

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE STRIKE

in the Bienfait and Estevan Coal Fields

August 26, 1931

JAMES SLOAN IN ADDRESSING THE MINERS OF THE DISTRICT IN THE TOWN HALL AT ESTEVAN, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS STATED, "IF YOU STAY SOLID TOGETHER, YOU WILL HAVE THE ENTIRE WORKERS UNITY LEAGUE OF THE RED INTERNATIONALE BEHIND YOU." AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SUPPORT THEY MIGHT EXPECT TO RECEIVE HE INSTANCED THE BRITISH MINE STRIKE IN 1926, WHEN THE SOVIET MINERS SENT FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO FEED THE BRITISH STRIKERS.

September 1, 1931

EACH MINE MANAGER OF THE DISTRICT RECEIVED A LETTER FROM JAMES SLOAN, PRESIDENT OF THE MINE WORKERS UNION OF CANADA, CALLING FOR A JOINT CONFERENCE OF ALL OPERATORS AND MINE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT OF HOURS, CONTRACT AND DAY WAGE RATES, AND HOUSING, AS WELL AS WORKING CONDITIONS IN AND AROUND THIS DISTRICT. THIS MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL AT ESTEVAN ON SEPTEMBER 3, AT 7.30 O'CLOCK.

September 3, 1931

THE MINE MANAGERS, UNDER REGISTERED COVER, NOTIFIED JAMES SLOAN THAT UNDER NO CONSIDERATION WOULD THEY MEET HIM OR ANY OTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS HIS, WHICH BY HIS OWN STATEMENT BOASTS OF A DIRECT CONNECTION WITH THE ENTIRE UNITY LEAGUE AND RED INTERNATIONALE OF SOVIET RUSSIA. THEY STATED THEY WERE WILLING AT ANY AND ALL TIMES TO MEET THEIR EMPLOYEES TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

September 4, 1931

AT A MEETING BETWEEN THE OPERATORS AND MR. T. M. MOLLOY, COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THE OPERATORS AGREED TO MEET A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL MINES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AND SETTLING ANY GRIEVANCES OR COMPLAINTS THE MINERS MIGHT HAVE. THIS OFFER MR. MOLLOY REPORTED WAS REJECTED BY THE MINERS REPRESENTATIVES.

September 7, 1931

MINE MANAGERS RECEIVED ANOTHER NOTICE FROM JAMES SLOAN CALLING FOR ANOTHER JOINT MEETING THAT EVENING. OTHERWISE A STRIKE WOULD BE CALLED EFFECTIVE THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 8. TO THIS THE OPERATORS PAID NO ATTENTION.

September 8, 1931

ALL MINES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT CLOSED BY STRIKE EXCEPT TRUAX-TRAEER STRIPPING OPERATION WHICH CLOSED DOWN VOLUNTARILY.

September 14 and 15th.

RIOTS OCCURRED IN AN ATTEMPT TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS WHEN THREE OF THE MINES ATTEMPTED TO START BY USING FARMER LABOR THAT WAS DESIROUS OF WORKING. AT ONE OF THE PLANTS THE BOARDING HOUSE WAS RUSHED, ONE OF THE FARMERS KNOCKED DOWN AND A SERIOUS FIGHT OCCURRED ON THE STAIRWAY WHEN THE SPECIAL CONSTABLES ATTEMPTED TO STOP THE STRIKE. MINERS ENTERING THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING. THE MINES WERE FORCED TO TAKE THE FARMERS FROM THE PROPERTY DUE TO INSUFFICIENT POLICE PROTECTION TO HANDLE THE RIOT.

September 17, 1931

DUE TO THE EFFORT OF TWO ESTEVAN CITIZENS A MEETING WAS ARRANGED AND HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL HALL BETWEEN THE OPERATORS AND THE MINERS COMMITTEES. THE STRIKE LEADERS HAD STATED THAT THIS MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN AN EFFORT TO IRON OUT THE DIFFICULTIES AND AGREED THAT THE QUESTION OF UNION RECOGNITION WOULD BE A DEBATABLE ONE. AT THE SAME TIME THEY GAVE TO THE PRESS A STATEMENT "UNION RECOGNITION IS THE ONLY SOLUTION." AND AT THE MEETING AT NIGHT THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE STRIKERS STATED THAT BEFORE THEY COULD DISCUSS ANY GRIEVANCES THE UNION WOULD THEN AND THERE HAVE TO BE RECOGNIZED. THIS THE OPERATORS REFUSED TO DO FOR THE SAME REASONS SET FORTH IN THEIR LETTER TO JAMES SLOAN.

September 21, 1931.

MR. M. S. CAMPBELL CHIEF CONCILIATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, OTTAWA, ARRIVED IN ESTEVAN AND AFTER MEETING WITH THE STRIKE LEADERS MET THE DEEP SEAM OPERATORS WHO AGREED, "THAT SHOULD THE MINERS AGREE TO RETURN TO WORK AT ONCE PENDING THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION, THE MINE OWNERS CONCERNED AGREED THAT ALL THEIR FORMER EMPLOYEES, WHO REPORTED TO WORK, WOULD BE REINSTATED WITHOUT PREJUDICE." THIS WAS REPORTED TO THE STRIKE COMMITTEE AT NIGHT AND AN ANSWER PROMISED MR. CAMPBELL THE MORNING OF THE 22ND OF THEIR DECISION.

September 22, 1931

HIS HONOR JUDGE WYLIE OF THE DISTRICT COURT, ESTEVAN, RECEIVED AN ORDER-IN-COUNCIL FROM THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT APPOINTING HIM A COMMISSIONER UNDER THE INQUIRIES ACT TO INVESTIGATE ALL ASPECTS OF THE MINES IN THIS AREA. NO WORD AS YET RECEIVED FROM THE MINES AS TO THE OFFER OF THE OPERATORS TO REINSTATE THE OLD EMPLOYEES PENDING A FULL INVESTIGATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

September 23, 1931.

THE OPERATORS AGAIN REPORTED TO THE CHIEF CONCILIATION OFFICER THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET THE MINERS IN A JOINT CONFERENCE AT 8 P.M. OF THIS DATE AND INSISTED UPON AN ANSWER FROM THE MINERS BEFORE 4 P.M. OF THEIR ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF SUCH OFFER. NO REPLY WAS RECEIVED FROM THE STRIKE LEADERS.

DO YOU KNOW: THE OPERATORS AS YET HAVE NO CONCEPTION AS TO WHAT THE DEMANDS OF THE MINERS ARE?

DO YOU KNOW: THAT EACH OF THE OPERATORS HAS AGREED TO MEET HIS OWN STRIKE EMPLOYEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ANY AND ALL GRIEVANCES?

DO YOU KNOW: THE OPERATORS HAVE AGREED TO MEET A COMMITTEE OF THE STRIKING MINERS (PROVIDING THEY WERE EMPLOYED AS OF THE DATE OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE STRIKE) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING WHAT COMPLAINTS THE STRIKING MINERS HAVE?

DO YOU KNOW: THE OPERATORS HAVE AGREED TO REINSTATE ALL OF THEIR OLD EMPLOYEES WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION PENDING SUCH INVESTIGATION.

DO YOU KNOW: THE OPERATORS HAVE BEEN AND ARE WILLING TO CO-OPERATE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT WITH BOTH PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS IN AN ENDEAVOR TO GET THE MEN TO RETURN TO WORK BEFORE MARKETS ARE PERMANENTLY LOST TO THE SASKATCHEWAN OPERATORS.

DO YOU KNOW: TO ALL THESE EFFORTS THERE HAS ONLY BEEN ONE REPLY FROM THE STRIKE LEADERS, THAT BEING, "RECOGNIZE THE MINE WORKERS UNION OF CANADA BEFORE WE WILL DISCUSS ANY OTHER MATTERS"?

DO YOU KNOW: THE MINE OPERATORS HAVE STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE SUCH A UNION FEELING THAT IN DOING SO THEY ARE PROTECTING THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY, THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, AND THEMSELVES?

We believe the foregoing is sufficient information for the miners and public to draw their own conclusions.

This Advertisement Inserted by

Bienfait Mines, Ltd. - Canadian Coal and Briquetting Company, Ltd. - Crescent Collieries, Ltd.
 Eastern Collieries of Bienfait, Ltd. - Manitoba and Saskatchewan Coal Co., Ltd. - National
 Mines, Ltd. - Shand Coal and Brick Co. - Western Dominion Collieries, Ltd.