

COPY OF TELEGRAM SENT TO HON. G. D. ROBERTSON; Ottawa.

Regina, September 9, 1931.

Hon. Senator Robertson,  
Minister of Labour,  
Ottawa.

Re Estevan strike James Sloan later of Calgary and Alberta coal fields together with M. J. Forkin of Winnipeg organized branch of Mine Workers of Canada at Estevan two weeks ago STOP My deputy interviewed men who undoubtedly have number of grievances both real and inaginary but their leaders Sloan and Forkin will not reveal men's demands STOP Operators at first refused to meet union representatives because of admitted affiliation with third internationals STOP Eventually two leading operators met union delegation and offered to negotiate but union refused to reveal its demands unless all operators present hence in absence of some operators union called strike for Tuesday morning last STOP Six hundred men are out and roads to all mines picketed all quiet however and unless union prepared to negotiate with fair operators feel strike will fail because of demands of unemployed for chance to work prompted by feeling that union not acting properly in refusing to state its demands and negotiate with those operators who desire to be fair to workmen STOP One large mine proposes operate next day or two when real test of situation may be revealed STOP Advised Sloan Monday to apply for board of conciliation before going on strike but advice ignored.

John A. Merkley.