

OPEN LETTER

TO THE MINERS OF THE SASK. COALFIELDS

FELLOW WORKERS!

The heroic month-long struggle of the Estevan-Bienfait miners is in danger of meeting complete defeat. The strikers resumed work on October 8th without anything more tangible than a promise of negotiations with the operators on the conclusion of the Royal Commission Enquiry, which is promised on October 18th. To gain their point the operators temporarily granted several concessions (recognition of the Pit Committee, granting right of check-weighmen, etc.), but the miners returned to work under their old unbearable conditions, particularly regarding wages, which are to remain meanwhile on the old level. It is clear that the operators made this manouvre in order to get the men back to work, disrupt their union and then attempt to completely break down the demands of the miners. There is no guarantee that even the temporary concessions gained by the miners will be lived up to by the operators.

The operators were able to gain this temporary victory over the miners by employing all the means of terrorism and treacherous betrayal at their disposal. The City and Provincial Police, also the R.C.M.P. were called in and used to arrest the strike leaders and intimidate the men. The operators' agent, Deputy Minister of Labor Malloy, an A.F. of L. faker, was brought down to persuade the strikers to resume work pending the fake investigation of the Royal Commission and to break faith with their union. It is also evident that agents of the operators were working within the Strike Committee and were instrumental in getting the strikers back to work and betraying the miners' heroic battle.

It must be noted that the official representatives of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada Executive resisted the decision to end the strike at the meeting of the Pit Committees, and were to openly state their position at the mass meeting of the strikers on October 7th, when one of them was arrested and the other forced to leave town to avoid arrest by the police. The Strike Committee did not heed the advice of the M.W.U.C. representatives and the blame for the partial defeat of the strike rests with it.

THE POSITION OF THE WORKERS' UNITY LEAGUE IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The strikers should not have resumed work, but continued negotiations until a district agreement, meeting the requirements of the miners, was signed.
2. The Pit Committees should have consistently fought for the strikers' demands, instead of which some of them had secret meetings with the agents of the operators, without the knowledge of the men.
3. Some of the Pit Committees exposed their betrayal of the strikers themselves by urging the men in their mines to resume work immediately on Wednesday, before the strikers themselves had voted on the question.
4. Out of four hundred strikers only a minority of them was permitted to vote on the question, according to the fake lists supplied by the operators.

These points show clearly how the strike was betrayed and defeated.

The miners must not be further misled by the smooth promises of the Royal Commission and the faker Malloy. They must prepare their forces to resume their struggle with renewed vigour on October 19th and smash all manouvres of the operators and attempted betrayal on the part of the Pit Committees. Their immediate demands must be:

1. Oust all wavering and treacherous elements from the Pit Committees. Elect Militant workers who will put up a real fight for the miners' demands. Choose militant workers for check-weighmen.
2. That all demands of the miners be included in the District Agreement on October 19th.
3. Build up the Union, smash any attempt to sever the miners from the WUL, and prepare to strike on October 20th if the demands of the miners are not granted.

4. **DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE POLICE AND THE MILITIA, AND THE RELEASE OF ALL ARRESTED WORKERS!**

5. **DEMAND FULL COMPENSATION TO THE WIVES AND DEPENDANTS OF THE MURDERED AND WOUNDED STRIKERS!**

The Workers' Unity League pledges its **FULL SUPPORT** to the struggle of the Sask. miners. The conditions are favorable to win the demands of the miners if they put up a consistent struggle. **TURN THE TEMPORARY DEFEAT INTO A VICTORY FOR THE WORKERS AND SHOW THAT THE HEROIC STRUGGLE OF A MONTH'S DURATION, WHEREIN 3 WORKERS LOST THEIR LIVES AND MANY SUFFERED VERY GREATLY, WAS NOT FOUGHT IN VAIN!**

Saskatchewan-Manitoba District Council
of the Workers' Unity League.