
MINORITY REPORT

Of a Select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Anderson, Baker, Croft, Smith and McKenzie, appointed for the purpose of enquiring into all the circumstances connected with the attack made by a number of persons upon the funeral procession of the late Ellis Roberts, of Wellington, on the 4th instant.

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MR. SPEAKER,

I find as follows:—

1. That the funeral procession left Wellington at the appointed time on 4th March, 1891, and proceeded to the Cemetery near Nanaimo.
2. The procession passed through the striking miners, who were collecting to form their usual procession, and were not in any way molested or interfered with, and were shown every respect, the flags being lowered in deference to the dead.
3. The funeral procession continued its way to Northfield, and passed through that crowded village without interruption or molestation, one woman, however, with a baby in arms, being heard to laugh.
4. The procession passed by the Half-way House and buried their dead at the Cemetery near Nanaimo without the slightest interruption from any quarter.
5. On the return of the procession, some five or six persons come out of the Half-way House, and the said persons were heard to say, "Bury them!" and "Cover them up!"
6. At Northfield, the procession were snowballed by women and children, the latter ranging in age from 5 to 12. No men snowballed or took part in inviting to snowballing.
7. The striking miners who are now being prosecuted by the Government were in no manner whatever connected with any thing that took place in connection with the funeral procession, either in going to or returning from the Cemetery, the residents of Northfield being miners and their families in the employ of the Vancouver Coal Company and a few store-keepers carrying on business there, and the men at the Half-way House were in all probability men in the employ of the East Wellington Coal Company.

C. C. MCKENZIE.

18th March, 1891.

EVIDENCE.

Meeting of a Select Committee appointed to enquire into an attack made on the funeral procession of the late Ellis Roberts, at or near Wellington, on the 4th March, 1891.

COURT HOUSE, WELLINGTON, March 14th, 1891.

Present:—Messrs. Anderson (Chairman), McKenzie, Baker, Croft, and Smith.

Mr. E. V. Bodwell (Bodwell & Irving), who appeared on behalf of those who complained of the alleged assault, was permitted by the Committee to conduct the examination of the witnesses.

F. Evans, acting as Clerk of Committee, having been duly sworn,

Mr. Bodwell stated that, in regard to the funeral of the late Ellis Roberts, complaint was made of matters that occurred both during the procession to the Cemetery, of insulting language and actions which occurred while the burial service was being read at the grave, and also of insults and assaults by snowballing and the throwing of rocks at the members of the procession while going through a place called Northfield on their return to Wellington.

THOS. RICHARDS, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

1. Q.—What is your name?
A.—Thomas Richards.
2. Q.—Where do you live?
A.—Wellington.
3. Q.—What is your occupation?
A.—Coal miner.
4. Q.—Do you remember the occasion of the funeral of the late Ellis Roberts, on the 4th March?
A.—Well, sir; and for ever shall.
5. Q.—Were you present at the funeral?
A.—Yes, sir.
6. Q.—Where did the procession start from?
A.—From Mr. Jones', here.
7. Q.—In Wellington?
A.—Yes, sir.
8. Q.—Were you with the procession until it reached the Cemetery?
A.—Yes, sir.
9. Q.—Were you present at the burial service at the Cemetery?
A.—Yes, sir.
10. Q.—And did the procession go back in a body?
A.—To the best of my knowledge.
11. Q.—Col Baker: About what number was in the procession?
A.—Well, I would think, from 50 to 60.
12. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: And were you with the body of the procession coming back?
A.—Yes, sir.
13. Q.—Were they carriages or sleighs?
A.—Sleighs and carriages.
14. Q.—Were there any on foot?
A.—No.