recently; I was not there.

(See Evidence page 50.)

Q. What effect upon the mining development has the introduction of the eight hour day had ?

A. Well it has stopped work.

Q. You attribute the difficulty entirely to that ?

A. Entirely; there never was any trouble between mine owners and miners; they were content with the wages and time and mine owners were content to pay the wages. The local Legislature passed the eight hour law without any requests or representations from this district. The mine owners recognize that the miners are not to blame for the trouble.

Q. Then prior to this difficulty what you may call the best of relations existed between the employers and the employees ?

A. The very best. I do not think there

"has been any bad feeling on any personal ground. We have looked upon it as a business proposition. There is no ill-feeling of any kind on the part of the miners, but I think that it is a fact that the miners regret that the Local Government should have passed this Act and made us lose one-half of this year."

(See Evidence page 52.)

No. of Men. - "Q. In regard to the number of men you employed, you state about 500 in the four or five mines ?

A. No I think 600 could be employed in the five mines.

(See Evidence page 74)

WITNESS : I think Mr. Hand's figures as regards numbers, about 1500 is about correct. I think that if this camp were in full working order that number of men could be employed."

CARLTON H. Hand - General Manager of the "Payne"

Rate of Wages - "Q. Have you knowledge of the rate of
in U.S. wages paid in the States that you mentioned ?

A. Only a general knowledge.

Q. What was the rate of wages ?

A. The highest rate of wages for miners

"was \$3.50 at any mine that was operating in any district where I was except that in wet shafts men received \$3.50, \$4.00 and sometimes higher. I understood that in the Butte mines, which are wet mines, the rate of wages was \$3.50 per day of ten hours, and we have paid \$4.00 to men working in the shafts. The men really earn \$5.00.

Q. The shafts were bad ?

A. The shafts were bad. The average rate of wages in any district has been \$3.50. There are districts in the United States where they get more.

Q. What districts are those ?

A. I understand ^{that in} Virginia City in Nevada the mines were originally worked under high pressure. The miners were then working shifts of 15 hours. These were the conditions under which men worked. They could not work eight hours. That was the way the wage became established. I am informed that they receive \$4.00 per day now.

Q. Do you know what the conditions are there ?

A. I do not.

Q. Are they more or less favorable than the conditions here ?

"A. I could not say, but generally I think that the conditions are similar.

Q. How would you say the rate of wages compared here with the rate of wages upon the other side under the same conditions ?

A. They compare very favorably. They would be higher on the whole. In Butte every man gets \$3.50 under ground. As a rule the general wage is \$3.50.

Q. For what length of day ?

A. Ten hours day and nine hours night.

Q. Same as here ?

A. If in a drift the air is bad or if it is wet they work eight hours. Some places in Payne where the air was bad and it was wet we paid \$3.50. That is paid the miners as compensation for working in disagreeable places."

(See Evidence pages 58-59)

Q--Well is it necessary that work should be discontinued for six weeks?

Miners Prospect-

"A. It is not necessary but it is the general policy. I would desire to say here that as a rule many of our miners working underground are owners of prospects. In the Syring we find it difficult to get labor of a satisfactory kind because the men go out and go to prospecting or doing development work on their prospects. At the period when the

"miners are the wettest labor is the scarsest. As the snow goes off the miners go out into the hills to work their prospects.

Q. Do I understand that as a fact those who are left could work all the time ?

A. I should say that there is hardly any time in the Slocan district when men could not work, except perhaps during the month of November. The miners stay out prospecting until the snow sets in. They all come in at once practically. For a short period of time there may be a surplus of labor and men might find difficulty in getting work, but that is soon overcome.

Q. How ?

A. More men are put on and new prospects are being opened all the time."

(See Evidence page 61.)

Alien Labor -

"Q. How many men did you engage ?

A. There were two men came in here seeking employment, and I came into town. They said they had come from Seattle; that an employment agent down there had given them a letter of recommendation to Mr. Tolmie, as Secretary of this Association. I said 'Do you understand that there is a strike on'. They said they did. I said 'do you want to go to work

"for \$3.50 per day'. They said 'do you pay \$3.50 per day.' I said 'we do not pay \$3.50 underground. We have made a contract at that rate.' One agreed to work for that rate but the other would not, subsequently it was told all over the camp that the Payne mine was importing Italians from United States. They did not know that they were imported to work for the Payne mine. They said they were all Italian bred and that they were naturalized citizens of the United States. That was the extent to which the Payne imported labor and was driving out 1,000 Canadian miners. —

Q. Was there any contract with them before they came ?

A. Not to my knowledge, further than this. There are employment agencies in the various large cities that try to find positions for men out of work. These employment agencies post up notices outside that they want so many men and will give such wages. I think that this employment agent in Seattle has since our advertisement posted a notice that he wanted such men and he then gave these men letters to our Association stating that they had paid him \$1.00 representing themselves as good miners and he recommended them as good miners. That is the extent as to which there

"was any contract.

Q. Were you obliged to take the men that came ?

A. Only that having advertised for men we were under a moral obligation.

Q. What was the total number that you engaged ?

A. I do not remember of any. I think there was one man come in and represented himself as a blacksmith, and being short of a blacksmith we put him to work.

Q. Then the notice that you caused to be given was of little aid to you in procuring men up to the present ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Either natives or aliens ?

A. No sir. On account of the fact that it was known there was a strike on and that laboring men did not care to go to work in the district where there was a strike it was hard to get men to come in, but especially so if they were Union men, and if non-Union they do not want to come in because they are afraid to. That is not saying that any violence would be offered here, but where strikes prevail these feelings have prevailed in the past, and to such an extent that unorganized labor is very timid about coming in." (See Evidence page 667)

No Violence -

Q. Any violence here ?

A. Not to my own personal knowledge, further than that men have been persuaded not to go to work.

Q. At all events there has not come to your personal knowledge any instance of violence ?

A. How far would my personal knowledge extend ? I do not know. At present I do not care to answer that question.

Q. Do you mean that you do not know ?

A. No I think I do know.

Q. Well ?

A. I do not care to state under oath that which I am not prepared to back up by testimony. I do not wish to accuse anyone. I may say that from my own knowledge I am willing to say that in all my talks with any Union men, any representative of the Union, they have always disclaimed any idea of offering any violence. Of course there may be men that are outside of the Union that might go further than this.

Q. That would be without authority from the Union ?

A. That would be without authority from the Union."

8-Hour Day -

"Q. Aside from the information which ^{you} ~~the~~ are to give me are there any other facts which you desire to lay before the Government ?

A. I do not know whether an opinion might be considered as a fact.

Q. An opinion by an expert is quite receivable.

A. In my opinion the passage of the eight hour law, the cutting down of men's time of employment from ten hours, or from 19 hours of two shifts to 16 hours shift affects very materially the cost of operations in our mines here. If we take conditions as they actually exist and have existed in this camp we know that the miners that have worked in the mines are able and were able to do much more work in the ten hours than they did do. It is an unwritten law amongst miners that if there are three miners working in a stop that two of these miners are good men, the third man is not a good man and cannot do the same work as the others, and that they will not do any more work than the third man if they think he is trying to do his best; it is a sort of unwritten law that they will try to help him. When that principle is extended therefore to a mine employing a large number

"It can be readily seen that the standard of work done is the standard of the average poor miners in the mine, and not the standard of the good miner? This is true. We fire a poor man at the Payne and the Last Chance fires a poor man. Our man goes over to the Last Chance and gets a job; the Last Chance man comes over to our mine and gets a job, and firing poor hands does not seem to raise the grade of labor.

Q. When you speak of poor labor do you mean inexperienced men?

A. It comes from want of experience. It is a rule I presume that it comes from the trait not to do any more work than they have to. Of course that does not affect the good miners. I do not believe that taking it on an average that the men that are employed in the mine will do any more working eight hours than they did do in ten. I believe firmly that the introduction of the eight hour law has increased our cost."

(See Evidence pages 63 & 64)

"Q. Miners say they can do as much work in eight hours as in ten?

A. They may be able to do as much work in eight hours as they have done in ten, but I do not think they will. Excepting you put

"then to drill they work harder and play themselves out in eight hours. They figure out just about how much work to get out. It is different in a stopes.

Q. Why ?

A. He has to save the ore. It varies continually all the time and he has to save the ore and the man in the stopes does not loaf ; he does his work as well as he can. The stopes differ from the drill. A larger number of men work in stopes. In mines where stoping is carried on it requires more care and time to save the ore properly."

(See Evidence page 71.)

Duty on Lead - "A. ~~I could not tell you.~~

I might say that if the duty on lead ore was removed by the United States it would make mines that are not profitable now, profitable. It would make mines that are only paying, profitable.

Q. What would be the effect upon the price of labor if the duty were taken off ?

A. If you increase a demand for any article you would increase the value of that article. It would undoubtedly ~~increase~~ require many more men. I believe if the removal of the duty on lead would double the number

"of miners required.

Q. Double the miners ?

A. Double the miners.

Q. And double the output ?

A. Double the output. It would not double the output right here in the Slocan district, but would in other places. Low grade ore mines would require a larger number of miners."

(Evidence page 72.)

J. McDONALD - President, Whitewater Union.

No Violence - "Q. Has there been any violence offered by the men since the shut down ?

A. No sir, no violence offered by the men, none that I know of. In fact I can say positively no violence has been offered.

Q. Have the representatives of the men met any of the owners there yet ?

A. Well the Miners Union have never met any representatives of the owners. It would appear that the owners never wished to meet them.

Q. Why do you say that ?

A. As an official of the Union I can state that there never was any proposition made by the Mine owners to meet the Union."

(See Evidence page 78.)

8-Hour Day -

"Q. The hours of labor differ but the wages remain the same, what do you say as to that ?

A. There was considerable discussion on that and the claim was that good miners were still capable of doing as good a day's work in eight hours as they formerly did in ten.

Q. In other words the Union said that the same amount of work would be done in the shorter day as in the longer day ?

A. It was the accepted opinion that a good man could do as much in eight as in ten hours.

Q. Do you think that the average man in the ordinary course would do as much work for a lengthy period in eight hours as he would in ten ?

A. I think that the average man would."

(See Evidence pages 79 & 80)

B.J.PERRY. - Manager of the Noble Five.

8 Hour Day -

"Q. Well, has your observation enabled you to express ~~the~~ an opinion as to whether or not a miner can earn or can do as much work in eight hours as in ten ? What is your view on this question ?

A. I would consider it depended a good deal upon the willingness of the miner. You must understand there is a great deal of difference

"as to the amount of work done according to the men employed."

(See Evidence page 134.)

Alien Labor - "Q. Do you know of any case where Alien laborers were imported since June last ?

A. No sir, not to my personal knowledge. I saw an account in the paper of a telegram to Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the effect, as far as I remember, that 1000 Canadian miners, their wives and families would be reduced to poverty by the importation into the Slooan of Alien or Dago labor, one or the other, by the mine owners I am quoting the Nelson Tribune. It referred to the mines controlled by A.W. McCune and Dunsmuir of Victoria. As Mr. Dunsmuir is only interested in the mine of which I am Manager, we have not imported any Aliens so far as our mine is concerned."

(See Evidence page 134.)

Duty on Lead - "Sir, in making your report to the Government, one of the strongest points you can place before them would be in regard to the advisability of inducing the American Government to either reduce or abolish altogether the present import duty on lead ores imposed by the United States. That would mean for the Slooan District a virtual gain of \$16 per ton for every ton of

"ore exported. That is, taking the ore to contain the average amount of lead, which is shown by the custom returns. The effect on the whole Slocan District would probably be to make it the most prosperous in North America."

(See Evidence page 135.)

WM. DAVIDSON - Member of Executive Committee of Sandon Union.

8-Hour Day - "Q. Then as I understand you, the Union took up the position that the same amount of work, or nearly the same amount of work, not only could be done but would be done ~~as~~ under the new system as ^{under} the old ?

A. That is the way we reasoned it.

Q. Well, had the opportunity ever been had by you to verify that question one way or the other ?

A. Personally, no, not in an actual test.

Q. Now, then, that was the break . Under the old system men were paid wages y^{ou} mentioned for the hours that you have mentioned. Under the new law a new day was introduced, the men taking the position that that was or is a lawful day's work and that they are therefore entitled to get the old pay for that day, believing that they can do as much or nearly

"as much as under the old system ?

A. Yes, that is a fair statement.

Q. I presume you have had communication with the owners and found out what their views are ?

A. Yes, lately.

Q. Did you have an interview before that ?

A. Yes, a week ago last Monday.

Q. That would be 27th November ?

A. Yes.

Q. That was the first time the owners and men met ?

A. Yes.

Q. And the second and last occasion so far was on the night of the 6th of December, when I was present ?

A. Yes.

Q. Then, not that you are bound by the statement, but I want to state or understand - the Companies I presume contended that not as much work could be or would be done as under the old system. That is what they contended ?

A. Yes, but they have not actually given it a test."

(See Evidence pages 143-144.)

Q. On what do you base your ^{opinion} ~~assertion~~ that miners will do as much in eight hours as they will in ten ?

A. Well, there is a large scope there for

"discussion on that point in my estimate. For one reason there is only so much work a man can do. His physical strength will not admit of any more than just so much and if a man works with an energy he can exert his strength to that point in 8 hours, while he may stay longer on the work, he can stay 12 hours at any hard manual labor and if he has got to do that he will naturally work slower from the very first hour he starts in and preserve his strength in order to be able to stand it. That is one reason.

Q. Do I understand you to say that personally you never made any test of work under the eight-hour law ?

A. I have not since the eight-hour law came into effect. I worked eight hours underground.

Q. Then your opinion on this point is merely theoretical ?

A. It is like a whole lot of other things. And still I am satisfied personally that I can do that, because having worked 8 hours in mines and worked 10 hours and 9 hours I generally know about how to gauge my time down and strength. I can do about as much in 8 hours as in 10.

Q. Do you think the ^{who} men worked eight hours

"on Saturday night shift that they do as much work or ^{that} as much work was done as by men who worked on the same shift of ten hours ?

A. I can safely say myself that I done as much on the short shift as I did any other day, simply from the fact that I worked a little swifter."

(See Evidence pages 152-153.)

GEORGE W. HUGHES - Manager of Idaho Mines.

No. of Men
Required.

"Q. Assuming that no disagreement exists between the men and the Companies, what is your opinion as to whether or not sufficient supply of labor can be had here to meet the demand ?

A. It would take about 1500 men to fill these mines. We should have had 100 or 125 men at work by this time, building a tram and a whole lot of other things. That has been given up until next year. And don't believe there are enough idle men here now to fill one large mine."

(See Evidence page 160.)

8-Hour Day -

"Q. Did you work a short shift on the Idaho Mines of 8 hours ?

A. Yes.

Q. And what do you say as to the work done

compared with what
"on the 8-hour shift ~~was~~ was ordinarily done on
the 10-hour shift during the day time ?

A. I could not say.

Q. Do you believe that miners will do as
much in 8 hours as they will in 10 ?

A. No, it does not look reasonable.

BY MR. HAGLER:

Q. Have you ever worked 8 hours on ore ?

A. Have I done it myself ?

Q. No, have you worked men except the short
8-hour shift ?

A. No.

Q. Well, you could not say under oath then
that a man could not do as much in 8 hours as
he could do in 10 ?

A. No I would not swear to it."

(See Evidence pages 161-162).

OSCAR WHITE - Superintendent of the Slocan Star.

8-Hour Day. - "Q. Have you ever had any experience in the
Slocan Star, working men 8 hours ?

A. No sir.

Q. Did you work men 8 hours on the night
shift ?

A. 9 hours.

Q. You never had any short shift then ?

A. No sir.

"Q. You never did any 8-hour work in the Slocan Star mine ?

A. No sir.

(See Evidence page 174.)

"Q. Would you as Manager or Superintendent of the Slocan Star like to see the 8-hour system tried ?

A. I would like to have seen it tried so long as the law was enforced.

Q. Were you not satisfied that you had a force of good miners ?

A. Yes I was pretty well satisfied with most of them.

Q. You got good satisfaction out of them ?

A. Yes."

(See Evidence page 175.)

ROBERT J. McLEAN - Member of Executive of Slocan Miners' Union.

8-hour Day -

"Q. Have you ever had the opportunity yourself ^{ascertain} whether as much labor can be done in an 8-hour day as in 10-hour day ?

A. Yea, I have worked 8-hour shifts a great deal and I consider I can do as much work in an 8-hour day as in a 10-hour day. When I go into a mine I just size up the situation and know pretty near before I start in the amount of work I am going to perform for that day.

Q. Still, you have in the one 8 hours and

"in the other 10 ?

A. I just do so much work anyway."

(See Evidence page 185)

Q. Did you always do all the work that you laid out to do for a day ?

A. Sometimes I didn't, and sometimes I did more. Sometimes I am deceived by the hardness of the ground and sometimes in driving a hole it is harder than what I calculated and what I thought it was, and in that way I can form a very good estimate when I commence working.

Q. Suppose you had laid out a little more work than you could have done in 8 hours, had you been working 10 hours/^{you} could have done that work?

A. I don't know that I could. If I worked 8 hours I should commence and work harder than a 10 hour shift from the commencement."

(See Evidence pages 186-187).

W. L. HANLON - Financial Secretary of Sandon Miners' Union.

Hospital Service - "Q. Are you treasurer for the hospital ?

A. I am Secretary of the hospital.

Q. What is the capacity of your hospital ?

A. 7 beds.

Q. Is that sufficient to meet the require-

ments ?

A. It is for men, not for ladies. We are fitting it up now for lady patients. The hospital is in receipt of a grant from the local government. It is organised under the laws of British Columbia.

Q. Do you mean the hospital is a corporate body, distinct from the Union ?

A. No sir.

Q. Does the hospital come under the Union ?

A. It does.

Q. You produce a letter dated 25th November 1899 from the Minister of Finance, P. Carter Cotton addressed to W.L. Hagler, Esq., Secretary Union Hospital, Sinden, B.C., which reads as follows:-

Dear Sir:-

The application for a grant to your hospital has been considered by the Government.

Although the organisation of your hospital does not come within the lines on which Government assistance has been given, yet as there is no other hospital at present in your town, the Government has decided to make your hospital the capitation grant of 50 cents per day for each patient in the hospital.

This will come into force on December 1st next. At the end of each month the medical

"officer should send a statement of the number of patients and the number of days they were in the hospital during the preceding month and make an affidavit of the correctness of same, sending it to the Provincial Secretary." (Exhibit K.)

A. I may say that we have complied with all the requirements of the law and we are now prepared to receive any women patients.

Q. And so have complied with the requirements of the law ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Could you tell me what is the total amount paid in yearly or weekly to the hospital?

A. We have not been running a year. Per month it averaged from \$324 to \$1,000.

Q. What month was it \$1,000 ?

A. That was when it was first started. That was by private subscription.

Q. Was that paid in by working men ?

A. By managers, working men, etc.

Q. What was the total amount paid in by the working men per year ? I want to get the source of income of the hospital ?

A. Well I could tell it with my books. I also sell hospital tickets to anyone, and to business men of the town.

Q. What was the origin of the hospital ?

A. Miners' Union.

Q. Was there not one here before the Union was formed ?

A. No sir."

(See Evidence pages 216-217.)

BY THE COMMISSIONER.

Q. You produce a list, dated December 8th, of patients that have actually been in the hospital, and they are as follows:-

March	8
April	10
May	13
June	13
July	4
August	5
September	4
October	8
November	6.

(Exhibit "P").

BY THE COMMISSIONER.

Q. Do I understand that this hospital receives a grant from the British Columbia Government ?

A. It does.

Q. How much ?

A. 50 cents per capita.

Q. With a promise of how much ?

"A. I do not know exactly, between \$2,000 or \$3,000.

(See Evidence pages 235-236.)

PHILIP J. HICKEY- Mine Manager of the Minnesota Silver Co.,
Sunshine Mining Co., including the Ivanhoe,
and ten or twelve other claims.

8-Hour Day - "Q. Take such work as you have here in
Slocan District, what is your view as to
whether or not an average miner will do,
one day with another, one month with another,
as much work in 8 hours as he had done in a
ten hour day ?

A. I do not think he will do as much.

Q. Do you think he can do as much ?

A. Possibly he can, but I do not think that
a man can stand up to it and do the same
amount of work in 8 hours that he will in 10;
from my own practical experience.

Q. Did you ever try a test with a view to
ascertaining ?

A. Well not with a view of ascertaining. I
have tried it with a view of doing quick work
and keeping the drift going 24 hours.

Q. What was the result ?

A. Well it invariably cost me more in driv-
ing a drill per foot in working three shifts of

8 hours ^{than} ~~and~~ in working 2 ten hour shifts.

Q. Why ?

A. Well there was a good deal of time lost in blasting and allowing the smoke to get out, in working three 8 hour shifts, where if they blast in going off shift in working two 10 hour shifts you would not be paid for the time consumed in having the tunnel freed from powder, smoke, etc., where in working three 8 hour shifts you pay for the time so much per hour, that is consumed in getting the shaft free from powder smoke.

Q. Does the difference lie there ?

A. Well I regard it as an improvement.

Q. Instead of working three shifts of 8 hours you worked two shifts 8 hours ?

A. I do not think a man can do as much in 8 hours as he can in 10.

Q. Suppose you were not limited as to time ?

A. Well then a man may be able to do as much work. Still at the same time I do not think that a man can live up to it and work as hard and do the same amount of work in 8 hours as he will in 10."

(See Evidence pages 255-256)

T. B. MAY - Manager of Bank of British Columbia.

No Disturbances - "Q. How long have you been here ?
on account of
trouble.

A. Ten months, previous to that I have been
in the country 11 years or more.

x x x x x

Q. Have you any knowledge of any instance
of coercion on the part of the miners ?

A. No sir.

Q. How many policemen have you there ?

A. Two last week, now we only have one.

Q. Has there been any disorder ?

A. None whatever. In fact since 1st June
it has been a matter of general comment that
all miners have behaved themselves very well.
There is no need for the presence of the
policemen here at all.

Q. How many arrests have occurred since
June last ?

A. For any kind of offences ?

Q. Yes.

A. I do not think there have been half a
dozen, and those were not serious.

Q. Do you believe there is the slightest
ground for suspicion that there is any danger
to be apprehended from the men so far as the
property of the mine owners is concerned ?

A. I have never lived in a mining camp
before and I have had no experience of labor

"difficulties, but from what I have seen of the men themselves I believe that any idea of violence is considered altogether outside of a possibility.

Q. The laws are respected ?

A. Very much so.

Q. How do you regard the miners here as a class, in point of intelligence as a working class ?

A. I regard them as an extremely well behaved and intelligent men, but as to their practical work in mining I am not in a position to say."

(See Evidence pages 270, 271-272.)

J.M. BENEDUM, President of Silverton Miners' Union,

assayer, &c.

Q-- Was there any difficulty or disagreement between these owners and the men prior to the law coming into force ?

8-hour Day - "A. No, no general disagreement.

Q. Then what in your judgment is the real difficulty ?

A. The only point I know of is that the men want the same wages for 8 hours as they were formerly getting for 10; they wish to benefit by the 8 hour law.

Q. What is your view, or are you able to give an opinion founded upon your experience and observation as to whether or not in the same

"class of work a man will do has much in 8 hours as he would in a shift of 10 hours ?

A. Well I think the majority of miners can do as much in the 8 as they formerly did in the 10, and I think they probably will do it.

Q. Do you know any case within your personal knowledge where anything approaching a test has been made for any length of time ?

A. No, I do not know of any tests.

No Violence -

Q. Was there any violence or any attempt at violence by reason of the disagreement ?

A. Not any.

Q. Any instance of violence ?

A. No instance of what would be called violence.

Q. Any injury to properties ?

A. No injury to property.

Q. Either to property or person ?

A. Neither to property or person."

(See Evidence pages 277-278.

Effect of Trouble- "Q. What effect has the shut down of the mines had upon the general development and prosperity of this section of the country in the meantime?

A. Well there has been nearly as many men working here this Summer as heretofore on account of the greater development of several

"mines, They were in a condition to work a great many more this Summer than they were before. If it had not been for the strike there would have been double as many men working as before. There have been probably one-half as many working as would have been working if the mines had not shut down.

Q. Then the demand of the men was for the old price at the new hours ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. That is for the 8 hour day ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And how far would you say that demand had affected the mining operations ?

A. Well I think the probabilities are that if there had been no trouble this Summer there would have been double as many men employed as were employed. I mean in Sankin, Slocan City and New Denver."

(See Evidence pages 264-265.)

Conditions. - "Q. Now from the Commission and the nature of the questions asked, you will perhaps have gathered the scope of the enquiry and I shall be pleased to receive from you any observations or statements of fact which you think will bear upon the question.

A. Well the only sort of remarks I feel

"like making would be that I think on account of the ease with which the mines can be worked and on account of the kind of miners that are in the country, there are good miners in the country, familiar with the work, and on account of the fact that I believe a man can do as much in 8 hours as in 10, because when working 10 they were generally tired before their shift is up, and on account that they could do a great deal of work on account of the character of the ground, I do not think the demand for wages is unreasonable, I do not think that the mine owners would be paying more than is paid proportionately for miners. In the United States they are paying \$3.00 and \$3.50 per day and in places where living is not so dear. What I mean is that investments can be made in this country and they give up \$3.50 per day for 8 hours with some probability of making money out of the investments that they would have in other mining camps in United States even if they paid \$3.00.

Q. What is heard here ?

A. One dollar per day at the mines, and everything else that miners have to buy is very high, much higher than in other camps where the men are paid \$3.50 per day. I mean that the conditions are better here than when men were getting \$3.50, and that they can reach

"ably hope to improve these conditions. When men were getting \$3.50 for 10 hours I do not think they were getting the largest wage that is being paid to miners, when you take into consideration the expensive living and other things and as they might hope to improve conditions. The chances that the mine owners are taking in paying \$3.50 for 8 hours, are not as great as in other places where they are paying \$3, taking into consideration the amount of work, etc.

Q. You speak of the character of the miners?

A. They are men who are skilled in their business and honest and reliable men. More so than I have known in other mining camps where I have lived, they can be depended upon to do a shift work without being pushed to do it or especially watched, which requires to be done in some places and in some sorts of work. What I mean is that the miners of this country as a class are good citizens and such citizens as any country ought to be anxious to retain. I believe that they cannot retain them if they reduce the wages and I believe this class will go elsewhere unless they do receive such wages here. That is all that I specially care to say."

(See Evidence pages 255-257.)

E.A. PATTERSON - Mining Engineer, manager of Wakefield Mines,

Capital \$500,000

Expended \$125,000

8 Hour Day - "Q. What has been the effect of the changed hours of labor, the number of hours ?

A. The stopping of work.

Q. Now, in your judgment has it affected investments ?

A. Well of money outside of Canada it has practically stopped investments.

Q. Would you kindly express to me your opinion as to the effect upon the mining interests; upon the future development of the country if this state of things should continue, say for six months or a year longer. I mean the lack of an agreement between the men and owners.

A. It would be disastrous.

Q. In what way ?

A. A large number of mines would suspend work. Would not be working. Money would be diverted to other sources.

ITS EFFECT. - "Q. Now has there been within your knowledge any alien labor brought in under contract in breach of the Alien Labor Law here ?

A. None at all.

Q. Prior to June last what was the relation

"between owners and men ?

A. It was friendly, the best of friends.

(See Evidence page 299.)

Wages in other
Countries.

- "Q. What other countries have you had
experience in mining in ?

A. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Q. Take for instance, South Africa, what
were miners paid there ?

A. \$100 per month, that is 20 English
pounds.

Q. Were they paid by the month or by the day?

A. By the month.

Q. Is that the general rate of wages ?

A. For shaft work they got £22-10; which is
similar to the Rossland work.

Q. What is board there ?

A. £6 per month - \$30 a month.

Q. And general cost of living as compared
with this here ?

A. Very much the same.

Q. How many days in the week did they work
there ?

A. Seven days.

Q. That is in Africa ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Then in Australia, what was the rate of
wages ?

A. From six shillings to ten shillings per day; from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day, depended upon the man. They averaged about 8 shillings \$2.00 per day.

Q. Would that be for miners proper?

A. For miners proper.

Q. What is board there?

A. The miners board themselves. You can live very cheaply. About one shilling per day.

Q. And the cost of living generally, how would it compare with the cost of living here?

A. A little cheaper.

Q. That is in Australia?

A. Yes sir. The climate is cooler.

Q. Have you had any experience in the Western States?

A. No sir.

Q. What is your view as to the supply of labor to meet the demand if the mines started up throughout the Silverton District?

A. It is inadequate.

(See Evidence pages 300-301)

E.D. FRASER, Mining Engineer - 32 years experience in Australia, New England, United States and Canada and South Africa.

EFFECT of Trouble - "Q. From your experience as a mining engineer, engaged in mining, what effect upon foreign capital does the continuance of this disagreement have ?

A. It will certainly keep foreign capital out of the country.

Q. You are not aware of any alien labor being brought in during the strike ?

A. I am not aware of any.

x x x x x x

8-Hour Day - Q. Have you had any experience of the two systems of working under the 8 and 10 hours, and how do they compare ?

A. Well personally I am a believer in the 8 hour system.

Q. Then the 8 hour system ought not to retard the progress of the mining industry ?

A. No certainly not.

(See Evidence page 303.)

Wages in other Countries

Q. Where had you that experience Mr. Fraser under the two systems ?

A. In New Zealand.

Q. There it is an 8 hour day ?

A. Eight hours, and always has been for 15 years to my knowledge.

Q. What is the average wage there for miners ?

A. 48 shillings a week, 8 shillings per day; \$2.00 per day. From 7 shillings and 6 pence up to 12 shillings a day. The latter in wet shafts. There is no fixed rate of wages. You went into a mine at 7s.6d. and 8s. was the recognized rate of pay for ordinary miners, ordinary mining work.

Q. How was the cost of living as compared with this here ?

A. Much cheaper.

Q. Board, for instance ?

A. Board was about one-half.

Q. That is 50 cents a day instead of \$1.00 ?

A. You see in New Zealand and Australia there is no boarding system, the miners find themselves. There is no such thing as a boarding house in connection with the mines."

(See Evidence page 304.)

W. HUNTER - Merchant at Silvertown.

Cost of Living - "Q. Mr. Hunter, what I wanted to get at was a comparison of the cost of living between here and the East, and to get at that I want to get the cost of the ordinary clothing, etc. You produce a list showing prices for which you sell goods to miners. What you have here is taken from the selling prices of your goods and

"as you have been selling them. (Exhibit "Y")

Overshirts	\$1.50 to \$3.00
Underclothes per suit	3.50 " \$6.00
Wool socks from	.25 " 1.50 per pr.
Overalls	1.25 "
Shoes	5.00 "
Felt Hats	3.00 to 4.00
Suits of Clothes from	6.00 " 15.00
Blankets per pair	2.50 " 7.00
Gloves from	1.50 " 3.50 per pr.

Groceries

Flour	\$3.25 per 100 lbs.
Sugar	.08 " lb.
Butter at present time	.35 " "
Ham and Bacon	.17 " "
Beans	.05 " "
Evaporated apples	.15 " "
Milk & Cream, 1 lb tins	.16
Tea	.40 to .50

How would these prices compare for those same articles, say in Hamilton, Toronto or other eastern cities ?

A. They would be high I think.

Q. Where do you buy wholesale ?

A. At Toronto and Hamilton, San Francisco and from England.

Effect of Trouble - "Q. What effect upon this country from your standpoint has this disagreement between the owners and the men had ?

A. Well since the 8 hour law was in force it has closed a great many properties down. It has had a bad effect on business."

(See Evidence page 306.)

W.C.KOCH - General Contractor.

Wages - "Q. What do the men whom you employ get ?

A. From \$3.00 to \$4.00.

Q. What do teamsters get ?

A. They got \$70 a month and their board, or \$100.

Q. What is board ?

A. \$30, about \$1 per day.

Present Condition - "Q. What has been the effect of this strike ?

A. The effect of the strike is simply that we are out of employment and these extra men are not working. I am losing money feeding horses.

Q. Will you give me your views in your own way; what is your view of the present conditions ?

A. My view of the present condition---the class of the miners compared with my 21 years

"experience in the United States is that they are a poor lot. There are of course lots of experienced men but as the Union desires that men should get wages alike the poor man has no incentive to do what he could and I feel that all mine owners would be willing to pay the wages asked provided they could get good miners and as I see it, the main trouble is that there are too many outsiders who are not miners who are trying to dictate terms as to the wages which shall be paid. The merchants are sympathising with the men because if the men get 50 cents a day less they cannot charge as much for their goods, they would have to lower their prices. That is the language they use."

(See Evidence pages 309-310.)

A.R.TENTER,

Financial Secretary of Sleean City Miners' Union.

8-Hour Day
at old wages.

"Q. How many men are employed in this camp ?

A. There are about 200 at the present time.

Q. At what wages ?

A. \$3.50 for inside work, \$3.00 per day for mucking and outside work.

Q. Although the hours have been changed the rate of wages has not ?

"A. The rate of wages has not been changed.

(See Evidence page 314.)

Differences -

"Q. Have there been any differences between the owners and men ?

A. There has been none excepting with one Company, who made a slight attempt to reduce wages and bring in men.

Q. What camp is that ?

A. Chapleau.

Q. What was the result ?

A. The result is that they are now paying the regular wage. All the men that were brought in joined the Union and demanded the usual wage and got it.

No Shut Down -

"Q. Then there has been no stoppage to the mines in this section ?

A. No stoppage. In fact there has been a gradual improvement in the number of men employed during the last 18 months; no stoppage on account of 8 hour law.

(See Evidence pages 315-316.

No Violence -
or Threats

"Q. Any compulsion used ?

A. No compulsion.

Q. Any injury to mines or property or person ?

A. No injury, no threatened injury.

*Q. Is the camp a quiet, law abiding camp ?

A. It is.

(See Evidence page 315.)

P. DICKINSON - Of Slocan City, Manager of Slocan-Kilo Co.

27 claims; Reindeer, 3 claims; Smuggler group
15 claims; Invested \$100,000, and under bond
\$150,000, employing 111 men.

8-Hour Law - *Q. What wages are you paying for miners ?

A. \$3.50 for miners and \$300 for muckers.

Q. For what hours ?

A. 8 hours.

Q. How do the new and old systems compare ?

A. There is no comparison at all. I can say that after having been in this country for some time, for the last three years, I can notice a great change in the feeling between the mine owners and the miner. I am not a member of any of the Mine Owners Associations for the reason that we are working individually. We have no companies, we have no dividends to pay and we are simply investing our money endeavoring to open up this country and develop the country. Heretofore the miners were on the most friendly terms with the owners, but now under the restrictions that we impose the relations are not as friendly as they formerly were.

"Q. What restrictions do you refer to ?

A. Well it is one of our rules that each miner must have his hand on the drill at 7 a.m.; that no smoking is allowed under ground; that no man is allowed to leave the tunnels for tools or any other purpose, the mucker or the blacksmith keeps sharpened tools by his side all the time.

Q. How was it under the old ten hour law ?

A. Under the old ten hour law a man would sit down light his pipe, chat awhile with the blacksmith and then return to his work and of course on account of smoking and getting his own tools we never got over 9 hours' work.

Q. Then how in comparison to the amount of work ?

A. I am only stating my own case. I should say that we get ~~max~~ 9 hours work under the old law and about 7 hours and 50 minutes under the new; that is about it.

No Disturbances - "Q. Has there been any violence offered to the men ?

A. None whatever. I met the Miners' Union when they formed one here. At first I objected to it, and I did not think they were determined to form one and I let the matter drop. The President and others called on me

"and talked to me and showed me a great many points that I was not aware of, and they said they were satisfied with my treatment of the men and they had nothing to say of me. We do not ask a favor of the men. Just as soon as they come down from the hill we ask them no favors but pay them on pay day. x x x x

Friend of Labor Q. Is there any other point you think would be of importance ?

A. I do not think so. I am a friend of labor. I have had as many as 3200 men at one time under me and it has always been my principle to treat labor well and make friends with them because I can accomplish greater results.

(See Evidence pages 318-320)

W. DeBOIS -

Manager of Arlington Mines. Invested \$30,000
Employ 25 men.

6-Hour Law -

Q. What are you paying ?

A. \$3.50 for miners, \$3.00 for muckers.

Q. Do you get as much work done under the new system as under the old ?

A. I do not think so; I think it costs us 15 per cent more. I was at the Enterprise for 15 months, are only two miles apart, I could make a comparison.

No Violence - "Q. Has there been any violence in connection with this strike ?

Believes in Unions.

A. No sir. I must say that I believe in Labor Unions when well conducted, and they have shown no violence whatever.

Q. How much experience have you had in mines?

A. I have had 7 years; I am a graduate of the Michigan Mines College.

Q. You think that a Union well conducted is in the interests of both parties ?

A. When well conducted. When this Union was started here I was glad for I thought I would get good miners. I had had trouble before in getting good miners, but it has not turned out as I thought it would, because they admit almost everyone to the Miners' Union. I believe in getting the best men and treating them just as well as you possibly can."

(See Evidence Pages 321-322)

CHARLES DUNDER - President of Dundee Gold Mining Co., Ymir,
Invested \$96,000.

No Violence - "Q. Has there been any violence to person or injury to property in that camp ?

A. Not that I am aware of; any further than I am informed that they are trying to intimidate people. The only instance within my personal knowledge is that of a photograph

"taken up to the Dundee Mine.

Q. I suppose the photographs were desired in connection with your work ?

A. Yes I wanted to send them to London."

(See Evidence page 326.

R.F.Tolmie - General Secretary Silver-Lead Mines Association

Notice for Men - "A. I had several letters of enquiry from different parties and this circular Exhibit "B 2" is in answer to those enquiries.

Q. Was the same letter sent in answer to all enquiries of that kind, was that the common form; simply the address would be altered ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What else did you do besides sending this circular ?

A. That was as far as my duties as Secretary went. Of course when men came to Sandon in response to that letter and asked me where work could be found, I directed them to the Payne mine.

Aliens

Q. Did many come ?

A. Not a great many.

Q. How many ?

A. I do not suppose that 12 interviewed me directly.

*Q. Did you go to any of the United States with a view to procuring labor ?

A. No sir.

Q. Did you, by yourself or by anyone acting under your authority enter into any contracts for the introduction of alien labor ?

A. No sir.

Q. Were any such contracts entered into within your knowledge ?

A. No sir."

(See Evidence pages 331-332)

Q. (Commissioner) Did any of the dozen men to which you refer go to work in the Payne Mine ?

A. I only recall one man at the present.

Q.(Campbell) Are you aware from the statements of the other men the reasons they had for not going to work ?

A. Well two men informed me that they had been stopped on the way by Union men and advised not to go to work."

(See Evidence page 334.)

J.J.CAMPBELL - Assistant Manager and Accountant of Hall Mines and Secretary of Nelson District Mines Association.

Former Relations - *Q. What heretofore has been the relation with men

"between the owners and the men ?

A. Absolutely friendly and smooth since I have been connected with the Hall Mines. I cannot remember until the enforcement of the 8 hour law having heard of any disagreement or difficulties with men of any kind. I may say that in the main the relations with the men are pleasant enough. We require more men at present and during this time, although our relations have on the whole been pleasant we have not done as much work or employed as many men as we would, had suitable men applied for employment.

Scarcity of
Good Men

Q. What do you mean by suitable men ?

A. Capable men for the different kinds of work for which there are vacancies; most difficulty being experienced in getting skilled miners of a good enough class.

(See Evidence page 339.)

Passing 8-Hour
Law.

- "According to the votes and proceedings of February 14th the Hon. Mr. Cotton gave notice of a motion to ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "an Act to amend the inspection of the Metalliferous Mines Act". On the 16th February, 1899, the following bill was introduced and read the first time by Mr. Cotton and ordered to be read the second time tomorrow. (The same bill). On the 20th February it was

read the second time. On the 24th February the bill was referred to Committee, reported complete with amendment and report adopted; and on the 25th February read the third time and passed.

Q. That is the amendment that you have quoted above in regard to the 6 hour law ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. This all has reference to the passing of the 8 hour law ?

A. Yes sir, and on the 27th February the House prorogued."

(See Evidence page 461).

R.W.GRAHAM - Miner in Hail Mines.

Contracts - "Q. What wages have you received during that time, I mean at what rate ?

A. I have been working contract work since I have been there, with the exception of about 14 shifts in all.

Q. What do you average per day ?

A. It varies quite a little. Last month we made \$5.90 per day, July and August we averaged \$6.40. The first three months I was there we averaged \$4.00 right straight. That is the best we have made, and the least we have made was \$3.20.

Q. How do you take contracts; do a number take a contract and divide the proceeds between you ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How many men would be interested ?

A. Now there are six, before there was four always.

Q. All miners ?

A. Yes.

Q. All good workmen, I suppose ?

A. Yes.

Q. And you divided the proceeds equally among you ?

A. Yes.

Q. How many hours did you work ?

A. Eight hours, sir.

Q. When was that ?

A. July 1st I believe.

(See Evidence pages 341-342)

HENRY E. CROASDALE -General Manager of Hall's Mines Co.,
Silver King, As.

8 Hour Day - Q. Have you certain statistics to lay before me with respect to your Company's mine and works ?

A. Well I would like to give a little evidence first on the question of the amount of work that can be done in 8 hours as

"compared with 10 hours. It has been stated that the 8 hour law has not been given a fair trial by the mine owners, but I can give positive evidence that it has. At our mine we have never stopped working since the 8 hour law came into force, although we had to work short-handed since the enforcement of the law. I wish to state that the act affects different mines in different ways, for instance where mines employ only hammermen the evil effect of the act may not be so great as in the case of those mines where nearly all the work is done by machine drills. Probably the best evidence I can give of the effect of the 8 hour Act in regard to the earnings of miners will be to take the amount earned by contractors at our mines for the first five months of this year and then for the five months following the 1st of June. I may state that the same rate per foot for work was almost uniformly paid. That is cross cuts were paid for at the same rate before and after the 1st of June, upraises were paid for at the same rate and drifting. The only difference I remember was in the case of an upraise after 1st of June where a higher rate was paid than before the 1st of June. I have the average earnings per day for each contractor per

"month here, and taking the average earnings per man for the five months prior to the 1st of June, they were \$4.43 a day, the average earnings per man for the five months subsequent to the 1st of June was \$3.43, so that as far as our work at the Silver King Mine goes I can prove as far as dollars and cents go that the enforcement of the 8 hour law made a difference to the contractors of \$1.00 per day, and I do not think that there was any change in the character of the ground, or if there was I never heard of it, which would reduce the earnings after the 1st of June below what they were prior to the 1st of June."

(See Evidence pages 332-333.)

F.N. PHIL - General Manager of Athabasca.

8-Hour Day - "Q. If the law were not to prevent you working miners underground for more than 8 hours would you desire to lengthen the hours ?

A. My view of the proper length of the day is 9 hours.

BY THE COMMISSIONER.

Q. Explain a little more fully.

A. Well I think we should take a middle grade between those, you contend that 10 hours

"is a proper day and 8 hours is a proper day, some say they can work 8 and some 10 hours. My experience is that when we were working 9 hours the arrangement was very satisfactory."

(See Evidence pages 396,397)

Action of Union.--"Q. Well Mr. Peli ?

A. Mr. Campbell asked me whether I had any interference by any of the actions of the Miners' Union. The action was this, I explained to you that on or about the 1st of June the men had been called in conference and had been tendered certain offers. Soon after that I received a letter from the Miners' Union signed by the Secretary and the President requesting that I should meet them in conference, to which I replied that while I was willing to discuss any differences with the men themselves I would refuse to discuss it with the Union, because I did not consider that they represented the men. A few days afterwards I received a letter from the Union which I have not with me, but which I could submit, which is somewhat to this effect: "if you do not consent to arrange a conference with this Union on or before a certain specified

date", which I forgot, "you prepare to take the consequences". These are the facts in the case.

This letter to be marked "Exhibit B 2" when produced.

The point I wish to make is that the men were willing to discuss the matter and as subsequent events have proved were willing to be reasonable in their request, or to accept the compromise, when the Union was trying to coerce us to accept its own terms; in other words to interfere between men and man."

(See Evidence page 415.)

SAMUEL S. FOWLER - Mining Engineer for the London and British Columbia Gold fields, The Ymir Mines Ltd., The Enterprise Mines, Ltd., also Engineer for the Whitewater Mines, Ltd.

8-HOUR DAY -

"Q. What were you paying at the time under the old law ?

A. \$3.50 for miners and \$3.00 for muckers. We had as good a crew of men as could be got together. There was no dissatisfaction displayed as to the hours of labor, wages or accommodations which were offered them. The enactment of the 8 hour law, as near as I can discover, was quite a surprise to our employees

"but when we decided to put the 8 hour law into force our underground employees all quit working; about 6 or 8 however had manifested their desire to stay at work at the reduced wage but feared, or stated that they feared, that they might be interfered with by those who had gone out. I think it was about the 10th June when four or six miners returned to work at \$3.00 and since that time the underground force has gradually increased in numbers so that on the 12th December we had 42 men of all classes. In other words there was one shift of 26 miners, 2 timbermen, 9 muckers and 2 cartmen and also 2 miscellaneous. With these we are just about able to keep a 40-stamp mill in operation. This mill

Stamp Mill - crushes something or 100 tons every 24 hours.

Q. That is the full capacity of the mill ?

A. Yes sir at present. We are now enlarging the mill, but the additions will not be in operation much before the 1st April next, at which time our nominal capacity will be 200 tons per day.

Q. What is the cost of the mill now running ?

A. Including water supply, dam, flume, etc., about \$60,000.

Q. And the one you are about erecting ?

"A. I think about \$40,000 additional.

Q. You use the same water power and the same road ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. \$100,000 for the two ?

A. Yes sir."

(See Evidence pages 401-402.)

How to get
Miners.

- "Q. What do you think is the most effective way of getting in the best miners, under the present conditions ?

A. I think the only way is to increase the average wage and to give men an opportunity of working as long as they pleased. In other words to do away with the restrictions which have been placed by the Government upon the men. We are here face to face with a condition of affairs so far as it relates to the mining industry in the Western United States which is unprecedented. I mean that the demand for skilled miners in the western States, where in the great majority of instances, they worked 10 hours, was so great that this country has been largely drawn upon to satisfy the demand of the Western States. That is one of the reasons, in my opinion, which accounts for the scarcity of skilled miners in British

"Columbia to-day, or rather I should say the short supply. If \$3.50 per day were to be offered here all the camps in Washington and Idaho would be drained of their best men. They would come here because the time was shorter."

(See Evidence page 406).

Alien Labor - "Q. Has there been any attempt by the Manager of your Mines to import alien labor?

A. No sir.

Q. Has alien labor been imported by any one?

A. No sir. I may say in this connection that a short time after the 8 hour law went into effect that we tried to get men to come to work at the Ymir Mine from Eastern Canada; we had arranged through an agent there, I think, for the employment of 11 men at Sudbury. They came here; all but one of them went to work as miners at \$3.00 a day. I may be mistaken, two or three may have been \$2.50 men. Several of them after having been at work for two or three days were prevailed upon by diverse means exerted on the part of the Ymir Miners' Union to quit our employment, and they left. We have, however, two or three of the original Sudbury men with us. The Ymir Mine has been particularly an object of attack by the Ymir Miners' Union, which has endeavored of course

Threats

"to use all its influence toward the end of closing down our property by attempting to coerce our employees, either forcibly or otherwise. I should say threatening.

Q. What threats were made within your knowledge?

A. Several threats were made to the employees of the Company which they have embodied in affidavits.

Q. Can you bring them here?

A. Mr. Robertson can do so, and will do so, tomorrow? The men made affidavits which could be produced if you wished them.

Q. I would rather have the men before me; I do not care to accept affidavits."

(See Evidence pages 407-408).

JOHN HANCOCK - Foreman at Halls Mines, called at request of Superintendent Campbell.

8-Hour Day -

Q. Have you been able to compare the relative amount of work done by the average miner under the 10 hours system and under the 8?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And what do you say as to the relative amount of work that may be done under each?

A. I think it practically makes about 15 to 20 per cent difference. The cost is 15 to

"to 20 per cent higher under the 8 hour law than it was under the 10.

Q. How do you arrive at that conclusion ?

A. From the difference in the amount of work done and the cost.

Q. Could you give me an illustration ?

A. Well if you have a drill working for 10 hours it does more work than a drill working for 8 hours can do.

Q. You can apply the same to the men on hammers work ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. I want evidence of an actual test.

A. I have not brought any note books with me, if I had though I think I could give it more satisfactorily."

(See Evidence pages 421-422)

(Note) This witness to be recalled when he has the data upon which he bases his evidence."

(Evidence page 421.)

Test Case -

"Q. Have you a statement Mr. Hampson showing the comparison you made ?

A. Showing five months previous to the enactment of the 8 hour law and five months afterwards.

Q. You have a statement taken from the mine account ?

"A. Yes sir.

Q. You believe this statement to be correct?

A. Yes sir.

Q. It shows that five months before the 8 hour law came into force that the average rate of wages under contract was \$4.30⁷ and that for the five months after the 8 hour law came into force the average wages earned per day under contract was \$5.47². The different months are shown in Exhibit P 2."

(See Evidence page 444.)

"Q. Were the contracts let during the five months before and the five months after at the same rate per foot?

A. With one exception, yes.

Q. The contracts were let at the same rate per foot except one, namely August of 1899, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. And that was let at what?

A. \$2.00 a foot higher."

(See Evidence page 449.)

"Q. You say this is the data that you furnished and I would be glad to receive any further information that you can give me.

A. That statement is correct, I will swear to it.

Q. We have two months, \$4.70, larger than previous months, against \$2.82, which you account for by saying that you had a bad lot of men; then we have July, August, September and October left; during what part of June did you work for 8 hours ?

A. We started on the 1st of June.

Q. And you worked under the 8 hour system during the whole month ?

A. Yes.

Q. Was there a difference in the ground ?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Were the men in June the same as you had in May ?

A. Practically.

Q. In May the men earned \$4.68 under the 10 hours system and the same men in June under the 8 hour system earned \$4.70 ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Then were the men the same in July ?

A. They go or come all the time.

Q. Were they the same in July as they were in May ?

A. In July we tried a lot of men .

Q. Do you attribute to that change of men the difference ?

A. It might have some difference.

Q. Were the men still changing in August when it was the lowest of all ?

A. They changed all the time.

Q. Did you have new men in September ?

A. We got new men every month.

Q. Do you attribute to the change of men in September the difference in cost to any extent ?

A. I think we had more contracts going in June than we had in any of the following months.

Q. That is not an answer to my question ?

A. Well, what was your question ?

Q. My question was whether you attributed the difference to what was earned in September as to what was earned in May; that is the men were not so good in September as May ?

A. No sir.

Q. Were the men as good in October as in May ?

A. No sir.

Q. Then the result of this statement is this, that May the men earned by contract \$4.68 under the old system; in June practically the same men under contract ^{earned} ~~and~~ \$4.70 under the 8 hour system; in July there was a change of men and you had not as good men and they earned \$3.26 under the new system, and you attribute that falling off partly to the difference in the quality of the men. In August the men

"only earned \$2.62 and you say that you had a bad lot of men during that month. In September the men earned \$3.30 as against \$4.66 in May and you attribute that partly to the difference of the quality of the men; and in October the men earned \$3.30 as against \$4.66 in May, and you also attribute that to the fact that the men were not of so good quality ?

A. Yes."

(See Evidence pages 451-453)

G.O. BUCHANAN - Lumberman.

Effect of Trouble - "Q. What is your business ?

A. Proprietor of a saw mill.

"Q. How long have you been living here, prior to June last ?

A. Yes sir, since 1892.

Q. Have you got any date in regard to the effect of the shut down ?

A. In regard to my mining business ?

Q. Yes.

A. I have a memorandum here taken from my book this afternoon which shows the amount of business I have been doing during the months from June 1st to November 30th 1898. My pay roll for that period shows that there were 252 months work paid in at my mill, and that the pay roll amounted to \$8,947, and that the

"shipments of lumber over the Kaslo and Slocan Railway, that is the lumber that went into the mining districts during that same period, amounted to \$11,341.57. For the same period in 1899, June 1st to November 30th the months labor at the mills was 144, nearly 40 per cent less; the amount of the pay roll was \$5,510, nearly 40 per cent less, and the shipments of lumber to the mining camp over the Kaslo and Slocan Railway amounted to \$475.07, being \$10,866.50 less than in the previous year, or about 96 per cent.

Q. To what do you attribute that ?

A. To the fact that the mines in the Slocan camp have not been working to the same extent they were."

(See Evidence page 471.)

Capital Diverted - "Q. Is there any other statement that you desire to bring before me ?

A. I have a statement here in regard to the Montezuma Mine. I am President of the Board of Trade in Kaslo and we need a great many men who come into the country and are interested in mining investments and I can say that a very large amount of money that would have otherwise been invested in this country has been turned away this summer on account of the

"existing conditions.

Q. Will you give me an idea of the amount from your personal knowledge ?

A. Why certainly, the figures would run to hundreds of thousands I think, nearly a million."

(See Evidence page 472.)

J.P. MAINTOSH - Collector of Customs at Kaslo.

Falling off
in Exports -

"Q. Have you prepared a statement showing the shipment of ore for the past year ?

A. I have from June to December 1898, and from June up to this date in December 1899.

Q. What does it show ?

A. Value of ore shipped in 1898, \$1,675,262; value for the same six months in 1899 \$337,735 ; pounds of ore shipped in 1898, 41,317,822; for the same period in 1899, 9,162,753.

Q. Can you give me the imports ?

A. I can give you the imports tomorrow.

(Exhibit "I 2") Exports.

(Exhibit "J 2") Imports.

1898 Imports \$134,855, Duty collected \$36,323
1899 " 80,446 " " 18,720

(See Exhibit "J 2")

8 Imports

F.A. SMITH - Member of Silverton Union.

As to Resolutions
Appendix C.

"Q. There were certain resolutions passed by the Silverton Miners' Union on June 10th, 1899, a paper which purports to contain a copy is now placed before me, being the Nelson Daily Miner of June 16th, would you kindly look at these resolutions and say whether they were passed by the Silverton Union or not ?

A. I read this in a paper, and I think I read it in some other paper besides the Nelson Daily Miner. I was not in Silverton at that time. I joined the Union on May 25th, and I do not believe that I attended more than one meeting after that. Then I went away from Silverton and I never was in Silverton to a meeting till I think it was about the middle of August. Further I do not know, I could not swear that these resolutions were passed by the Union. I never looked over the books in the Union to see if they were passed and they never were passed in my presence.

Q. I will take it Mr. Smith from what you say that these resolutions were passed by the Union unless I receive evidence to the contrary. I will receive further evidence showing that

"they were not passed, but in default of further evidence I think that I say, without going to the expense of bringing down any further officers of the Union, take it for granted. Do you think these resolutions met with the approval of the Union ?

A. No sir, they did not.

Q. Do you know how many were present ?

A. No sir, I was not there. I was informed that there were only 11 persons present at the time they were passed, and as there are about 250 members in the Miners' Union these resolutions ought to be brought before a larger attendance, and I think if they had been considered by the majority of the miners at Silverton it is likely that they would not have been passed.

Q. You think they are not generally approved ?

A. I think they are not generally approved.

Q. I am bound to say I should hope not.

Resolutions "Exhibit J 21"

A. Further I do not believe that any Miners' Union in the Slocan District approves of the resolutions passed by the Silverton Miners' Union on June 10th."

(See Evidence pages 477-478)

J. RODERICK ROBERTSON -General Manager of the London and
British Columbia Gold Fields.

Statement pre-
pared and
given under
oath.

"Q. Have you prepared for me a statement ?

A. I have prepared a statement that I
would like to read.

Q. You may read it as evidence.

A. I may also say that the London and Brit-
ish Columbia Gold Fields is a development Company
and purchases and sells under bonds various
properties which it does ~~not~~ work upon and
leases and brings out as individual companies.

Q. That is as I understand you the main
Company ~~to~~ speak, has the aggregate capital;
they buy or obtain under bond certain proper-
ties. They develop these properties up to a
certain point, then that property as a distinct
company is incorporated and put upon the
market for the working of the mine.

A. Yes sir, I will just read this and it
may bring out certain points. (Exhibit "P 2")

Our Companies are all British, incorporated
in London and licensed in British Columbia.

The London and British Columbia Gold
Fields Limited incorporated June 1896.

Statements were then made that mining laws
liberal and no labor trouble. Actual

*disbursements apart from interest given in part payment to vendors of properties purchased over \$750,000 cash in Nelson. Disbursements in London to Syndicates, etc. operating in British Columbia, purchases of shares in other properties, amount unknown; probably as much more.

Employing to-day about 75 miners, besides about 130 men on construction work. Could employ about 200, more miners without acquiring any more properties.

The number of our stockholders is 7,900.

The supply of miners prior to the passage of Labor Legislation at end of last session (February 1899) was not sufficient to provide good miners for all then existing properties and for the new properties which were being exploited. I estimate that had not labor troubles arisen 1,000 more men could have been easily employed in British Columbia in 1899 than were so employed in 1898, and that this shortage, gained from the experience of the past 3 or 4 years, would mean the necessity of a large ~~amount~~ number of new miners being brought into the country every year; in the future say 1,000 each year, not to fill the places of those already here, but

"to enable the further increased development in old properties, also the opening up of new.

Articles of Association of our several Companies are based upon a capitalization of some \$4,000,000, and provide for the utilization of this capital in practically any mining centre in the world. Indeed, it is within our knowledge that several of the gentlemen who are members of our Companies' Boards of Directors are heavily interested in mining in England, Australia, United States, South Africa, and elsewhere.

With regard to the method of forming Companies; unlike the custom prevailing in the United States and in some instances in South Africa and elsewhere, where it frequently happens that one or more individuals will absolutely control and direct the affairs of a mining enterprise, the custom generally followed by British Companies is to issue a prospectus stating value of property, cost of production and expected profits, and then offer the stock or shares for public subscription, according to the size of the capital, the stockholders list will vary greatly. In the case of large companies running up into thousands of individual stockholders, the

'custom frequently is to issue circulars from time to time to the stockholders or partners, stating any salient facts relating to their properties; for example; such an important matter as restricted legislation and so called labor disturbances or troubles are generally referred to in such circulars, or an important 'strike' of ore or purchase, according to the importance with which same are regarded; hence these labor disturbances and legislative enactments in British Columbia have been referred to in thousands of such circulars privately, issued to those concerned. Frequently these circulars or extracts therefrom, are printed in the prominent financial papers throughout the world.

In the instance of these troubles in British Columbia too much stress has not been laid, as far as we know, upon their permanent effect upon permanent operations, it being generally felt and hoped that legislative relief would be afforded in cases where recent labor measures have been felt to unduly affect and alarm investors. The absence of any 8 hour law in Great Britain, and the fact that in none of the Colonies had measures been passed interfering with the right of individual

"contract, whereby a man could work over time if he desired, and that in no case were penalties enforced where such individual contracts were in existence, made investors confident that were those matters laid before the Legislature of British Columbia, relief would undoubtedly in all fairness be given.

Moreover, it was felt that the following clause in the Master and Servant Act :

"Any agreement or bargain, verbal or
"written, express or implied, which may be
"made between any person and any other
"person not a resident of British Columbia,
"for the performance of labor or service,
"or having reference to the performance
"of labor or service by such other
"persons in the Province of British Columbia,
"and made as aforesaid previous to
"the migration or coming into British
"Columbia of such other person whose
"labor or service is contracted for, shall
"be void and of no effect, as against the
"person only so migrating or coming."

placing commercial restrictions upon other Provinces in the Dominion and elsewhere, is so contrary to the prevailing spirit of federation so prevalent now all over the British Empire, would cause the Legislature also in this

*instance to modify its enactment. In our opinion the passage of the 8 hour law, applying only to one branch of mining, and not applicable to any other class of underground work carrying trade, manufacturing or retail business or profession, has created a feeling of alarm and distrust hitherto unknown regarding investments in British Columbia. Money has to our absolute knowledge been diverted in other directions. Private and Company enterprise has in the past few years expended large sums of money in bringing before the investing public in Great Britain and elsewhere the prospects of British Columbia as a field for investment, and the efforts of these parties should have some, if slight, weight in consideration with the legislature and voters when dealing with mining legislation. Our Companies have assisted in opening up new districts, and indirectly helped and aided many miners and prospectors in this country by cutting out miles of trail, building many miles of good waggon road and keeping same in repair, not only in west, but in east and south Kootenai, practically at our own cost. Our Companies have not been favored with numerous or large subsidies from mutually interested individuals or from the Government.

"We do not regret that our expenditure in these directions have largely helped our friends and neighbors, the prospectors and owners of perhaps smaller properties, but we do claim that the Government and our fellow voters should take these improvements into consideration when passing mining laws so seriously jeopardising our shareholders interests.

The real commencement of the arrival of joint stock companies, mining and others, in Kootenai, for mining and kindred purposes, took place practically some three or four years ago, at which time many complaints were being ~~made~~^{made} by some of the owners of retail stores and others of the slackness of business; the heavy slump in silver had done its work disastrously. The influx of corporate foreign funds may be said to materially have helped to remove the financial strain then felt, and to give a new era of prosperity to the district. The storekeepers, instead of having to give long credit, with frequently uncertain returns, although large in some instances, not due however to any intention of the purchaser, but simply because he happened to be out of luck, found this condition of affairs replaced

"by large monthly payments settled regularly by mining companies employing large forces underground and on construction work. This has enabled the storekeeper in many instances to buy in the cheapest markets and to carry on a far sounder and more systematic business. The entering in upon business in the Province by these large mining companies has given confidence to smaller investors to also come in, and has in a great measure led the large carrying companies, both railroad and steamship to enter upon and complete the extensive construction work which has so largely opened up the country, and must eventually greatly add to the wealth and prosperity of its inhabitants unless confidence is destroyed and capital withdrawn on account of illiberal legislation and the difficulties in relation to mining. The wholesaler practically came in at the same time as the Companies, which has also encouraged the introduction of increased banking facilities. We hope to strongly urge upon the Government and the leaders of thought amongst our enlightened electors the desirability of seeking some means of allaying the undoubted distrust at present evinced by investors, and giving those inclined to look to this country for investment that feeling

"of security and permanence which alone can satisfactorily settle such matters."

(See Evidence pages 485 -491)

8-Hour Day -

"Q. Have you ever had a formal test, measured out the rock and put men at it for 8 or 10 hours?

A. We did not do this, Mr. Commissioner, but I am prepared to show you the books of our Company in order to show that I am prepared to pay 50 cents more for 10 hours than for 8. I may say in connection with that that our neighbors to the South of us, who have had a longer experience than we have, in the States of Idaho, Montana and Washington are paying \$3.50 for miners for 10 hours work, and I feel sure that if they knew from their experience that they could get the same amount of work paying \$3.50 for 8 hours such a wage and system would have prevailed there before now. I might explain; here we have 100 skilled miners, where there they have 1,000 skilled miners, and their experience has been much longer than the men here. As a rule their mines are larger and they can pay higher prices for the Managers and Superintendents, and they pay \$3.50 for 10 hours as a general rule, and so far as we know no objection has arisen on the part of organized labor in those States to

"such arrangement, with regard to the working 8 and 10 hours.

Prospecting

"In a new country like this prospects are being continually opened up, the cost of conveying supplies is very large where trails have to be freshly cut and there are no roads as is usually the case in such prospects. Experience has shown that it is far more economical in such instances to convey as small as possible an amount of supplies and to expend the money/as far as possible entirely on mining work. I ~~will~~ would just like to explain. A man comes in to my office and offers me a prospect, my first question is, where is it, how can we get there, what are the means of transport? If these replies are unsatisfactory, no matter how glowing the report, our reply is that it is too far off for practical working at present, but if the replies are satisfactory we/ send a small force with supplies sufficient for a few weeks, put up temporary buildings and get under ground. The smaller the force and the longer the hours the more value can be got for our initial expense. We want to put in underground our initial expense and consequently we are able to put in more money.

"Q. The inference which I suppose you wish to have drawn is that the 10 hours shift is more favorable for development and prospects and for putting prospects upon the market ?

A. Yes sir. I may say, Mr. Commissioner, I have repeatedly asked miners in our employ whether they could do more work in 10 hours than in 8, and I have yet to find the miner in British Columbia who will tell me at any rate that he cannot do more work in 10 hours than in 8. I have noticed a disposition in certain quarters to insinuate that the miners in British Columbia prior to the passage of this 8 hour measure were inclined to evade doing a full day's work under the old system. In my opinion the average miner in British Columbia was straightforward and energetic in earning his day's wage, and the relations between the miner and those for whom he worked were harmonious and satisfactory. The conditions of the mine were invariably taken into account in the wages paid, shaft work and wet portions of the mine commanded high wages or shorter hours, and no man was called upon to work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions. That is generally the condition of affairs prior to the passing of the law,

"and so far as I know the good feeling exists now, although there are not the same number of miners around; except possibly in a few isolated cases. I do not think there is anything more I can think of."

(See Evidence pages 493-494.)

Duty.

- "Q. Do you think it would be of advantage to have the duty taken off of ^{Lead} ~~substance~~ ?

A. I think it would.

Q. That is so that the smelting could be done on this side of the line ?

A. Yes sir. I have always tried to impress that upon our Head Office."

(See Evidence page 495.)

B.R. RAUBERIMAYER - Manager of "Emily Edith" and "British Columbia Development Co."

Labor Troubles - "Q. Have you brought in any alien labor ?

A. No sir. I brought in three men from Vancouver and one from Rossland and the Union took them away from me. They were Canadian citizens and British subjects. The Miners' Union came up while I was not there, I have about 10 claims, and while I was at a new camp, and the men were distributed along the side hill and they were trying to persuade them to

"join the Union. I came up and I met Mr. Benedum, there were about 14 Miners' Union men and Mr. Smith was in the lot. Mr. Benedum was heading the procession. I asked him what was the matter and they said we must take everybody into the Miners' Union in order to win this fight. None of these men were Union men. They worked for me the whole season, most of the year.

Q . How many were there ?

A. There were about 15. None of them was a miner, they were all at outside work, making drills or working in the ground. Some said they were not miners and they were asked to go down and join the Union.

Q. Did they go ?

A. Some of them asked whether they should join and some of them said that if they did not join that they would not be able to work here, so a good many left. The cook also went down, they took him from the kitchen and he went down to the meeting and he joined the Union. Mr. Benedum told him if he did not join he would have to stand the consequences."

(See Evidence pages 496-497.)

Provision
For Men. -

"Q. What provision have you made for your men in your bunk house ?

A. I have a bunk house 35 x 63 feet.

Q. Divided into rooms ?

A. Divided into rooms; two and a half storey building. It is heated with a furnace, warm water. There is a drying room on the lower floor for the men to dry their clothes coming from the mine. A large wash room, three bath rooms, large comfortable room, one reading room and one card room. The rooms are divided for one, two and four."

(See Evidence page 496.)

F.C.ROBBINS - Manager of the Dominion Copper Co., &c.

No Violence - "Q. Has there been any case of violence to personal property in the Boundary Country within your knowledge ?

A. No, none.

Q. I mean arising out of the strike ?

A. No, none. There was a horror of British justice. That is the only reason for it. The nearness of the Boundary camps to the Boundary line makes the possibility of doing damage and getting our very easy to the vicious

10 hours shift- "Q. When you speak of a 10 hour shift, as it meant 9.

"existed, prior to June last, do you mean 10 hours day shift and 9 hours night shift ?

A. The 10 hours shift is practically not a full ten hours shift. The men go and come on their own time; they come up for supper; they have about nine hours.

Q. That is now under the 8 hour system they would be expected to be at work for 8 hours ?

A. Yes, they are supposed to be. I think the 8 hours probably means 7½. I would like to say there were no labor organizations in the Boundary country until after this 8 hour Act was passed. There are Unions of all kinds there now and those of the miners publicly declared themselves as being affiliated with the Western Federation of Miners.

(See Evidence pages 509-510.)

Sunday Work.

- "Q. What is the custom in this country as to the number of days of labor, how many days in a week ?

A. We work in the mines 7 days. ✓

Q. Do you know whether that meets with the approval of the men, 7 days ?

A. I think as far as I am personally concerned I would like to see 6 days work but in cases where that has been tried, there are camps

"who have done that, the men universally object to it. They say they want to work 7 days and get 7 days' pay. I understand that we are violating the Dominion Statute every time we allow men to work. Except in very wet mines where the pumping is going on all the time, I do not see any special reason for working the mines on Sundays.

(See Evidence page 512)

Alien Labor - "Q. Are you aware of any alien laborers being imported under contract ?

A. There have not been any imported and there has been no conflict to my knowledge in that direction."

(See Evidence page 513).

D. McINTOSH - Manager of Winnipeg Mine. \$120,000 invested.

Labor Supply. "Q. Is there a sufficient supply of labor miners, to meet the demand for the next year in that section of the country ?

A. No sir not to meet the demand for next year.

(See Evidence pages 521-522)

JAMES DEWINE - Secretary Rossland Miners' Union.

10 and 8 hour
Day Compared - "Q. Is there any other point or fact that you would like to bring before me ?

"A. Well there is one point, that is in regards to the time actually lost under the 10 hour system. It was customary for the men to stay on top until 7 in the morning; there was from 15 to 20 minutes lost going to their work, there was the same amount of time lost coming to dinner and 15 minutes lost for dinner, and about 20 minutes lost at 6 p.m., that same rule would apply to the night shift. Now by the work we would figure between one hour and one and a half hours lost per day per man, where under the 8 hour system they worked continuously for 8 hours with the exception of 20 minutes for lunch."

(See Evidence page 534.)

H.E. ABELL - Walking Delegate of Rossland Miners' Union.

How men are
induced to join
the Union.

Q. Are you a British subject ?

A. I am.

Q. Where were you born ?

A. Toronto.

Q. What do you mean by saying that you are recognized ?

A. I solicit members for the Miners' Union.

Q. And you receive a salary from the Union ?

A. I receive a salary from the Union.

Q. What are you paid ?

A. \$105 per month; \$3.50 per day.

Q. What do you deem the limit of your right in soliciting men to join the Union ?

A. To use all possible arguments to persuade them that it is right to combine for mutual benefit. I use the argument particularly that capital has combined and labor has the same right.

Q. Supposing you are asking him to join the Union, let me hear what you say ?

A. Using the argument that capital combined for mutual benefit and the success is shown by the power they have obtained in procuring what they deem to be just and right in their own interests. They combine for the benefit of the minority while we combine for the benefit of the majority.

Q. Well suppose I am almost persuaded ?

A. As labor represents 70 per cent of the population and the Government of this country is based upon the rule of the majority, why not exercise that authority ?

Q. For what purpose ?

A. For the benefit of the majority.

Q. How ?

A. Procuring better laws for the benefit of the working class.

Q. Is there anything else ?

A. Better wages and shorter hours for labor and that you might have some time to spend at home with your wife and family and cultivate the higher instincts of humanity.

Q. Suppose you meet with one who declines to join ? What then ?

A. Well I talk with him for a while and if he does not join I go back and see him again after awhile.

Q. And if he does not still join ?

A. I still continue to visit the gentleman.

Q. And if he still does not wish to join ?

A. Well, after four or five visits he usually comes down.

Q. What do you mean when you say "comes down" ?

A. Comes down and joins the Union.

Q. Do you not mean that he surrenders ?

A. Yes, that is what I mean.

Q. In all that do you deny that he has the right to refuse ?

A. I do not.

Q. Do you use any threats overt or otherwise

A. I do not know.

Q. Threats or anything that might be

"construed as threats ?

A. It would not be fair.

Q. Don't you think that would take away a man's liberty ? He has the same right to refuse to join as you have to ask him to join ?

A. I have no right except that as a working man I might decline to work with him.

Q. In other words, you would preserve your own self-control ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. But you would not have the right would you, to say that that man could not get work in the neighborhood ?

A. Well it would result in that ; supposing he refused to join the Union and it was a Union camp, and I refused to work with him, the next man would also refuse to work with him.

Q. In other words the camp would strike ?

A. No, because this man would not be compelled to get work.

Q. Well suppose he got work ?

A. We would not do anything to stop his work except that the men working with him would quit.

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Can you cite a single case where any man

has refused to work with another for not joining the Union ?

A. Yes sir.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:-

Q. What cases ?

A. There 's one case at the Le Roi.

The man is still working there. They all did not refuse to work, but one man individually refused to work with him.

Q. You mean machine men or outside men ?
Could he not go and work by himself ?

A. There are two men on a machine.

Q. Then it was machine men ?

A. Yes sir. There are supposed to be no hammermen here.

Q. What was his name ?

Q. I know the man by sight but could not give you his name. He said he quit on that account.

Q. Did anyone take his place ?

A. Oh yes.

Q. And the man who refused to join the Union still remained ?

A. Yes, and is there now.

Q. You would not take any steps to force him to stop work ?

A. It is conceded that those men who resp

"the benefits of the Union should help to pay for them, and this man is reaping the benefits that we have obtained.

Q. How do you mean, he does not belong to the Union ?

A. He does not belong to the Union.

Q. What has he the benefit of if he is a member of the Union ?

A. \$3.50 per day.

Q. But the Union does not pay that ?

A. But the Union procured that. There was a time here when there was a helper at \$3.00 and a machine man at \$3.50.

Q. That was changed ?

A. They both get \$3.50 now.

Q. When was that change made ?

A. Three years ago.

Q. That was before your Union was established was it not ?

A. The Union was organized 16th July, 1895.

Q. Would you state it in your own language ? Just tell me what you thought as to the liberty that you had in soliciting members for the Union.

A. You can use every conceivable argument to persuade me that you are right that is as

"far as you can go according to right.

Q. You do not claim that you have any right to coerce a man; he must not be in fear of life nor limb nor property ?

A. No sir I do not.

Q. You would say to a man that came into the mine and was paid a higher rate of wages than you all ^{had been paid} to come into the Union because it has the result of obtaining better terms for its members?

A. Yes sir.

Q. But if he declined to hold to that argument that should end it ?

A. Yes.

Q. Is there anything else in that connection that you would like to say ? Would you like to add anything or modify it in any way ? I would like to have you do so because it is a very important point and I want your exact language without any possible mistakes taken down ?

A. In regard to my soliciting members for the Union ?

Q. Yes.

A. I believe a man exercises his own individual judgment as to whether he will join or not.

"Q. And that judgment ?

A. Should be left to himself; he is the man to judge; I am not the judge.

Q. It would not be right for the majority to use any power they may have to place burdens upon the minority, or to feel that they had to do that which they did not wish to do ?

A/ No, not compel them to do what they did not wish to do."

(See Evidence pages 565-570)

Cost of Living - "Q. Give me some idea of the cost of living for married men ?

A. It costs \$25 to \$30 a month for groceries with family, wife and 11 months old baby.

Q. Rent ?

Q. \$12 per month; that is a small house, three rooms.

Q. With water ?

A. Water not supplied.

Q. Then groceries ?

A. \$25 to \$30 a month. Fuel \$6 to \$7 per month ; clothing, it will cost you on an average of \$12 to \$15 per month.

Q. Say \$150 a year.

A. Yes about that. Doctor about \$1.50 a month. That is if you get there by the month, if you do not happen to be lucky enough to pay

"him in advance he will charge you \$3.00 per trip.

Q. What else have you?

A. We of course want some reading matter; a person should have at least \$5.00 per month for reading and recreation. Meat will cost you \$12 to \$15 a month.

Q. About \$150 for meat?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And vegetables?

A. Well I included that in the groceries; anything that you would obtain at the grocery store.

Q. Would that clothing be sufficient for the wife and family?

A. Well it gives them no surplus, it is very meagre.

Q. About \$1,000 in round numbers?

A. Yes sir."

(See Evidence pages 571-572.)

R.B. PALMER - Mining Engineer at Le Roi Mine.

Cost of Change from
10 to 8 hours. - "Statement showing extra daily expense

incurred at Le Roi Mine due to change in working time from 10 hour shifts to 8 hour shifts, taken from actual work, both before and after change was made.

Then follows under column 1, "occupation of extra men employed;" under column No. 2 "number of men"; under column No. 3 "rate per shift"; under column No. 4, "total daily" and under column No. 5 "total monthly". Let me see if I understand you; by reason of the changed days this statement implies that four more machine miners were employed to do the same amount of work, that you paid for them per shift \$3.50 per day, that you paid a total daily of \$14.00; that you paid a total monthly of \$420.00; that of muckers 13 more were employed at \$2.50 per shift, a total daily of \$32.50 and total monthly of \$975.00; for shift bosses, one more, ^{\$5.00}~~\$3.50~~ daily, monthly \$150.00; timber bosses one more, \$3.50 daily, \$105 monthly; pump men one more \$3.50 daily, \$105.00 monthly; underground engineers, one more, \$3.00 daily, \$90.00 monthly; skip tender, one more, \$3.00 daily, \$90.00 monthly; skip helper, one more, \$2.50 daily, \$75.00 monthly; timbermen, seven more, \$3.00 per shift, \$21.00 daily and \$630.00 monthly; an actual expenditure of ~~\$20.00~~ daily and monthly expenditure of ~~\$20.00~~ daily, \$2,640.00. Is that what you mean?

A. That is what I mean.

Q. You have this further statement

"shipments daily about 330 tons; if raised and sorted distributed over 19 hours instead of 16 hours should be sorted to 310 tons. Freight and treatment on this difference of 20 tons at \$4.50, \$90.00 daily or \$2,700 monthly." I do not quite understand that.

Q. Well we are hoisting about 330 tons a day. During the 10 hours we could hoist from 7 in the morning until the next morning at 5 a.m. getting in 19 hours. At the present time we have to hoist for 16 hours; the consequence is our sorters cannot thoroughly sort ore in 16 hours, and we have to send 20 tons of rock down to the smelter and have to pay smelting charges which is \$4.50 a ton; this is principally in consequence of our being cramped for room.

Q. Can not you make room?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Then if you made room what effect would that have? How many more men would it take to do the additional sorting?

A. It would take about four or five more men.

Q. At how much per day?

A. \$2.50 per day.

Q. That would be a saving of \$80.00, that would save \$2,400 in a month, what would the

enlargement cost ?

A. Probably \$1,000.00.

Q. You see you would have your building up and have \$1200 to the good in a month ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Am I right or am I wrong ?

A. That is practically right.

Q. The shipments daily are about 330 tons ?

A. About that.

Q. Now if raised and sorted, distributed over 19 hours instead of 16 it should be sorted to 310 tons. The freight and treatment on this difference of 20 tons is \$4.50 per ton, is equal to \$90 daily, which would make a difference of \$2,700 a month; but four sorters at \$2.50 a day, if there were room, could do the additional sorting ?

A. Well I said four or five.

Q. Well say five, that would be \$12.50 ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. That would be a saving of \$77.50 per day; that is if you had room for the sorters to do it instead of having it done at the mill ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. That would be a saving of \$2325.00 a month of 30 days ?

A. Yes sir.

"Q. Now the building would cost \$1,000.00, so that if you built your building you would be able to pay for it and save \$1325.00 within the month, is that right ?

A. Something like that.

x x x x x x x x x x

"BY MR. MacDonald.

Q. Is it practical to enlarge that building so as to hoist the ore and the waste broken within the two 8 hour shifts, without an improved flume within any reasonable expense ?

A. It is practical to enlarge it to a certain extent which might reduce that 20 tons to 15 tons, but I do not think any further.

x x x x x x x x

Q. I may say that I discussed this subject with Mr. Palmer and he said that it would take some days to clear the mine and he stated to me that we cannot make the shipments as we are now doing in the mine, we are obliged to hoist so rapidly that the men cannot sort that ore and large proportions of waste have to remain in the mine for a time and is hoisted out during some other time and we are fixing our compressor now and it is supposed we will be hoisting in a few weeks.

"BY THE COMMISSIONER :

Q. This, as I understand, represents the condition of things at present ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And as to the building I suppose no formal estimate has been made ?

A. Yes, we have decided that nothing short of a new shaft now building will enable the ore to be shipped under the new conditions.

(Mr. Palmer)

A. I was going to give you reasons why this building was not enlarged, but I did not.

Q. Well give it to me now.

A. We are giving up that shaft and building a new one.

Q. By reason of that ?

A. By reason of that.

Q. That is for that reason ?

A. That is for that reason. I did not tell you because I was not asked.

Q. That is a very large increase, when you make your changes will that additional cost be got rid of ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How long will that take ?

A. It will take about six months to get everything ready.

"Q. And in the meantime that loss goes on ?
Is there no way of avoiding that loss in the meantime ?

A. Yes, we could avoid some of it but it would amount to only about five tons.

Q. But is it practical to avoid it, or any part of it ?

A. A very small part of it.

Q. What proportion do you think you could save ?

A. At the outside about one-fifth.

Q. Until the change is completed ?

A. Until the change is completed.

Q. Unless you expend the \$1,000, and then what ?

A. We might save more."

(See Evidence pages 614 to 621).

BERNARD MacDONALD - Manager of Le Roi.

Cost of Change - "Q. I wanted your views if you please, as to this statement here which we were discussing last night, referred to in Exhibit "W 2", which reads as follows:-

Shipments daily about 330 tons. If raised and sorted distributed over 19 hours instead of 16 hours should be sorted to 310 tons.

"Freight and treatment on this difference of 20 tons at \$4.50 - \$90, or \$2,700 per month.

Q. Is there no way of reducing or eliminating that expense ?

A. That expense may be reduced considerably.

Q. That represents as it is now ?

A. Yes. I think to do so would require a closing down of the mine for some little time, the expense and loss of which I am not just prepared to give."

(See Evidence 631 -632)

Amount Invested - "Q. And shows in the aggregate as follows:-
in Le Roi Group.

Le Roi Mine	\$5,958,362.00
West Le Roi group	921,675.17
East Le Roi group	559,185.12
Columbia Kootenai group	471,165.21
Caledonia Group	31,291.63
Tootsie and Whoop-up mines	17,944.15
Hoskins Group	7,530.14
Argenteuil Group	6,722.02
Wild Horse Group	<u>4,185.24</u>
Total	\$5,978,060.60

Then to that would be added the expenditure of moneys for examination of mines and mining districts in the Province of British Columbia and options on mining properties therein,

amounting to \$42,832.52.

Surface improvements, covering general offices, machine shops, machinery and plant therein, assay office, warehouse, stables, etc., amounting to \$39,652.49

Supplies carried in stock about \$32,000.00

Expenditure on account of administration including office expenses, salaries, legal expenses, travelling expenses, bank charges, etc. etc.

\$106,186.25

The above items make a total--\$6,198,761.94

(See Evidence pages 633, 634)

Contracts. - "BY MR HOUSTON :

Q. Mr. MacDonald, have you experienced any trouble in finding enough men here to satisfy the needs ?

A. No, not within my personal experience. I understand from the superintendents that they have attempted to let several contracts to experienced miners and they succeeded in letting the contracts, and I have understood from them that the men taking the contracts have been intimidated so that they relinquished the contracts within a few days after taking them. I simply state that from hearsay."

(See Evidence page 636.)

R.B.KIRBY - Manager of "War Eagle" and "Centre Star".

Statement -
on oath

Q. What is your full name ?

A. Edmund B.Kirby.

Q. What position do you fill ?

A. I am Manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star Mines; do you wish the official names of the mines ?

Q. Are there just the two ?

A. Yes sir, the War Eagle Consolidated Mining and Development Company, Limited, and the Centre Star Mining Company, Limited, both of Rossland.

Q. I asked you to make certain statements that I was required to report upon, Mr. Kirby, and you have done so ?

A. I have. I hold in my hand here a copy of that statement. First as to the capital invested; that aggregates \$3,500,000 approximately, nearly all of this being Canadian. The principal owners live in Toronto.

Q. Does this represent all the capital invested ?

A. Yes, that is an approximate estimate that has been furnished me, taken from the Company's books. I took it from an estimate made by my predecessor Mr. Hastings; some of

"the books are kept in Toronto.

Q. Would you just read your statement, if you please ?

A. The capital invested in the mines themselves is about \$3,500,000, nearly all of which this being Canadian. The principal owners live in Toronto. This, however, is but a fraction of the capital really invested and absolutely dependent upon the above mines. It includes the Trail Smelter and Railroad connection, the entire Town of Trail and about 40 per cent of the Town of Rossland.

The relation of these mines to the community may be briefly stated as follows - this is a list of the Mining Companies with the present average daily tonnage :

British America Corporation	354 tons
War Eagle and Centre Star	416 "
All other mines	<u>38 "</u>
Total	808 "

These are the official published averages of the last two weeks.

The British America Corporation ore constitutes the main supply of the Le Roi Smelter at Northport; shutting down its mines would close the Smelter and depopulate the town.

The War Eagle and Centre Star ore

"likewise constitutes almost the entire supply of the Canadian Pacific Smelter at Trail; a stoppage of the mines would close this Smelter and depopulate the Town of Trail.

The Town of Rossland is also entirely dependent upon the mines - having no other productive industry.

The men employed and therefore the wages paid out are distributed approximately as follows:

British America Corporation, about 45 per cent	
War Eagle and Centre Star	" 40 " "
All other mines	" 15 " "
Total	100 " "

These figures indicate roughly the extent to which the business and property interests of Rossland depend on each of these groups of mines.

Then as to the nature of the mines. The mining is lode mining and the ore is found in fissure veins in shoots of exceptional thickness. It carries gold and copper and on the average it is low grade. The size of the bodies makes it possible to use heavy machinery and operate on a large scale. In this way low grade ore which would be unprofitable with ordinary mining is made to pay. At present the costs of mining here are higher

"than they ought to be in such large ore bodies and with such heavy production. Moreover, unless these deposits are an exception to the general rule, we must expect the product to lower with in grade with increasing dep.h. While developing and stoping are above the present pay limit, large quantities are discovered which are just below this limit. When the limit is lowered this ore will also be mined. For all these reasons it is necessary to lower the present expense of mining and treating ore. The future of the community depends upon the extent to which these economies can be carried.

The present rates of wages are as follows:-

Machino Miners	\$3.50 and
in shafts	4.00 to \$4.50
Shovellers and Carmen	2.50
Timbermen	3.00, 3.50 and \$4.50
Mechanica (Machinists)	3.50 to \$4.00
Engineers	3.50 and \$3.00 for underground 8 hour work.

The Hours of Labor.

The present shift is 8 hours for all underground work. Surface work is 10 hours, including time for lunch.

***The Number of Employees.**

The number of names upon the rolls, December 19th, 1899 is 617; reducing this to the number of men at 30 shifts per month gives about 590 as the average number of employees. In the future we hope to have work for from 750 to 1,000 men. I might add that the present number of employees is larger than two months ago.

Nationality of Employees.

In accordance with your instructions a census of our pay roll employees was taken December 22nd, 1899; each man was asked his nationality and reported as follows :-

British subjects	265
United States citizens (born or naturalized.)	231
Italians	7
Germans	3
Swedes	2
Unknown	3
Finnlanders	12
Laplanders	2
Belgians	1
Austrians	1
Switzerland	1
Total	576

I would add that we tried to ascertain

"the proportion of skilled machine men who are reported as British subjects. We think the proportion of these men is extremely small, most of them are from the United States.

Supply of Labor - There has always been a surplus of unskilled labor and a shortage of skilled machine drilled miners. These are greatly needed, and for want of them it has hitherto been necessary to employ a number of men who are not competent for this particular work. This is because each Smelter must have a certain minimum tonnage in order to operate at a reasonable cost. The miners production must reach this minimum tonnage, and, failing to do so, the Smelter and therefore the mine supplying it must shut down. The mines have continued to operate in this uneconomical way in the endeavor to build up a complete force of skilled machine men, they cannot continue to do so, and still less can they enlarge their operations without a supply of such men. It takes years of experience to make a skilled miner, and his work is worth good pay. The Mining Companies here are anxious to secure such men and to make it worth their while to remain. It is well understood that the only source of supply is the United States, Eastern

"Canada cannot furnish them because of the distance, the limited number of mining districts and the fact that a withdrawal of men would injure those districts.

The Alien Labor Laws make it impossible to bring in men, and yet, as a matter of fact, most of those secured have drifted in from the United States. The effect of this restriction therefore is to make a slow process out of what may be done quickly, and the industry suffers from the delay. The Mineral resources of British Columbia are the basis for a great commonwealth which in the future will be self sufficient and equipped with mining skill of every grade. At present, however, with the small population and the new industry it is impossible to develop rapidly without the aid of miners from the United States. Natural location has created a mutual industrial dependence which cannot be severed by a political line.

Alien Labor -

These Companies have not imported alien labor and do not know of any such importation.

The Effect of
the 8 Hour Law -
23)Cent.

It is impossible to state the effect of the 8 hour law upon our costs, because it has only been in operation for five months out of

our fiscal year.

As to the general effect of the 8 hour law I speak not only for myself but for mine owners and managers in general in saying that we have no desire to oppress labor. We did not make the present industrial system and are as powerless to change it as any laborer. We would gladly see every human being restricted to an 8 hour day. We would like to see all share in the comforts and luxuries of life, but the question is, who is to pay for it ?

In certain kinds of work men can do as much in 8 hours as in 10, if they will; the trouble is they wont; except when working for themselves by contract. The contract system which pays by the quantity of work done, instead of by the day, solves this difficulty. Moreover, it benefits the employer and the employee. Superior skill and industry receive the extra pay to which they are entitled. This system cannot be applied to all kinds of work or to all mines. In these cases one or both parties must suffer from the attempt to legislate comforts for one class out of the pockets of another class.

The majority of mines do not pay but are sinking money in the effort to find pay ore. Any increase of their burden discourages

"or stops the enterprise. A large pay mine, like any other producing business is a complicated affair, delicately adjusted to its conditions. A slight change is enough to destroy its profit and create a loss. Any persistent interference will "kill the goose that lays the golden eggs". A difference of two-tenths in the labor received for wages amounts to a profit in itself. Few mines can stand such a burden if it is imposed upon them. If unable to get relief by the contract system, many mines must close. I need hardly add that capital is proverbially timid and nothing will scare it off so promptly as class legislation of labor troubles.

Q. This statement though read by you you give in under oath as part of your evidence ? (Exhibit "Y 2")

A. I do.

8 Hour Law -

Q. I was going to ask whether from your position as Manager you have ever had the opportunity of comparing the difference in the result of the amount of work obtained under the same conditions as between the 8 hour day and the old system of the 10 hour day.

A. I have never been in charge of a mine

"up to the time when such a change was made. I have seen both systems in operation, but in different mines, so that I could not make an accurate comparison.

Q. Are you familiar with the hours of labor in the United States ?

A. I am.

Q. What are the usual hours of labor there ?

A. The usual hours are 10 hours.

Q. Is there any exception ?

A. There are exceptions in various places.

Colorado

An 8 hour law has just been put into effect, in Colorado and after more or less of a struggle it is now observed throughout the State.

Q. Was not that law introduced at an earlier stage in the legislative history of the State, and made broader than at present ?

A. I do not know.

Q. Then in Colorado at present the law is an 8 hour day ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Is that applicable to surface work there ?

A. No.

Q. What are the wages paid there under the present 8 hour day ?

A. They vary greatly, for two reasons, the difference in mining districts and also the

Wages in
Colorado.

"difference in the way mine owners and employees would look at it, some want one way and some another, but in our mining districts within a small area conditions varied so much that the average wage scale varies from \$2.50 in some districts up to \$3.50 in others, and even until recently it has been \$4.00 in some districts; all owing to the cost of living and character of mines, etc.

Q. That is for experienced miners ?

A. Yes.

Q. Would that refer largely to machine men or hammermen ?

A. Machine men as a rule receive 50 cents more than hand drillers. That is where hand drillers in Colorado receive \$3.00 per day, machine men would get \$3.50.

Q. What is the price of board there ?

A. There is, according to the remoteness of the camp, wide variations, but the standard board is \$1 for bunk and board.

Comparison of
Wages.

Q. How do the present wages in this camp compare with the wages paid at the present time in camps in Colorado ?

A. They are almost identical with Colorado wages.

Transfer of
Miners -

Q. What is the most effective way a person

"can transfer the best miners from one territory to another ?

A. The most simple and inexpensive way is by the natural inflow, that is miners who have friends and relatives in other places let them know when there is plenty of work here and they come; unless that natural flow is interfered with by the operation of the Union or the men themselves.

Q. I suppose the well known conditions, I mean quality and quantity of food supplied, the conditions in and about the bunk house would be an influence ?

A. I think so.

Q. And if the wages were the same and the conditions more favorable that would have a tendency to create a strong tide to that particular camp ?

A. Yes. I might add too, that one of the chief essentials in getting an inflow of the skilled industrious class of miners is the prospect of steady work and pay. If a good man comes to camp he wants work and he does not want a fuss; if he hears rumors of trouble and labor agitation he is apt to go somewhere else where he can work in peace.

Contract -

"Q. I wanted to ask you for information upon this point. It has been suggested to me on more than one occasion in different parts of the Province since I have commenced taking the evidence, that the tendency of contract labor is to cut down prices. In this way, I mean, a certain piece of work is put up for tender, and if there is a surplus of men tendering might be low, even lower than the regular rate of wages and that goes on from time to time the effect is to steadily and greatly press down the price of labor. Give me your views upon that point, please.

A. I believe that is an error in logic and in fact. The whole essence of the contract system by which a man is paid according to the work he performs, is that there must be absolute freedom, both the man and the employer must be absolutely free to settle upon their price. If the average pay received for this contract work does not greatly exceed the general wage level men will refuse to take contracts, and that simply ends the system. The only inducement to a man to take a contract in preference to wages is in order to make more by working harder. If by this steady work he can only make ordinary wages he would

"rather go on the pay roll list somewhere where he can rest frequently and take it easy when the shift boss is out of sight. I know it to be true from my own observation and experience that pay under the contract system always averages above the average wage level of that locality. I think the reason why many people are led into that error is because there are parts of the country, especially in the East, or the older settled community, where contract mining does not pay as much as our Western scale of wages. If the contract system goes into effect here and men do not average more than \$3.50 per day under it we will find ourselves unable to let any contract. There must be freedom however, it is utterly impossible to carry out the contract system if any organization attempts to interfere or influence bids in any way.

Q. Assuming that the contract system was that desired in any camp, could the management hope to continue it if they adopted a method by which the earnings would be reduced to or lower than the recognized rate of wages?

A. It would be impossible.

Q. Is there any danger of it forcing down the wage level?

A. Not in the least.

Q. What are the economic advantages then in the contract system if the wages are not in fact reduced ?

A. Because you get an honest day's work for the pay.

Q. I suppose the meaning of that is that while mining men, perhaps the most, are willing to give an honest day's work for an honest wage it is impossible to eliminate entirely those who are not, and is there a tendency that the average work descends to that of the least competent ?

A. That is always the way.

Q. Then the advantage of the contract system is to eliminate that ^{tendency} system ?

A. Yes, because each man works for himself and if he is especially skilled or industrious he knows he will get higher pay for it.

Q. There was one other point that was brought to my notice, and that was it was said that the rock varied, that a man may strike a soft spot and again strike a hard place where the wages immediately dropped, what then ?

A. Under the contract system he takes chances of once in a while being too low but he has the same chance of striking rock that is soft and easy and of getting high wages.

Q. From your experience do you recommend for

"contract a well settled recognized form of written contract ?

A. That depends somewhat upon the way in which the contract system is operated. In some mines a form is used, and in others where the contract is shorter there is no written agreement but simply a verbal agreement.

Q. What would you say as to whether any common form of contract could be used by a number of mines operating over a number of districts ?

A. I do not think it could.

Q. Suppose you take this district ?

A. That is something that I would not be able to answer, because it is one of the details that only experience with the system can decide; it is impossible to plan that beforehand.

Q. In taking a contract would there not be many things that the management would require to furnish, tools, light, etc. ?

A. Yes. Would it answer your question to say that I have seen very few cases in underground contract work where there was any misunderstanding or difference as to the terms; if such things did occur very often a mine would have to get out a printed form. In many

"Maines this occurs seldom ; where you have good superintendents these misunderstandings seldom occur.

(See Evidence pages 638 to 650.)

H.T.TREGREAR - Mining Superintendent.

Cost of Change - "Q. Which was the first mine of which you had superintendence ?

A. The Le Roi.

Q. For how long ?

A. From 5th January 1897 to August 1899.

Q. So that you were Superintendent of the Le Roi under the old system and under the new ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Would you kindly explain to me what the result of that change was ?

A. It made a difference of 20 men.

Q. In what capacity ?

A. Some at \$5.00, \$2.50 and \$3.50.

Q. Under the new system to do the same amount of work you had to increase your force by 20 men ?

A. Yes. We had to do that for this reason. When men were working 10 hours a day, men in the stopes would rig their machines and drill and blast for 10 hours; when they went to

"work under the 8 hours system men have very little time to drill.

Q. What was the result ?

A. We had to rig our machines and let them drill for 16 hours and blast once in 24. Then we had to put on men to go through the mine and blast holes that had not gone off and clean up places for men to commence work at 7, and put on an extra man to clear away so that men could be able to get to work and employ men to put timber in the mines.

Q. Did it require these 20 men, did it require all their time ?

A. It took them all their time to get things in shape to start next morning.

Q. So that they did not do anything else ?

A. No sir.

Q. What would be the daily expense ?

A. About \$65."

(See Evidence pages 658-659.)

SAMUEL MATHEW ROBINS - Superintendent of Coal Mines of
Nanaimo for 16 years employing 1200
men.

Q. How long have you been superintendent ?

A. 16 years.

His Views of -
Unions.

Q. And during what proportion of that time

"has there been a union ?

A. Our Union was started in July 1891.

Q. Does your company recognize the Union ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. To what extent ? Or would you state in your own way the method by which you meet the union, and how any differences that arise are managed ?

A. The Company recognizes the union as a body through whom any questions in dispute between operators and the company are sought to be adjusted. If a difference arises as to the rate of wages or discipline in the mines the matter is first discussed between the mines manager and the individuals concerned. The mines manager has really the control of all the underground workings. (The man responsible for the safety of the mine must be a certified mine manager. I am not one). If no arrangement can be brought about the matter is brought to the notice of the union executive committee, and if they fail to adjust matters with the works manager then the business is brought before me by the Committee. The Union Secretary, who is an important officer in the union, at each stage of the discussion, is present, and uses his influence to bring about a friendly

"arrangement. A great deal depends upon the judgment and good sense and fair mindedness of the union secretary. If he is a man of sound judgment and good sense, he can remove an immense amount of friction. The union, ever since the formation of the association, have in the selection of their officers exercised the wisest judgment.

Q. Then if the question were asked you by a miner, who was not a member of the union, whether he should join or not, what would be your advice ?

A. Join by all means.

Q. As a matter of choice do you prefer dealing with the officers of the union rather than with the men ?

A. Most assuredly.

Q. Why ?

A. Because matters that are brought to me through the union have gone through a process of sifting and revision, and all artificial grievances have in most instances, been eliminated before coming to me. That is one reason. Another reason is that in a well organized and reasonably well conducted union no countenance should be given to the airing of personal grievances between the men and the

"bosses. I think those are the principal reasons.

Q. I suppose the men would take no action now without deliberation and you always know whence the action comes from ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Could you give me an illustration of how that was done before the union started ?

A. Previous to the existence of the union instances have occurred where meetings have been summoned by unsigned notices for the purposes of demanding an increase of wages or to discuss a modification of other existing arrangements by parties utterly unknown to their associates and thereby brought about general dissatisfaction merely in revenge for individual slights they imagined themselves to have been subjected to, but such a thing could not occur now.

Q. I suppose you still have your difficulties sometimes ?

A. Well, yes. But so far we have adjusted every one of them without any disturbance of the friendly relations existing between the owners and the men.

Q. Then if I have apprehended you aright, far from dreading the unions, when properly officered, you regard them as a benefit to

"capital ?

A. Precisely so.

Q. And do the men ?

A. Most assuredly.

Q. You are good enough to let me have a copy of the memorandum of agreement between your company and the union? It is now produced and marked "Exhibit C 3"?

A. Yes sir.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT entered into between the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, Limited, and the Minors and Mine Laborers' Protective Association of Vancouver Island, this 24th day of July, 1891.

1st. The Company agrees to employ minors and mine laborers only who are already members of the Minors' and Mine Laborers' Protective Association, or who, within a reasonable period after employment become members of the Association.

2nd. The Company agrees to dismiss no employee who is a member of the Association without reasonable cause.

3rd. The Association agrees that under no consideration will they stop work or strike without exhausting all other means of conciliation available.

4th. The Association agree that they will not interfere with the company in employing or discharging employees.

5th. The Association shall comprise all men employed underground excepting officials and engine drivers, and above ground all day laborers, not officials, engine drivers or mechanics.

6th. This agreement can be terminated by 30 days' notice on either said.

For the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company Limited.

.....
Superintendent.

For the Miners and Mine Laborers' Protective Association of Vancouver Island,

.....1
.....
.....
.....
.....
Committee."

"Q. I notice by the first clause that the Company agrees to employ miners and mine laborers only who are already members of the Miners and Mine Laborers' Protective Association, or, who, within a reasonable period after employment, become members of the association. Is not that rather a stringent

"clause ? Please give me your opinion.

A. It was objectionable at first to a good many of the old timers, I call them, who had never worked in a union colliery and were inclined to kick at modern methods. At first many of these men declined to join the union or to contribute to its funds, but without exception, after being shown the unfairness to the large majority who were working in the general interest of all, resistance quickly disappeared.

Q. Then how did you deal with the clause providing for the discontinuing of any men who were not union men (within a reasonable period) ?

A. There would probably have been some friction in carrying the last part of clause one, into effect, had not the management brought a little gentle pressure to bear in individual interests.

Q. In these cases you mean that you would advise them to join the union ?

A. Yes, and in advising them to join the union they must see that I had no alternative but to enforce provisions.

Q. I suppose that in the introduction of a clause of that kind a reasonable amount of play was allowed on either side ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Then in Clause 2 the Company agrees to dismiss no employee who is a member of the association without reasonable cause. Is not that in conflict with clause 4 ?

A. Yes. The one is corrective of the other.

Q. Is there any difficulty in reconciling the two ?

A. We have never had any.

Q. You adhered strictly to your rights under clause 4 ?

A. Yes, with reasonable cause.

Q. Then what is reasonable cause ?

A. To disobey the orders of the Manager or of other officers, irregularity in their attendance at work, or if they were incompetent. These would be the only causes.

Q. I notice that Clause 3 seems to be a very important one. viz: "The Association agrees that under no consideration will they stop work by strike, without exhausting all other means of conciliation available."

Have they adhered to that ?

A. I can say that that rule has been generally adhered to; in a few cases temporarily disregarded, but always acted upon when the Clause was brought to the attention of the men themselves. The men are very punctilious

in carrying out the agreement.

Q. What is the usual day's work ; how many hours ?

A. In the mine the miners work 8 hours.

Q. That is not by law but by custom ?

A. By custom.

Q. The 8-hour law has no application to coal mines ?

A. No sir.

Q. And other workmen ?

A. All workers underground 8 hours.

Q. And above ground ?

A. Nine hours.

Q. Have you personal knowledge as to the usual hours of work per day in England ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What are they ?

A. In mines, 8 hours; not universal, but largely so throughout the mining districts.

Q. For underground work ?

A. For underground work, that is for miners proper. The helpers in some English collieries work longer hours. By helpers I mean fillers. In some English collieries the miner does not fill his car.

Q. Do you consider it in the interests of the Company and of good citizenship that married men should be employed, and encouraged

to get little houses, etc ?

A. Yes, I think it is wholly to be desired that a married man should have an opportunity ^{owning} of ~~being~~ his home. There is another side to that, where the permanency of the mine is not certain.

Contracts -

Q. In mining camps, where unions exist and are recognized, what is your opinion as to whether or not contracts are upon the whole favorable to the men ?

A. I think the objectionable features of contract work are less pronounced in a union mine than in a non-union mine. In a non-union mine there would be no safeguard to work being done at starvation wages. In a Union mine there is always sufficient union public feeling to prevent any reckless undertendering.

Unions -

Q. Do you think that the existence of a union in connection with any mining camp has a tendency to improve the average standard of miners or otherwise ?

A. In a well conducted union the tendency is to bring in a superior class of miners ; it also has an undoubted beneficial effect upon the individual miner.

Q. What is the effect of unions upon the drinking habits of the men ?

"A. Though it is difficult to measure the actual influence of the union on the steadiness and general moral character of its members, my experience here in Nanaimo is that it has a good influence. The influence is certainly good, if for no other reason than that it gives a man a feeling of self respect that he does not possess where he considers himself to be at the mercy of an unreasonable or short tempered boss. For instance, where there is no union, any arbitrary treatment on the part of a boss has to be submitted to, there being practically no court of appeal; but with a union a miner never ceases to realize that under no circumstances can he suffer arbitrary treatment. In the one case a man can be kicked out of the mine and must submit even with starvation staring him in the face; it may be at the mere whim of the boss, but in case of union mines, if the boss loses his temper he thinks twice before allowing it to master him to the point of committing an injustice. The general influence of the union is to improve the wages of the members as well as to raise their general status. With regard to the question of hours of labor, of whether work shall be done by the day or

"by contract, these are the questions that at all times have to be discussed fairly and frankly between the opposing interests, and so far as my experience goes they can always be settled on a basis fair and just to both sides.

Q. For what period of years does your experience extend over ?

A. I have been a close observer of labor matters for nearly 30 years and although not until the last 16 years brought into direct relation with miners and other laborers, long previous to that as secretary of large collieries in England I had special opportunities of studying labor questions, and I may safely say that where difference between employer and employed have arisen and no satisfactory arrangement has been come to and strikes have resulted I have never failed to be able to trace the cause to the failure of temper or an absence of reasonableness, either on the one side or the other. I have in mind to-day a very bad strike in the north of England that caused a stoppage of six large collieries for over six months, which would never have taken place had a little patience and forbearance been exercised on the part of the

"manager, and perhaps I may add, a little less vaunting of the principle of union at all times and seasons that caused a considerable amount of irritation. Questions in dispute that are comparatively insignificant at the beginning are sometimes entirely lost sight of during ^{the} heat of discussion and attempted coercion on one side and resistance to unreasonable demands on the other.

Q. You mention the tendency of unions to increase wages. But supposing an occasion should arise when it was found absolutely necessary to reduce wages, what then?

A. In answer to your question I am glad to have the opportunity to testify to the good feeling that amounted to generosity on the part of the union in a body about four years after the union was established. The condition of the coal markets called for a revision of the scale of wages paid to the men and on the matter being explained, first to the union officers and afterwards to the whole of the company's employees assembled to hear my explanation, the union in a body, without a single dissenting voice accepted a reduction of wages to take immediate effect, of 20 per cent, which at that time was equivalent to

Wages Reduced
\$20,000 a month-

"making the company a present of \$20,000 a month. This reduction was adhered to only for a short period, but a ten per cent reduction continued for nearly four years. We restored the 10 per cent not quite two years ago.

Q. Has the Union here any provision for sick Sick Benefits - benefits ?

A. They have a fund which they term the medical and accident fund. They subscribe a fixed sum of \$1 per head per month, and this is supplemented by periodical levies according to necessity. From this fund they pay a staff of doctors; they also make an allowance of \$1 per day during the time of disablement of any of their members by accident in the mines. In the case of permanent injury, preventing a man from working again, or in case of death \$500 is paid to him or his family; in case of loss of a limb by accident in the mines a sum varying from \$100 to \$500 is paid. Nearly all the ~~members~~ miners belong to the benefit society of the union who have not made any provision for sickness.

Q. Are the miners frugal and temperate ?

A. I think I am safe in saying that the majority of the married men are frugal and temperate. The savings bank people would be able to show a large amount lying at the

miners' account, but I think that it is not as much as that in two private banks here; but I do not know ^{whether} ~~where~~ this information is to be relied upon. I know a large number of men make it a point of putting something in the savings bank here.

Sunday Work - Q. The miner here only works six days in the week ?

A. Six days, that is all.

Q. For work that must be done on Sunday ?

A. We do as little as we possibly can; but we never mine coal or do any rock work; we do no ordinary work on Sunday.

Q/ Have you ever been in connection with any mines where the work was seven days a week ?

A. Only on a very small scale. But I know that in gold mines it is customary to work seven days.

Q. Do you think that practice is conducive to the benefit of the men ?

A. I think it should be left to the men themselves. I do not think it should be forced upon them. It ought to be a matter of arrangement. It might be that nothing would be gained from a seventh day, if they did not work they would come down to town until some provision was made for their amusement.

"Q. I suppose where home life could be had it would be better to have a day of rest ?

A. Yes sir.

Chinese Labor - Q. What view do you take as to whether or not Chinese labor should be admitted to the mines ?

A. I have such strong views as to the undesirability of employing Chinese, or rather Oriental labor, that I am afraid I could hardly give an unbiased view on this question as I regard the question almost wholly in relation to its bearing upon the future prosperity and progress of the Province. For temporary purposes the Chinese have their uses; but the danger is that so long as they are employed the door will be shut against the most desirable class of settlers.

Q. Then I would gather from what you say, that, having regard to the permanent interests of the country it is wholly inadvisable to promote the introduction of Chinese labor.

A. Yes, that is practically it. That puts what I wish to state in a nutshell. There is one other feature of it that is often forgotten. In a district where Chinese are employed upon most kinds of manual labor the same of the white workmen look upon that manual labor with utter distaste. He looks upon it as a

"kind of labor that is only fitted for a coolie.

Q. Does your company employ any Chinese labor below ground ?

A. No.

Q. To what extent above ground, if any ?

A. We employ them as stokers, as trackmen, and pit head men.

Q. What is the difference of wage between a Chinaman and a white man ?

A. We pay Chinamen from \$1 to \$1.25 per day; and the white labor \$2.50 on an average less than one half.

Q. Do they board themselves ?

A. Yes, in all cases. We never have boarded a man in the 37 years we have been in business, not a single man. If there is any excuse beyond the question of safety it would be found in this; that our chief market is San Francisco, and there we have to compete with coal from Washington Territory that goes in free of duty while we pay 67½ cents a ton duty, so that we are handicapped to that extent."

(See Evidence pages 672 to 684.)

J.B.HASTINGS - Former Manager of "War Eagle" and "Centre Star"

Contract -

Q. What do you say in regard to letting contracts ?

A. My only experience at Roseland in the War Eagle was before the passage of the 8 hour law when I asked for bids on contract work and none put in were as low as we had been doing it by day's wages, so I did not accept them, although it has been our intention to introduce the contract system even at an apparent increased cost. We think that the contract system develops a more skilful workman, and even if his day's wage is higher it is still economy to his employer. With the contractor there is no wasting time. He is quick in his movements, and studies the character of the ground.

(See Evidence page 689.)

More Men
Required -

Q. How is the demand for the increased number of miners that is required to be met ?

Remedy -

A. I think only by going eastwards and contracting with men there to come out and learn the mining trade.

Q. Is there a surplus of skilled miners in the Western States at the present time ?

A. No sir.

"Q. Is your answer made from an investigation or from communicating with persons who are well acquainted with the situation ?

A. Yes, from conversations with the leading mine owners of the Coeur d'Alenes who have been forced by circumstances during the past year to adopt this policy, and also by a conversation and correspondence with mine managers in California, Colorado, Montana, Michigan and Idaho.

Q. Supposing intelligent, competent men came from the East, how could they get employment and learn the mining business ?

A. Not a very large number all at once, but there seems to be a steady demand for skilled miners, and I should think that competent men coming from the East could, in a week say, find employment of some kind in the Kootenais a short time afterwards in the mines as muckers, then very soon get work as hammermen or machine men, and three months of this last experience would probably train them so that they could obtain constantly \$3.00 to \$4.00 per day in the mines. "

(See Evidence page 694.)

RALPH SMITH - President of Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and Secretary of Nanaimo Union.

Chinese Labor- Q. What is your view as to the employment of Chinese labor in coal mines ?

A. My view is that they are a very dangerous class of persons to be in coal mines.

Q. Why ?

A. Because of their ignorance, and of the want of enterprise to acquire the knowledge necessary to make them efficient workmen.

Q. That is so far as the question of safety is concerned ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Then in regard to the future well-being of the Province, how do you regard the employment of Chinese labor in mines ?

A. I believe it is absolutely necessary to employ white labor if the real prosperity of the Province is to be brought about.

Q. Why ?

A. Because it is desirable to have intelligent and industrious citizens who will build up the country by having good homes and families, a condition of things which is impossible if Chinese are permitted to come into the country unrestricted or to work in the industries of the Province.

Q. The chief industry of the Province is likely to be mining ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. From the nature of the mines ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Then if I understand you rightly, the fact of the unrestricted introduction of Chinese labor would be to ^{make them} ~~take~~ in the mines the larger proportion of the inhabitants of the country as they ^{mines} ~~become~~ developed ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. The chief benefit that the public at large derive from the mines is the expenditure of the cost of production ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. The larger proportion of the cost of production is wages ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. If they would engage all Chinamen the wages would be lower ?

A. About one half.

Q. But even that one-half is not expended in the country ?

A. Not expended in the country.

Q. So that unless the ownership of the mines existed it would not be a benefit at all ?

A. No sir.

Q. And whether the ownership of the mines

existed in Canada or not the large employment of Chinese labor would result in the employment of two classes, of the owner and the Chinese, and you think the Province could not be built up in the sense of a British Province ?

A. That is right. I may say that I have been well acquainted in the North of England, and I have been repeatedly asked as to the advisability of people coming from that section of England to this Province, and the fact of the large number of Chinamen working in several industries of the Province has always made it impossible for me to encourage good men, British subjects, to come to the Province, and to the coal mines especially.

Q. Well in the New Vancouver coal mine, are any employed ?

A. No sir. Well the conditions under the New Vancouver Coal Company are exceptional in the coal mining industry in the Province; the white men who are coal miners always come to Nanaimo in the first instance to receive employment. I account for that run upon Nanaimo in two ways, first, at most of the other coal mines Chinese are employed, creating in the mines a condition of unsafety; in the second place the men of Nanaimo have their liberty

"to organize and express their grievances and seek to make proper settlement without interference by the management. At the other coal mines on Vancouver Island such liberty of organization is forbidden, men have been repeatedly discharged on account of demanding recognition. These are the two reasons that I give for the demand on the Company at Nanaimo.

Q. These are the two reasons for the miners first coming to Nanaimo ?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do you think that accounts for the fact that there are always sufficient men there to meet the demand ?

A. Yes sir, I think it accounts for that and for the large surplus of men constantly there.

Q. Do you think this refusal to permit labor organization is in the interest of capital in the place where it occurs ?

A. I do not think so.

Q. Why ?

A. Because of the lack of interest by the miners in the surroundings and in the property. Excepting of course in the case of Chinese, at Nanaimo, the white miners would be

ready to make any sacrifice and any venture on behalf of the protection of the Company's property, but where miners are prevented from having their just liberties a material loss is sustained, in many cases unknown to the management.

Q. Could you give me an illustration of what you mean ?

**Saving of
Property**

A. Supposing a portion of the mine to be caving in, to save the property within the area would entail considerable risk to the miners. Under the New Vancouver Coal Company management, many instances could be given of miners making such risk to secure such property but I have been informed of many instances at other collieries where the miners allowed the property to be lost rather than take the risk of endeavoring to recover it.

Q. Has the importance of what you have said ever been brought to the notice of the owners of the collieries to which you refer that have refused recognition ?

A. Yes sir, I have made similar statements to the owners myself. As a matter of fact one of the owners of the Wellington and Comox mines is constantly wondering how it is that the management of the New Vancouver Coal Company come to such terms with their miners.

"my answer to that question to them would be above.

(See Evidence pages 696 to 700)

CHARLES W. HOPP - Manager of the New British Columbia Development Corporation, Limited, an English Company owning the "Emily Edith" Mine at Silvertown and other mining property. \$97,000 invested.

Scarcity of Men - "During the years we have been operating the Slocan, there has been a constant shortage of skilled miners; there has usually been plenty of men offering their services as miners, but only a portion of these were really skilled miners, and we have been obliged on several occasions to put muckers or mine laborers to do miners work in the Emily Edith Mine.

So far as I know no systematic attempt has been made to import aliens, either miners or otherwise, but although it is reported that there are a number of idle miners in the Rossland District, I am convinced that there are nothing like enough idle men in the country to fill the Slocan mines alone, to say nothing of the large number which will be wanted at an early date in the Boundary country, consequently it will be necessary, whatever the result

"or the Mine owners to import miners from some point outside the Province."

(See Evidence page 707.)

Wages too High. - "The question of whether the Slocan mines as a whole can afford to pay any considerable increase of wages is perhaps outside the scope of this enquiry, but, if you will allow me, I should like to make a few comparisons. Putting also the Payne Mine, and possibly one or two others as being altogether exceptional mines, and hardly representative of the average, I would point out that the average width of clean ore in the clean ore mines is not over 8 inches, and to get this 8" of shipping ore, about three or four times as much waste rock has to be mined. In the case of mines containing concentrating ore, it will be safe to say that to get one ton of concentrates at the very least ten tons of ore and waste must be mined, and allowing for loss of value in concentration, in many cases 10 tons would hardly do it.

Even allowing for the present fair price of silver and the unusually high price of lead, neither of which can be counted on to last, concentrated ore worth \$90 per ton (allowing for Smelter deductions for loss in smelting) is a high average; I know several mines that

"do not run as high as that. Deducting \$18. United States duty on the lead, and \$20.00 freight and smelter charges, which is the lowest rate obtainable on concentrates, leave \$52.00 per ton; divide this by 10 and you will get a value of \$5.20 per ton, when the ore leaves the mine, out of which you have to pay for mining, timbering, mine management, concentration, tramping to concentrator, and carting of concentrates to shipping point, bagging as well as development (which in most Slocum mines will amount to almost as much as the actual mining) repairs and renewals to machinery, and Head Office Management; so that it is clear the margin of profit is small, and could not in the majority of cases stand such rise in wages as 25 per cent, in fact any rise at all under present conditions could only result in closing many of the mines. This, remember, is under the present high prices for lead and silver.

In the Rossland mines, where \$3.00 for hand drillers is allowed by the Union (\$3.50 for machine drilling being much more efficient than \$3.00 for hand drilling) the average value of ore as it is mined is far more than \$5.20 per ton, and if you add the cost

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"Rossland is \$4.50 per ton, and which is the equivalent of cost of concentration in the Slocan (making \$9.70 per ton) even then the ore mines of Rossland is far richer than this which would be the equivalent of the value of the ore in the Slocan; I am not speaking of the Payne and one or two other mines, which are the exception, but of the average lead and silver mines in the Kootenai. As an offset to this, our surface costs in the Slocan are, I believe, less than in Rossland, and cost of developments, owing to softer rock is rather less, but what the real value of these differences is, cannot be determined until the mines are opened up to a much larger extent than at the present.

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Capital Kept Out - "During the past six months two instances have come under my notice where the present labor troubles have directly affected the investment of capital.

In one case we had arranged a sale of a large group of very promising mining claims in the Duncan River District; the price and terms had been agreed upon, and the claims examined by the engineer of the purchasers, and he had reported very favorably indeed, but after a good deal of hesitation and delay

"the parties decided not to go on with it; the reason given to the owners was that the ore was too low grade under present conditions to mine at a profit, but the intending purchaser told me that the (what he considered) rise in wages and general industrial unrest was the real reason for not taking it up.

In the other case a gentleman for whom we have been doing a very large amount of business for many years past, paid the Province a visit last September. I knew he was open for investment here and tried to get him interested in the mines, but he said he would not invest money in any country which was disturbed by labor troubles; he went from here to Mexico, where I hear he has invested very largely.

Interference
With Men -

With reference to the question of the number of miners in the Slocan at the present time, out of work, as you have had a good deal of evidence on this point I will only say that I should think 200 is much over the mark, to say there are 1,000 is absurd. As a proof that there can hardly be 200 miners out of work in the Slocan, I might mention that about two months ago some 40 or 50 men, most, if not all of whom, are members of the Silverton Union, came up to our mines to "persuade" the m

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"working for us (who were not members of the Union) to quit work; out of this 40 or 50, we counted only 8 miners, and some of these had left work ^{on} which they were engaged specially to come up with the crowd. The balance of this 50 men consisted of hotel keepers, storekeepers, teamsters, assayer, carman, wood choppers, laborers and some others. I might also mention that we had about four miners working underground and about 8 laborers working at outside work, or 12 in all, and it took about 50 men to "peaceably persuade" them to join the Union.