

## EVIDENCE.

WELLINGTON, 21st March, 1891.

Meeting of the Select Committee, appointed by the Legislative Assembly of B.C., to enquire into the circumstances which led up to the strike, or lock-out, of the coal miners employed at Wellington.

Present :—Messrs. Keith (Chairman), Semlin, Forster, and Booth.

Mr. E. V. Bodwell appeared on behalf of the owners of the Wellington Collieries.

Mr. Tully Boyce, by special leave of the Committee, represented the union miners.

Mr. TULLY BOYCE, called and sworn. (Examined by the Chairman.)

1. Q.—What do you know about the causes, which led up to this strike ?

A.—As a matter of fact, from the office I hold, a great many of these matters came under my notice and, as far as I know, the cause of the strike is that the Company refuses to recognize their workmen as an organized body. The question of hours, if I understand it properly, is entirely out of the question, and the cause of the strike, from first to last, is for recognition of a union among the men. The question of hours was the direct cause, in other words, hastened the conflict ; but that, as an outsider, I didn't think there would be any trouble about, for it was a matter about which there was very little at stake. As to the necessity of the men having an organization, I must come back to my personal experience—I worked for this company over two years ago ; two years last June, I believe ; there was a partial organization existing here then and, through the efforts of that organization, some of the grievances which existed amongst the men were removed. One of the grievances that I found there was that the miners had to cut their timbers outside. There was only one saw at each mine for to cut those timbers.

2. Q.—Was that a usual thing in the mines in the district ?

A.—I don't know that ; I had only just come into the district from the States. It was a very unusual thing to me.

3. Q.—Has that any connection with the strike ?

A.—I believe it is one of the things which make the necessity for an organization, so that the men can protect themselves ; as to the timbers, it is necessary that the men should be supplied with them and not have to cut them themselves—as they run great dangers through having to cut them. One result of that partial organization was the removal of that difficulty ; the company agreed to cut them, on a demand made by the men, and had them cut afterwards.

4. Q.—The company agreed to cut the timbers ?

A.—After an organized effort on the part of the men ; a partial organization.

5. Q.—And they were cutting those timbers when you left Wellington ?

A.—Yes. I am merely stating it to show that the men should have an organization for the purpose of having their difficulties removed. I found another cause of complaint, which required an organized effort to remove it, and that was the weight of the boxes. The standard for the boxes was 1,500 lbs—no matter how much over 1,500 lbs you put on, you got nothing for it. We came to the conclusion that the standard should be higher than that—that the boxes held more. By an organized effort we put on check weighmen, and got the standard raised to 1,650 lbs.—a raise of 150.

6. Q.—Mr. Booth : This was accomplished by an organization ?

A.—By a partial organization—then, up to the first of January, I believe it was, there was a little strike on here.

7. Chairman : When ?  
 A.—On the first of January, two years ago—two years last January. After the termination of that strike, those who had taken a leading part were discharged, and the rest went back, without any organization among them.
8. Q.—Do you mean to tell us, that a man who took a leading part in this partial organization, and in this strike, was discharged by the company ?  
 A.—Yes, sir ; I couldn't say exactly how many, somewhere about 20 or 25 perhaps. I wouldn't confine myself to numbers—but I know one thing, I was one of them.
9. Mr. Forster : Did the men have a check weighman previous to this partial organization you speak of ?  
 A.—Not that I know of.
10. Q.—Doesn't the "Mining Act" give them the power to place check weighmen on the pit-head ?  
 A.—Yes. What I want to prove is, that no matter how strict the "Mining Act" may be, unless the men are organized to see it enforced, it is a dead letter.
11. Q.—Did they have a check weighman after the organization disbanded ?  
 A.—No. Those are some of the facts which have come under my notice, to show that the men should be organized. The Wellington miners, on being organized, had the conduct of their own business exclusively ; the branch that was organized there has its own officers, and the outside associations have nothing to do with it unless called for.
12. Chairman : How long since that branch was organized—roughly speaking ?  
 A.—It was organized in the month of February, a year ago ; the exact date I can't give you.
13. Mr. Semlin : You say that the branch had entire control of its own affairs. What would the branch consider its own affairs ?  
 A.—Any difficulty which might arise between the Wellington miners and the company would first be dealt with by the Wellington branch, and all business between the company and the men connected with the branch would be transacted through that branch.
14. Chairman : Is that so in all cases ?  
 A.—In all cases.
15. Q.—Suppose they cannot come to an amicable settlement ?  
 A.—The district officers are supposed to step in and suggest some remedy or settlement—the constitution calls for all remedies to be resorted to before going to a strike. As a matter of fact, without the sanction of the whole district, neither the branch at Wellington or at Nanaimo, could declare a strike.
16. Mr. Forster : At what time did the re-organization of the Wellington miners take place ?  
 A.—I believe in February, a year ago ; I couldn't give you the dates without referring to the books. I claim, from experience in the mines, that it is necessary to protect both the individual and the miners collectively—to have organization,—and that, unless they are organized, individuals are not protected. They are subjected to the petty tyranny of under-bosses, and they are subject to the company conducting their mines in a dangerous condition.
17. Q.—It is surely the interest of the company to have their mines safe ?  
 A.—As a matter of fact it is not so ; they take exceedingly great risks, and the results are great disasters.
18. Q.—The "Mining Act" gives miners the right to elect a Mine Committee, doesn't it ?  
 A.—Yes ; when I worked in Wellington that Committee was in existence, but whether they have had one ever since or not I couldn't tell except from hearsay.
19. Mr. Booth : Have you had much experience in other mines ?  
 A.—Yes.
20. Q.—How was it there ?  
 A.—In mines where there is gas they have the privilege of examinations.
21. Mr. Semlin : Through your own organizations ?  
 A.—Yes. I have worked in mines where there were no organizations, and in those

mines these things were not attended to or observed, because there was no one would take the matter up—they would subject themselves to persecution of discharge simply because they were taking an active part in movements of this kind. That prevented the individual from taking an active part in protecting himself and his co-workers, unless there was an organization to back him up and see that he was not persecuted for doing so.

22. Mr. Forster: You think the miners cannot take advantage of the "Mining Act" and appoint committees, unless they have an organization to see that the committee members are not discharged?
- A.—I do say—emphatically—that they are not in a position to take advantage of the laws unless they are organized.
23. Q.—Can you tell us anything about the condition of the miners at Wellington, from the re-organization up to the strike?
- A.—I can only speak from hearsay.
24. Q.—Chairman: Is it your opinion that these matters you have spoken about led to this present strike? Did these matters about cutting timber, and short weight, and other things, lead to the strike?
- A.—That is a question I wouldn't like to answer because there might be other grievances.
25. Q.—Do you believe they led to this strike?
- A.—I believe the miners need organization to protect themselves—it may be from the petty tyranny of bosses or from other grievances. I believe that the sole cause of the strike is that the miners see that it is necessary to have this organization to protect themselves.
26. Q.—That, in your opinion, is the cause of the strike?
- A.—That is the cause of the strike. The miners have always been willing to leave the whole difficulty to arbitration.
27. Q.—Leave what to arbitration?
- A.—The whole difficulty of this strike.
28. Mr. Booth: How could you settle it by arbitration?
- A.—Well, if impartial arbitrators said we didn't need it, we would abide by their decision. We looked at it in this way: The miners were interested on one side, and the company on the other; we would leave it to an arbitrating body, composed of parties not interested in either side, and if they said we were wrong, of course we would have to give in—I mean the miners; but now, of course, the association is directly interested in the matter, having taken it up, and I speak as a member of the association at large.
29. Mr. Semlin: Then I understand you to say that it was the refusal of the management to recognize the organization which led to the strike?
- A.—That is what I believe and what we want to prove. I can place men on the stand to prove that that request was made to the company, and they refused it. I never asked Dunsmuir & Sons to recognize the union; I was never appointed for that purpose, so I can't say as a fact that they ever did refuse me.
30. Chairman: Is there anything else that has tended to cause this strike—of your own knowledge?
- A.—No; I don't know of anything else.
31. Mr. Forster: How many branches of the association have you?
- A.—Four.
32. Q.—Where are they situated?
- A.—One at Nanaimo, one at Wellington, one at East Wellington, and one at Northfield.
33. Q.—You say that in matters pertaining to any particular lodge, or any particular branch, that lodge itself, has the power to deal with them?
- A.—Exclusive power to deal with them.
34. Q.—Then, in what way are the others concerned?
- A.—Supposing it came to a conflict, that they couldn't agree on it, then the question of strike would have to be submitted to a general vote—would have a right to vote "yes" or "no," whether that strike should take place or not. They could not be called upon to support the others unless they had a vote.

35. Q.—Then I understand that at a general meeting of the four branches a request was made to Dunsmuir & Sons to shorten the hours?

A.—There was a committee sent from that general meeting to confer with Dunsmuir & Sons towards the recognition of the union. They reported that the Dunsmuir's asked for some time, a week I think, some time anyway, and it was granted. Then there was a resolution passed that the miners working at Wellington would conform to the same hours that the others were doing. At Wellington they used to stop half an hour at noon and then not come up until 3.30; go down at seven and be in the mines until 3.30. The request was that they continue hoisting in this half-hour, hoist eight continuous hours, and let the men come up at three o'clock. Personally I did not think that would lead to any conflict because, as I viewed it, there was nothing at issue. It was not a question of shorter hours, it was merely to stop that half-hour at noon and let the men come up so much earlier.

36. Chairman: How long were they working in the Dunsmuir's coal mines?

A.—When I was working there we had to be down some time before seven, and they wouldn't start to hoist the men up until 3.30. Eight hours was supposed to be the time worked; there was half an hour the men were not working.

37. Q.—When did you time those eight hours from?

A.—Well, in town they start to go down a few minutes before the time, and perhaps are not out until a few minutes after. I worked at East Wellington, and there they would be down a few minutes before the time. As a matter of fact, a few minutes either way I don't suppose there would be any dispute about.

38. Q.—So that they worked eight hours, did they, at Wellington?

A.—They hoisted eight, and if the men went down at the minute and came up at the minute, they would be eight and a half hours.

39. Q.—How did they go down?

A.—Always before seven, while I was there.

40. Q.—And they started to hoist the men at 3.30?

A.—Yes.

41. Q.—What time would they all be out?

A.—I suppose at about quarter or ten minutes to four o'clock.

42. Q.—Always before four o'clock?

A.—I believe so.

43. Mr. Semlin: You worked in a number of mines, did you not, in other countries?

A.—Yes.

44. Q.—What was the general condition of the miners in those countries?

A.—They vary, of course. In some places they are very well paid, and in other places they are very poorly paid; you couldn't cite any one place as a criterion.

45. Q.—Is there any way of averaging them? Did the Wellington miners average more or less pay, than in other places?

A.—In some places I have earned more, and in some less. I am speaking for myself. I never made very big money here, and never very small.

46. Q.—Then you say that it is not the question of wages which has brought on this strike?

A.—Not as I understand it.

47. Mr. Forster: Do you say that where miners are organized they have greater safety in the mines?

A.—Yes; I always see that they then take an interest in having the mines kept in a safe condition.

48. Q.—In your opinion is organization necessary for the safety of the miners?

A.—Yes; emphatically I say so.

49. Mr. Booth: Safety of the mines must be the safety of the mine owners?

A.—Well, unless the owners have a dread that the law will be enforced, they generally take chances. Especially in mines that accumulate gas I believe it is necessary that the men should be organized. Mining, at best, is a dangerous employment, and unless every safeguard is thrown around it these disasters will occur.

50. Mr. Semlin : Have you worked in the Pennsylvania mines ?  
A.—Yes.
51. Q.—What is the condition of the miners there ?  
A.—It is years since I worked there. I was back five years ago and the condition was not very good then ; previous to that it was very good. Up to 1875 I worked there ; times were good and the men were organized.
52. Q.—All organized ?  
A.—As far as I remember they were all organized. After that their organization was destroyed.
53. Q.—How destroyed ?  
A.—By taking in an outside element. Hungarians were largely imported there, and since then, I believe, they have been reduced almost to the starvation point.
54. Mr. Forster : Have you ever worked in mines in Great Britain ?  
A.—No.
55. Mr. Booth : In Nova Scotia ?  
A.—No.
56. Chairman : How long have you been mining ?  
A.—Seventeen or eighteen years.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell :

57. Q.—Then you think the Miners' Union is simply organized for the purpose of protecting the mines, do you ?  
A.—That is one of the causes ; they are organized for the protection of the individual as well.
58. Q.—What do you understand by a pit committee ?  
A.—For a board of arbitration for any difficulty that may arise between the miner and the foreman that they couldn't settle.
59. Q.—That is to say : A committee for the purpose of settling whether the miner has a good enough place or not, and whether he is good enough for his place, is it ?  
A.—That is one of the things ; yes.
60. Q.—That is not leaving anything to be settled between a man and his employer, is it ?  
The miner has nothing to say about it ?  
A.—Yes, of course he has.
61. Q.—The pit committee take it into their own hands, don't they ?  
A.—The miner is supposed, if he can, to settle his own difficulties first, and if he can't do that then he falls back on his own organization for protection.
62. Q.—Did you ever hear of a pit committee coming to a man and saying "you are not getting enough for working in this place ?"  
A.—No, never.
63. Q.—Did you ever know of pit committees making trouble between miners and bosses ?  
A.—No, never.
64. Q.—Have you been on a pit committee ?  
A.—Yes.
65. Q.—Where ?  
A.—In the States.
66. Q.—In Roslyn ?  
A.—No.
67. Q.—Ever work there ?  
A.—No.
68. Q.—Ever in Roslyn ?  
A.—No.
69. Q.—In what places did you work under a pit committee ?  
A.—In Wyoming.
70. Q.—Do you know that pit committees almost ruined the mines in some parts of the States ?  
A.—I never knew it.
71. Q.—Who were the general officers of the Miners' Union at the time of the strike here ?

- A.—I was one of them.
72. Q.—What office?  
A.—President.
73. Q.—Who was vice-president?  
A.—He is not here now.
74. Q.—What was his name?  
A.—Rooney, I think was in then.
75. Q.—What position did Horriban hold?  
A.—He was secretary.
76. Q.—What position did Spencer hold?  
A.—Treasurer.
77. Q.—Who were the executive committee?  
A.—We had no such board, we had a delegate board.
78. Q.—Who were they?  
A.—One miner from each mine in the district.
79. Q.—Who were they at that time?  
A.—I couldn't recollect.
80. Q.—Who represented the Wellington miners on the delegate board?  
A.—From memory I couldn't remember; that is to be positive.
81. Q.—What other officers did you have?  
A.—That's all the officers for the district; each branch had its own officers, of course.
82. Q.—You say that the matters connected with each mine were dealt with by its own lodge?  
A.—Certainly.
83. Q.—But if you took up anything which affected the whole district you could have a vote on it by all the men?  
A.—Yes.
84. Q.—You were at the meeting on the Bluffs and made a speech?  
A.—Yes, a short one.
85. Q.—You made several speeches?  
A.—Possibly.
86. Q.—You were the founder of this union, in fact?  
A.—I don't know that I can say so.
87. Q.—Were not you the originator of the "Miners and Mine Labourers Protective Association, of Vancouver Island" ?  
A.—I was the first president.
88. Q.—Were you not the man who began it?  
A.—I was instrumental in founding that association.
89. Q.—What was the ostensible reason assigned, at this meeting here on the Bluffs, for the strike?  
A.—There was no strike declared at that meeting. A resolution was passed.
90. Q.—What was it?  
A.—That the Wellington miners would conform to the same hours of labour as the balance of the district.
91. Q.—Who was for that?  
A.—Everybody.
92. Q.—Why?  
A.—It was a matter of general interest.
93. Q.—Why?  
A.—Because they were working in the same district and should conform to the same hours.
94. Q.—Did the Wellington miners ask for it?  
A.—Yes.
95. Q.—Which one of the Wellington miners proposed the eight hour business?  
A.—I couldn't tell his name.
96. Q.—Will you swear that anyone did?  
A.—If I remember rightly it was a man by the name of Harry McVeigh.
97. Q.—Will you swear that Harry McVeigh didn't make a motion not to come out on strike?

- A.—No, he didn't.
98. Q.—And it was voted down ?  
A.—No, it was not.
99. Q.—Didn't he vote against a strike, at that meeting ?  
A.—There was no strike declared at that meeting.
100. Q.—Didn't they pass a resolution not to go to work on Monday, except at seven o'clock ?  
A.—Yes.
101. Q.—And before that they had been going to work at a quarter to seven ?  
A.—Yes.
102. Q.—Didn't the strike result from that ?  
A.—It was a lock-out.
103. Q.—Didn't the men refuse to go down ?  
A.—I don't know, I wasn't there.
104. Q.—That resolution was passed ?  
A.—Yes.
105. Q.—You say that was a matter on which everybody had a right to vote ?  
A.—Yes.
106. Q.—Will you say that you didn't advocate that ?  
A.—I don't know that I spoke a word.
107. Q.—Will you swear that you didn't say : “ Unless the eight hour limit is adopted in Wellington, the Nanaimo coal miners will not be able to compete with the Wellington coal miners ? ”  
A.—I wouldn't swear that I didn't.
108. Q.—Did you say : “ Unless we lift you up to our level, you will drag us down to yours ? ”  
A.—I have very often made use of that expression.
109. Q.—Why did you say that ?  
A.—Because I believe it to be a fact.
110. Q.—How would it affect the eight hour question ?  
A.—If one party is working more than eight hours, and the other is working only eight hours, it is natural to suppose that the other must increase their hours to keep up.
111. Q.—As a matter of fact you knew they only worked eight hours ?  
A.—I knew they were working more than eight hours.
112. Q.—How ?  
A.—Because they were down there from before seven until half-past three.
113. Q.—Don't you know they had half an hour off ?  
A.—I know the miners didn't take that half-hour.
114. Q.—Will you swear that the day labourers didn't take that half-hour ?  
A.—I don't know anything about the day labourers, I am speaking about the miners.
115. Q.—Were the miners anxious to have that eight hour business introduced ?  
A.—Some of them were.
116. Q.—Who voted for simply eight hours from bank to bank ?  
A.—They voted.
117. Q.—Who ?  
A.—The Wellington miners that were there.
118. Q.—Did anybody else ?  
A.—I believe so.
119. Q.—Who were in the majority ?  
A.—I don't know.
120. Q.—You say there were miners from East Wellington ?  
A.—Yes.
121. Q.—From Nanaimo ?  
A.—Yes.
122. Q.—From Northfield ?  
A.—Yes.
123. Q.—Three districts against one ?  
A.—All the miners from Nanaimo and East Wellington were not there.

124. Q.—Were not three districts represented against Wellington?  
A.—Possibly.
125. Q.—Will you swear that the districts didn't vote for eight hours, and the Wellington miners against it?  
A.—I don't believe there was a dissenting voice against it.
126. Q.—Will you swear that the Wellington miners were not out-numbered three to one?  
A.—I don't know; as a matter of fact I couldn't tell.
127. Q.—What is your opinion about that?  
A.—I don't believe there was very much difference.
128. Q.—You believe there were as many Wellington miners as there were outside miners?  
A.—Very nearly.
129. Q.—Will you swear to that?  
A.—I will not.
130. Q.—How nearly?  
A.—I couldn't tell, I didn't count them.
131. Q.—Will you say within a hundred?  
A.—I will not.
132. Q.—Will you swear that there was not over a hundred of a majority there?  
A.—The Wellington miners never raised a voice against it.
133. Q.—Will you swear that there was not more than a hundred of a majority there?  
A.—I will not come down to numbers, but I don't believe there was a majority of a hundred over them.
134. Q.—Do you think there was fifty?  
A.—I don't know.
135. Q.—You say a committee was appointed to wait on Mr. Bryden and Mr. Dunsmuir?  
A.—Yes.
136. Q.—Were you one of that committee?  
A.—No.
137. Q.—What was done at that meeting while the committee was away?  
A.—I don't know just what occurred.
138. Q.—Who was it said they “would make the Dunsmuirs take their medicine”?  
A.—I don't remember whether I heard those exact words.
139. Q.—Who was it talked about hovels built for miners and castles for the Dunsmuirs?  
A.—I never heard it said there.
140. Q.—Did you say it?  
A.—I might have.
141. Q.—Was it you that said that the Belgians were not getting as good places as the Englishmen because they could not speak the English language, and you were going to look out for them?  
A.—I couldn't tell you.
142. Q.—Was it a fact that the Belgians were not getting as good places as the Englishmen?  
A.—I don't know.
143. Q.—Did you hear Mr. Salmon make a speech?  
A.—Yes.
144. Q.—Rather violent?  
A.—Yes.
145. Q.—Denouncing the Dunsmuirs?  
A.—Rather.
146. Q.—He was not friendly to the Dunsmuirs?  
A.—Not particularly.
147. Q.—You are not very friendly to them yourself?  
A.—I have nothing against them.
148. Q.—You were discharged from their works?  
A.—I left.
149. Q.—Got up a strike?  
A.—No, I didn't.
150. Q.—Were you active in that strike?  
A.—I will swear that I was not active in that particular strike. As a matter of fact I didn't want them to strike then.



151. Q.—Your association has a set of rules and regulations?  
A.—Yes.
152. Q.—Is this (handing document) a copy of them?  
A.—Yes.  
(Rules and regulations of M. & M. L. P. A., marked Exhibit A.)
153. Q.—Are you familiar with section 27? (Read to witness.)  
A.—Yes; you have read it correctly.
154. Q.—Was that rule observed in the case of the present strike?  
A.—As I said before, there was no strike declared.
155. Q.—The strike consisted in the men not going to work, didn't it?  
A.—That was the final result of it.
156. Q.—Isn't it a strike when the men refuse to go to work?  
A.—They didn't refuse to go to work. They went there, and were going to work that morning.
157. Q.—But they were ready to go to work only under a different regulation from that under which they had been working before?  
A.—I suppose so.
158. Q.—Had they given any notice of that to Mr. Dunsmuir?  
A.—I don't know that they had.
159. Q.—Was any notice of the resolution passed by them sent to Mr. Dunsmuir?  
A.—I don't know.
160. Q.—Don't you know that it wasn't?  
A.—In my opinion it wasn't.
161. Q.—A resolution was passed not to send any word to Mr. Dunsmuir, but not to go to work?  
A.—There was no resolution that he should not be notified.
162. Q.—The resolution was—Not to go to work?  
A.—The resolution was—That the Wellington miners should work the same hours as the rest of the district from and after the next Monday.
163. Q.—Was any resolution passed to send notice of that to Mr. Dunsmuir?  
A.—No, there was not.
164. Q.—In conformity with section 27 of your rules, should not such a resolution have been sent to him?  
A.—Reading it very strictly, there might.
165. Q.—Do you consider that to resolve not to go to work except under a different regulation, and give no notice of such resolve, is an attempt to settle the matter by arbitration or conciliation?  
A.—I believe it was rather hasty action.
166. Q.—A majority of the miners at that meeting were members of other districts?  
A.—I don't know that.
167. Q.—You had other things you complained of, didn't you?  
A.—Yes.
168. Q.—You were complaining a few minutes ago about the boxes?  
A.—Yes; about two years ago.
169. Q.—You know perfectly well that you made an unfounded allegation, don't you?  
A.—No, I did not.
170. Q.—Don't you know that it is necessary to have a regulation about the boxes, in order to protect the workers in the mine?  
A.—In what way?
171. Q.—You know the drivers have to sit on the boxes?  
A.—I suppose they do.
172. Q.—You know that if a driver is not on a secure seat he is liable to be thrown off and injured?  
A.—Possibly.
173. Q.—Don't you know it as a fact?  
A.—If he were not on a secure seat, it is possible he might fall off.
174. Q.—If the box is loaded above the proper height doesn't it make an insecure seat?  
A.—Possibly.
175. Q.—Is not that rule, for regulating boxes, imposed for the safety of the miners?

- A.—A standard.
176. Q.—Can a miner tell whether he is over-loading his box or not?  
A.—Some can, and some can't.
177. Q.—Could you tell?  
A.—I can make a very good guess.
178. Q.—You wouldn't send up 1600 lbs. on any you loaded, would you?  
A.—Of course not.
179. Q.—Is there any necessity for sending up over 1600 lbs.?  
A.—I don't know that there is.
180. Q.—Will you say that a regulation about the boxes is not necessary for the protection of the men working about them?  
A.—I don't know whether it is for their protection or not.
181. Q.—If the boxes are loaded over the standard, the coal will fall off on the track?  
A.—If the boxes are loaded as safe as you say they ought to be, they will be over 1500 lbs.
182. Q.—Will you swear to that?  
A.—Yes.
183. Q.—They raised the standard to 1600?  
A.—Yes, to 1650.
184. Q.—You went down to Victoria and made a speech, didn't you?  
A.—Yes.
185. Q.—And claimed that they were cheating the miners still?  
A.—No, I didn't.
186. Q.—Didn't you say that the miners sometimes put on 2100 lbs., and were not allowed for it?  
A.—I was speaking of over two years ago.
187. Q.—Did you tell the people of Victoria that you were talking of over two years ago?  
A.—Yes, I did.
188. Q.—Did you tell them that the standard had been raised?  
A.—Yes.
189. Q.—Why wasn't that reported?  
A.—It was reported; you will find it in the "Times" of the following day. I believe they gave very nearly a correct report.
190. Q.—You claimed that the grievance still existed, didn't you?  
A.—No, I didn't.
191. Q.—If anything is wrong in the mines, have not the miners a right to complain to the Inspector? Isn't that a right given to them by the Mining Act?  
A.—Yes, a right given to them; certainly.
192. Q.—Are there not a lot of general rules in connection with the Wellington Mines?  
A.—I believe so.
193. Q.—Haven't you seen them?  
A.—Yes.
194. Q.—Are there some special rules?  
A.—Yes.
195. Q.—Are these (handing document) the special rules?  
A.—Yes, I believe this is a copy of them, as far as I can tell.  
(Copy of special rules, marked Exhibit B.)
196. Q.—The general rules are in the Statute, are they not?  
A.—Yes.
197. Q.—Do you say that if these rules are observed by the mine workers the mines are in a state of danger? Is that your opinion as a miner?  
A.—By the miners themselves?
198. Q.—Yes. That there is danger to the miners working below?  
A.—No, I don't know as there would be.
199. Q.—Are not the chief obligations contained in those special rules measures of protection to be observed by the miners themselves?  
A.—Yes, they are.
200. Q.—And you say that if they are observed the mines are as safe as they can be made safe?

- A.—I don't know ; there would be other observances that are necessary, too.
201. Q.—Can you tell us of any that are not provided for in those special rules?  
A.—Not speaking from memory.
202. Q.—Those rules are in force in the Wellington Mines?  
A.—I haven't been there for over two years.
203. Q.—If those rules are in force, and are observed by the miners, what necessity is there for an organization to protect them?  
A.—As a matter of fact those rules are not enforced.
204. Q.—Which ones are not enforced?  
A.—I don't know, I am sure.
205. Q.—You can't say whether they are enforced or not?  
A.—I told you before that I haven't worked there for over two years.
206. Q.—I understood you to say, that you considered that the cause of the strike, which commenced on the 17th May, last year, was the necessity of an organization among the miners and mine labourers for their own protection?  
A.—Yes.
207. Q.—Then I asked you about these regulations, and you have told me that if they were enforced the mines would be as safe, comparatively, as they can be made safe?  
A.—Yes.
208. Q.—Now I ask you if those regulations were enforced in the Wellington Mines before the 17th May last?  
A.—You will have to prove that by some of the men working there then.
209. Q.—Then I ask you if you can tell us of anything, outside of these regulations, which is necessary to be observed for the protection of the miner? Can you, as a miner, tell us of anything else which ought to be done?  
A.—I can't cite instances.
210. Q.—I understood you to say that organization was necessary for the safety of the miner down below?  
A.—Yes.
211. Q.—What provision, necessary for the safety of the miner down below, is not provided for in these special rules?  
A.—I don't know, I am sure.
212. Q.—How do you make out then that organization—this organized labour association—was necessary for the protection of the miners in the Wellington Mines?  
A.—These laws are not enforced.
213. Q.—You can't say whether they were or not?  
A.—Except from hearsay.
214. Q.—Then you don't know whether an organization was necessary or not?  
A.—Yes, I do.
215. Q.—How?  
A.—Because members of our association tell us about these things.
216. Q.—Did you take any steps to find out?  
A.—Yes.
217. Q.—What steps?  
A.—I made enquiries.
218. Q.—Enquiries of Mr. Dunsmuir, Mr. Bryden, Mr. Sharpe, or any officer of the mines?  
A.—No.
219. Q.—What enquiries did you make?  
A.—Among our men.
220. Q.—What do you mean by your men?  
A.—Members of the association.
221. Q.—Wellington association?  
A.—Yes.
222. Q.—Which members of the Wellington association did you ask?  
(Objected to by Mr. Forster, on the ground that, under the Mining Act, miners who complained of the condition of the mines were entitled to have their names kept back by the Inspector, and the same rule should be observed by the Committee.)

- A.—We propose to put men in here who will tell you.
223. Q.—Well, what regulations were you told were not carried out?  
A.—I want to make this statement: We propose to put men in here to show that we consider some of those regulations dangerous.
224. Q.—Now this strike was carried on against the rules of the association?  
A.—Not that I know of.
225. Q.—You admit that no notice was given to the Dunsmuirs, that no attempts at conciliation were made, and the strike commenced?  
A.—If you term it a strike—yes.
226. Q.—What do you call it?  
A.—I don't call it that.
227. Q.—What do you call it?  
A.—A lock-out.
228. Q.—Why?  
A.—Simply because they refused to agree to a very reasonable demand.
229. Q.—What reasonable demand?  
A.—To be allowed to work the same hours as other miners in the district.
230. Q.—When was it made?  
A.—Monday morning, I suppose.
231. Q.—By whom?  
A.—I don't know.
232. Q.—Do you know whether it was made or not?  
A.—I don't know; I wasn't working at the Wellington mines.
233. Q.—Why did you then state on your oath that it was a lock-out?  
A.—I know the resolution to do that was passed.
234. Q.—You don't know whether a demand was made or not?  
A.—That will have to be proved by the men of Wellington?
235. Q.—What is your distinction between a strike and a lock-out?  
A.—The distinction may be rather fine.
236. Q.—What is the distinction in this present case? Why do you call this a lock-out instead of a strike?  
A.—Well, the men were prepared to go to work—on what they state.
237. Q.—On the terms their employers offered them?  
A.—Well, I don't know as any terms were offered.
238. Q.—On the terms under which they had been working for many years?  
A.—No.
239. Q.—According to the custom which had always obtained in the Wellington mines?  
A.—There was quite a change.
240. Q.—They refused to go to work on the old terms?  
A.—Yes, I believe so.
241. Q.—And you don't call it a strike, you call it a lock-out?  
A.—It might have been a combination of the two. I think that the name has very little bearing on the question, the results are the same.
242. Q.—Now, what position did Salmon hold in the Miners' Protective Association?  
A.—I don't know that he held any. At what time?
243. Q.—At the time of the strike?  
A.—I don't think he held any position at all.
244. Q.—Was he a mine worker here?  
A.—He worked at Northfield.
245. Q.—You told us of a committee appointed at the meeting?  
A.—Yes.
246. Q.—Who were the members?  
A.—Mr. Salmon was one, and the Chairman of this Committee another.
247. Q.—Mr. Keith here was the second—who was the third?  
A.—Edmund Richards.
248. Q.—Where did Edmund Richards work?  
A.—I don't know that he was working anywhere then.
249. Q.—Where had he been working prior to that?  
A.—At Wellington.

250. Q.—How long?  
A.—I couldn't tell you.
251. Q.—Had he been discharged from Wellington?  
A.—I believe so.
252. Q.—For what cause, do you know?  
A.—Yes, I heard the cause.
253. Q.—What cause?  
A.—Some trouble with the docking boss, I believe.
254. Q.—Assaulting a boss?  
A.—I heard the trial in court.
255. Q.—He was charged with assaulting the boss?  
A.—Yes.
256. Q.—And was dismissed?  
A.—Yes.
257. Q.—The other gentleman was Mr. Keith?  
A.—Yes.
258. Q.—Was he a miner?  
A.—In Nanaimo.
259. Q.—At that time?  
A.—Yes.
260. Q.—The deputation was appointed to wait on the owners of the Wellington mines—  
and not a Wellington miner on the deputation?  
A.—No, I don't believe there was.
261. Q.—Why?  
A.—I will tell you the reason, Branch No. 3—
262. Q.—Which one is that?  
A.—In Wellington—composed exclusively of Wellington men—had sent a deputation from their branch to Mr. Bryden, to confer with him on this subject of recognizing the union, and he refused to treat with them, so we considered it unnecessary and foolish to send a committee of his own men that he had refused to listen to once before, and so we sent a committee of others.
263. Q.—Did you hear that Mr. Bryden said, when this committee came to him, that he was perfectly prepared to treat with a committee of his own men?  
A.—When?
264. Q.—On the 17th of May?  
A.—I don't know.
265. Q.—The committee didn't tell you that?  
A.—They may have, and I may have forgotten it.
266. Q.—But you can remember very well that Mr. Bryden told the other committee he wouldn't treat with them?  
A.—And if he had said he would this time I wouldn't go very much on it after he had refused before.
267. Q.—Then you wouldn't have believed him if he had said so?  
A.—I don't say that I wouldn't have believed him.
268. Q.—That amounts to saying that you wouldn't have believed him?  
A.—The facts, of course, bore out the conclusion that he wouldn't treat with them.
269. Q.—What facts?  
A.—The committee from No. 3 going to him, and him refusing to confer with them.
270. Q.—Did he refuse?  
A.—They said so.
271. Q.—And yet you don't know that on this 17th of May he said he would meet a committee of his own men?  
A.—I believe Mr. Keith told me that.
272. Q.—Wasn't it arranged at that very time that a committee of Mr. Bryden's own men should meet him the following Monday? Wasn't that reported to you?  
A.—I couldn't give you exact dates; there was some arrangement of that kind, but they didn't report on the Bluffs, because the meeting was adjourned before they came back.

273. Q.—So that the meeting didn't wait for the committee, but passed the resolution before they came back ?  
Chairman :—It was 7:30 or 8 o'clock before the committee got back, and there was no one there except Mr. Boyce and about a dozen others.
274. Q.—Then the meeting appointed a committee, and afterwards took action without waiting for the report of that committee ?  
A.—It was on a different subject.
275. Q.—What was that committee appointed for ?  
A.—To see about the recognition of the organization.
276. Q.—Was that their only grievance ?  
A.—Their real grievance.
277. Q.—They organized a strike on something that was not their real grievance ?  
A.—It certainly was a grievance.
278. Q.—Do you believe it was the proper manner to act in ?  
A.—I believe it was hasty ; I didn't approve of it.
279. Q.—Why didn't you ask them not to carry on this strike until the meeting had conferred with Mr. Bryden ?  
A.—I hadn't all the say.
280. Q.—You were at the meeting at the Somerset House the next week, were you ?  
A.—I don't remember.
281. Q.—You were at several meetings, all of which occurred within a short time after the strike commenced ?  
A.—I can't tell you, I am sure ; I don't remember.
282. Q.—Did you ever tell the men that you thought that their action was too hasty, and that they ought to have waited ?  
A.—Not publicly ; I have said it sometimes.
283. Q.—You made a great many public speeches at that time ?  
A.—Not very many.
284. Q.—Was there any meeting, at which you were present, that you didn't make a speech ?  
A.—I don't know.
285. Q.—Don't you mean to say that you were the man who did a great deal of the talking at that time ?  
A.—When they got up a public meeting I generally talked.
286. Q.—Did you ever, in any of those talks, tell the miners that you thought they had acted hastily, and that they ought to go back to work, or attempt some means of conciliation with their employers ?  
A.—I don't know as I did.
287. Q.—You came to a meeting called by the non-union men, didn't you ?  
A.—No, sir.
288. Q.—You came there before the meeting began ?  
A.—No, sir.
289. Q.—You say that you never did, in any of your talks, advise the men that they had acted too hastily ?  
A.—I don't know that I did.
290. Q.—You had a good deal of influence with the men ?  
A.—I don't know whether I had or not.
291. Q.—Haven't you any reason to know that you had a great deal of influence ?  
A.—I can't say.
292. Q.—Have you ever used your influence for the purpose of attempting a reconciliation of these differences ?  
A.—It was impossible.
293. Q.—Have you ever tried ?  
A.—Except by recommending arbitration, publicly.
294. Q.—What did you recommend to arbitration ?  
A.—The question in dispute.
295. Q.—What dispute ?  
A.—All the dispute up to now.
296. Q.—When and where did you advocate that ?

- A.—Couldn't tell you exactly when or where, but I know that I have, through the public press, advocated that.
297. Q.—How long back?
- A.—A good long time ago.
298. Q.—You have endeavoured to have the Wellington coal boycotted, haven't you?
- A.—Yes.
299. Q.—Just got back from San Francisco?
- A.—Yes.
300. Q.—Were there for that purpose?
- A.—Yes.
301. Q.—You think that is in keeping with the attempts at conciliation, do you?
- A.—No; I think the day of conciliation has passed.
302. Q.—How long have you thought that?
- A.—I don't know how long, exactly.
303. Q.—Didn't you think that before you began this agitation?
- A.—I don't know.
304. Q.—You thought the Dunsmuirs were a bad lot anyway, didn't you?
- A.—That is rather a pointed question.
305. Q.—But it is just what you think, isn't it?
- A.—I think they are rather arbitrary in dealing with their workmen.
306. Q.—You thought that before the agitation began?
- A.—Yes.
307. Q.—You thought that conciliation had nothing to do with it, you had to bring them down by force?
- A.—I was only one in the matter.
308. Q.—That was your individual opinion?
- A.—It is now.
309. Q.—Wasn't it then?
- A.—No; I don't think it was. I didn't know we were going to such extremes.
310. Q.—Can you imagine any more extreme measure than boycotting the coal?
- A.—I believe we are justified in going to any extreme measures at the present time.
311. Q.—Were you anxious for arbitration, or were you not?
- A.—I would have liked to have seen the thing settled.
312. Q.—In what way?
- A.—Honourably to the men, of course.
313. Q.—What was the honourable settlement you thought would be effected by arbitration?
- A.—Whatever decision was given by disinterested parties I would have considered honourable.
314. Q.—When did you begin to have that idea?
- A.—Always had it.
315. Q.—When did you begin to act on it?
- A.—I never could approach the Dunsmuirs.
316. Q.—Five minutes ago, you stated that you thought you were justified in taking any sort of measures against the Dunsmuirs?
- A.—I do now.
317. Q.—How soon did you come to that conclusion, and begin to take steps in that direction? Did you issue this circular "Join the Ranks"?
- A.—It was issued by the Board.
318. Q.—It is signed "Tully Boyce, President," isn't it?
- A.—Yes.
319. Q.—What was the object of that?
- A.—Don't it say, itself?
320. Q.—I want to know whether it says what is true or not. You say here that you want to get all outsiders into your ranks?
- A.—Yes.
321. Q.—Some of them were not willing to come in, then?
- A.—I guess not; some of them are not in yet.
322. Q.—You thought it was necessary to get all outsiders in?

- A.—I believe it is necessary to have them all in.
323. Q.—This circular was issued with that object?  
A.—Yes.
324. Q.—Chairman: Suppose the miners did carry out the mining laws, would that of necessity lead to the safety of the mine, or would it require the owners to do the same on their part?  
A.—The officials of the mine, of course, would have to observe them too.
325. Q.—Is it always the custom for drivers to sit on the boxes?  
A.—Really, I don't know how they do; it is my impression that the majority of them ride on the boxes.
326. Q.—Did you ever ask for arbitration, or did you ever suggest, in a public meeting at Victoria or Nanaimo, that these difficulties should be arbitrated?  
A.—I believe I always did, but I couldn't say in what words, or where or when.
327. Mr. Bodwell: Did you say this: "They have refused to meet their own men to arrange a settlement, and others have been sent to them from the union, with the same result; until they recognize organized labour the trouble at Wellington will never be settled" ?  
A.—Not in those exact words, but something to that effect I did say.
328. Q.—That was at a meeting held a considerable time after the strike had begun?  
A.—I couldn't tell you the date.
329. Q.—At the time of that meeting did you know, or did you not know, that Mr. Bryden had said that he would meet a committee of his own men?  
A.—Mr. Bryden, if I understand it properly, was always willing to meet a committee of his own men, provided they did not come from an organization.
330. Q.—Yet, you told the people that he wouldn't meet a committee of his own men?  
A.—Organized, I suppose; qualified that way, I always did. As a matter of fact, I knew he had met committees of his own men, so long as they were not an organized body.
331. Q.—Did your committee report to you after they came back to that meeting, that Mr. Bryden had made a stipulation that they were not to be organized?  
A.—I said before that the meeting was adjourned before the committee returned.
332. Q.—Do you think that, if he had made any such stipulation as that, your committee would have consented to it and arranged a meeting for the following Monday?  
A.—I believe that, as a matter of fact, there was a meeting.
333. Q.—Don't you know that that meeting was arranged when the committee came to him from the meeting on the Bluffs? You remember that committee?  
A.—Yes.
334. Q.—You know that that committee arranged for a meeting with Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden and a committee of their own men, to be held on the following Monday?  
A.—They didn't report that, but I believe such was the case.
335. Q.—They reported that to you, yourself?  
A.—Yes.
336. Q.—Would your committee have made any such arrangement as that if Mr. Bryden had stipulated that it was not to be a committee from an organized body?  
A.—I don't know what qualifications he made in it.
337. Q.—Did they report that he had made any stipulation, whatever?  
A.—I can't say whether they did or not.
338. Q.—Now, you are reported to have said "They refused to meet their own men." You say you qualified that by saying they refused to meet their own men coming from an organization?  
A.—The committee from Branch No. 3 reported that they went to Mr. Bryden, and he refused to confer with them. If I did make that statement, it was that first meeting which was in my mind.
339. Q.—That committee was not nearly so representative a committee as that which went on the 17th May? It was a committee from all the miners in the district?  
A.—Yes.
340. Q.—This report is of a speech made after that meeting?  
A.—It is merely a garbled statement.



341. Q.—You go on to say that “Unless they recognize organized labour at Wellington the trouble will never be settled”?
- A.—Yes.
342. Q.—You say that you probably said that they refused to meet a committee of their own men coming from an organization?
- A.—Yes, I think so.
343. Q.—Now, I want to know, whether or not at that time you knew that Mr. Bryden had made arrangements to meet a committee of his own men, making no stipulation whatever?
- A.—I don't understand the question.
344. Q.—Did you know, from the report of your committee, that Mr. Bryden had arranged with them to meet a committee of his own men?
- A.—Yes; they told me that individually.
345. Q.—Had you any reason to believe, from the report of that committee, that he had made any stipulation whatever as to their being from an organized body?
- A.—I don't know whether he made that stipulation or not.
346. Q.—Was there anything in your committee's report to lead you to believe that he had?
- A.—I don't know that there was.
347. Q.—Was there anything to lead you to believe that your committee would have assented to any such arrangement?
- A.—Nothing.
348. Q.—That committee was formed for the purpose of forcing the Dunsmuir's to recognize your association?
- A.—I don't know that it was.
349. Q.—The object of forming the committee was to force the Dunsmuir's to recognize the organization?
- A.—To confer with them on that subject.
350. Q.—You appointed men who, you thought, would carry out your purpose?
- A.—I didn't appoint them.
351. Q.—The meeting appointed them?
- A.—Yes.
352. Q.—Do you think they were not representative men?
- A.—They were picked out because they were considered representative men.
353. Q.—Do you think that committee would have come to terms with Mr. Bryden, if he had said “I will not recognize any committee coming from an organization”?
- (Chairman ruled that the question had nothing to do with the objects of the Committee.)
354. Q.—You spoke of a committee that had gone to meet Mr. Bryden a long time before?
- A.—Yes.
355. Q.—Several months before, wasn't it—in the winter?
- A.—No.
356. Q.—Before the 13th of February?
- A.—No.
357. Q.—Appointed at a meeting held in Nanaimo on the 13th of February?
- A.—No.
358. Q.—Where was the committee appointed, with reference to which you wrote Mr. Bryden a letter, the reply to which you read at the meeting on the Bluffs?
- A.—There was a committee sent from town, I think on the 1st of February, to confer with Mr. Bryden on the question of a reduction in wages.
359. Q.—Who appointed that committee?
- A.—The meeting.
360. Q.—At Nanaimo?
- A.—Yes.
361. Q.—A meeting of the Miners' Protective Association?
- A.—That association was not organized then. It was a general mass meeting of the miners and mine labourers of the district.
362. Q.—It represented what organization there was?
- A.—Every miner represented himself, there was no organization.
363. Q.—A mass meeting of all miners?

- A.—Yes.
364. Q.—That committee went to confer with Mr. Bryden, to see if he intended to reduce the wages of pushers and drivers from \$2.50 to \$2?  
A.—I think so.
365. Q.—That committee went to Mr. Bryden and he informed them that he had no such intention?  
A.—I believe so.
366. Q.—Do you say that that was a refusal to confer with his own men?  
A.—They were not his own men altogether. I believe one of them was.
367. Q.—Do you say that was a refusal on Mr. Bryden's part to meet the miners?  
A.—I don't call that a refusal.
368. Q.—That happened in February?  
A.—Yes.
369. Q.—This strike began in May?  
A.—Yes.
370. Q.—You told us of another committee, but you don't know who composed it, or where it was appointed?  
A.—Yes, I know where it was appointed.
371. Q.—Where?  
A.—The branch here at Wellington.
372. Q.—You spoke about a check-weigher?  
A.—Yes.
373. Q.—Is not a check-weigher a man appointed by the miners themselves?  
A.—Yes.
374. Q.—Has permission to appoint a check-weigher ever been refused in the Wellington mines?  
A.—No, I don't know that it has.
375. Q.—How could you, then, make a grievance out of that, if the miners didn't appoint their own check-weigher?  
A.—Unless they are organized it is a known fact that they cannot appoint a check-weighman.
376. Q.—Why?  
A.—Because there is no one to take the initiative.
377. Q.—They have to have an organization for the purpose?  
A.—Yes.
378. R.—Do you mean to say that the men working in the mines can't meet together and appoint a check-weigher?  
A.—I put it forward, as my experience in mines for years, that unless there is an organization there is no one comes forward to take up matters of this kind.
379. Q.—You had a meeting in February at which a most important grievance was discussed, and there was then no organization whatever. What organization was there in existence at the time of the meeting held in February when you appointed a committee to wait on Mr. Bryden to see about the wages of the pushers?  
A.—There was no large organization of any kind then.
380. Q.—And yet you say that unless there is an organization there is no one to call the miners together for affairs of this kind?  
A.—That was an affair that interested the whole district.
381. Q.—So that you believe that men won't attend to their own interest, although they will to other people's interests?  
A.—No, I don't believe they will, because they know what the results will be.
382. Q.—What results?  
A.—They will be discharged.
383. Q.—When and where were men discharged for appointing a check-weighman?  
A.—I don't know that they would be told it was for that.
384. Q.—There was a check-weighman here when you worked in the Wellington mines?  
A.—There was.
385. Q.—Who took the initiative in having him? Were you instrumental?  
A.—I believe I took an active part in it.

386. Q.—Were you dismissed?  
A.—Not directly then.
387. Q.—You can't tell us of a case where a man was discharged for asking for a check-weighman?  
A.—Not directly, no.
388. Q.—If they have no fault to find with their weight they don't appoint a check-weigher, do they?  
A.—Possibly not.
389. Q.—Then it was not much of a grievance then?  
A.—It was quite a grievance at that time.
390. Q.—But not the real grievance?  
A.—The men will tell you that themselves. If I told you it would be only hear-say.
391. Chairman: How long was it after that trouble about the check-weighman that you were dismissed?  
A.—A couple of months, I guess. I couldn't say just exactly how long, but I don't think it was more than a couple of months.
392. Mr. Bodwell: Do you know what a gas committee is?  
A.—Yes.
393. Q.—Did they have gas committees while you were working in Wellington?  
A.—Yes.
394. Q.—Who appointed them?  
A.—The men.
395. Q.—Did Mr. Dunsmuir refuse to recognize them?  
A.—No.
396. Q.—Did not object to your doing these things?  
A.—They won't object, but we know very well that anybody who does these things will be persecuted.
397. Q.—What were you dismissed for?  
A.—I don't know.
398. Q.—You went out on strike?  
A.—Yes.
399. Q.—And when you came back for work Mr. Dunsmuir told you he didn't want you?  
A.—No, I didn't go back and ask for work.
400. Q.—How do you know you were dismissed?  
A.—The foreman told me so.
401. Chairman: What did he tell you?  
A.—He told me that I needn't trouble to go down into the mine for my tools, he would bring them up for me.
402. Mr. Bodwell: And you haven't been particularly well disposed towards the Dunsmuir's since that time?  
A. I don't know about that.
403. Q.—Immediately after that you proceeded to get up this organization, didn't you?  
A.—It was over a year.
404. Q.—What organization did you belong to before? The Knights of Labour, didn't you?  
A.—Yes.
405. Q.—Why didn't you keep the miners in that organization?  
A.—Are you under the impression that I have a string around the miners in this district?
406. Q.—You are the man who started the present organization?  
A.—I was one of them.
407. Q.—You were instrumental?  
A.—Yes.
408. Q.—Have been one of the leaders?  
A.—I don't know what you would call a leader?
409. Q.—President since it has been organized?  
A.—Yes.
410. Q.—And you are the man who represents them in San Francisco and all these places?  
A.—Sometimes I do.

411. Q.—Tried to get the Sailors' Union to come in and boycott the Wellington coal?  
A.—Yes.
412. Q.—And you told these miners that if they pulled the Dunsmuirs down the whole district would shake hands with them?  
A.—I don't know that I ever made use of any such expression.
413. Q.—Will you deny that you did?  
A.—I don't think that I ever made use of that language.
414. Q.—Mr. Forster: If the company had given any sign within any reasonable time, say within two or three months after the strike commenced, that they were willing to refer the matter to arbitration, wouldn't that have been satisfactory to the union?  
A.—I believe so.
415. Q.—In regard to that first meeting in Nanaimo, you say that a committee was appointed to interview Mr. Bryden on the question of a reduction of wages?  
A.—Yes.
416. Q.—How long was that meeting held previous to the organization of the association?  
A.—Before that meeting adjourned the association was founded.
417. Q.—Don't you think that the miners could get along without forming an association, I mean in a general sense? Do you think there is no other protection for them but to form an association?  
A.—I don't know of any other protection for them.
418. Q.—Why couldn't they go and open mines for themselves?  
A.—In the first place there is no land for them to go on, and in the second place I don't suppose that miners have a great deal of capital to go into the business with.
419. Q.—You think that if they are not allowed to protect themselves by organizing into unions, there is no other hope for them than just to submit to such terms as their employers dictate?  
A.—No, unless they are backed up by an association they can do nothing but take what is offered by the bosses—that or leave, of course.
420. Q.—Do you think that the tendency of employers everywhere is to give less and less wages to their workingmen?  
A.—I believe the tendency is that way.
421. Q.—Do you think that if the miners have no form of organization they can gain the benefits of such laws as are enacted?  
A.—It has been my experience in other places where I have been, as well as here, that where there is no organization among the miners their condition is worse; that they are in a condition of semi-slavery if they are not organized for their own protection.
422. Mr. Semlin: Under our Coal Mines Regulations Act is there not an inspector appointed by the Government?  
A.—Yes.
423. Q.—Inspector of all Coal Mines?  
A.—Yes.
424. Q.—How often is he compelled to visit the mines?  
A.—Once in three months, or once a month, I wouldn't be sure which.
425. Q.—During the time that you have been in the mines here, has that inspector fulfilled his duties?  
A.—No direct violation of the law has come under my personal notice.
426. Mr. Forster: How are the check-weighmen paid?  
A.—They are paid by the miners. At this particular place, I believe, they used to run a check for the check-weighman, and fill up a box for him when it came their turn. In other places they pay so much a month. Sometimes they take a certain amount of coal from each man's number to make up his wages.

JOHN ANDERSON, called and sworn.

I wish to state what I think was the cause of the Wellington strike. Previous to the 17th of May, I was working in No. 3 shaft. Had been here for quite a while—over three years. Was here at the time of the explosion in No. 5. At that time that the explosion was in No.

5 shaft the company agreed with the men for to do away with riddles, and to do away with the slack out of the mine, for it was supposed to have been the cause of the explosion in No. 5. Directly after that the mines commenced to get filled up with men, and they commenced docking pretty hard—docking cars for slack coal and dirt mixed.

427. Mr. Bodwell: When was this?

A.—Before the strike; between the accident and the strike. Well, it went on pretty hard. I was not docked very often, but I was sometimes, along with the balance of them; and different ones were discharged for it, and some of them were reinstated, but I was told plump and plain that the first time I was docked again they would make an example of me. It was not the boss of the shaft, it was the assistant superintendent, and he said to me that it was dirt that I was docked for, and I said to him "I will take you to the top man and if he says it is dirt I will give you that day's work." He wouldn't do it. He backed out. I was hot enough to quit, but I wasn't in a position to do so. He said, "It doesn't matter what it is for, you were docked, and if you are docked again you will be discharged." I said "I am sorry to see that times have altered from what they were a very short time ago," and I picked up a lot of slack coal, the same as what caused the explosion in No. 5, and I showed it to him, and said, "I am very sorry that I am not able to leave the place. Those men lost their lives before, and now you are going on again in the same way, and I am sorry I cannot get out. If gas starts in No. 3 one of these days it will be just the same thing." He said, "It doesn't matter, complaints are coming to me every day, and if this is not stopped something will have to be done." The underboss was standing there and never questioned me at all, it was the assistant superintendent done it all. If I didn't throw out more slack and keep the coal cleaner I was going to be discharged. Then at Christmas they shut down No. 3, and I went round and got work in No. 6, and I got started on a place there. I asked the boss what was for it, and he said two and a half for tunnelling, and I will give you four yards. And I said what is for coal, and he said 75 cents. I said, "You used to pay 90 cents." Well, he said they might do it in No. 3, but he wouldn't do it in No. 6. Well, I sat down and tried it until dinner time, and found I could not make wages at it, and so I went and asked the boss for pushing. He said he could give me none.

428. Q.—How long was this previous to the strike?

A.—In the month of January; in May came the strike. I didn't get company work. That was the grievance I had against the company. As far as wages went I made good money in Wellington until I went to No. 6.

429. Q.—What, in your opinion, caused the strike?

A.—A man coming into your place and telling you this and that, and directing you how to fix the place. The way those men were trying to use me I had to get into an organization to support myself, so that I would have a body of men to back me up in my own occupation.

430. Q.—Are you of opinion that it was necessary that there should be an organization?

A.—Yes.

431. Q.—That organization was necessary to enable you to get what you considered right?

A.—Yes, sir.

432. Mr. Booth: How did you expect it to help you?

A.—I gave him the reasons. If there had been an association here when he told me I would be discharged if I was docked again, I would have reported it to my association, and they would have taken the matter up and supported me, and if I was discharged I would not have to leave the camp.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell.

433. Q.—So that you could get better pay than you earned?

A.—No.

434. Q.—Isn't that generally what makes the trouble? You have been pretty badly used haven't you?

A.—I think so.

435. Q.—Where are you living now?  
A.—In Wellington.
436. Q.—In one of the company's houses?  
A.—Yes.
437. Q.—Been out on strike for nine months and lived in one of the company's houses all the time?  
A.—Yes.
438. Q.—Who was this man that made such a lot of trouble for you?  
A.—Mr. Sharpe.
439. Q.—You and he had a quarrel about slack?  
A.—Yes.
440. Q.—And that was the cause of the strike?  
A.—No, sir.
441. Q.—Well, it was the only grievance you ever had?  
A.—That was the most of it.
442. Q.—And you think that caused the strike?  
A.—I tell you it put me into organization, what I wasn't intending to go into. I had belonged to the Knights of Labour, and seeing that we were defeated I thought organization was broken down.
443. Q.—You were making good wages at the time of this strike?  
A.—Considerably fair wages.
444. Q.—You had no fault to find with the wages?  
A.—No.
445. Q.—The only trouble you ever had was this trouble about the slack?  
A.—Yes.
446. Q.—Chairman: Didn't you find fault with the place when you asked the boss to give you pushing?  
A.—It was because there was no money in it.
447. Q.—After the change was made, and the riddles discarded, was it understood that the miners should load up both lump and slack coal?  
A.—Yes.
448. Q.—And was Mr. Sharpe trying to make you throw out the slack?  
A.—Yes.
449. Q.—Instead of sending it out according to the agreement?  
A.—Yes.
450. Q.—When you state that that caused the strike, you don't mean to say that that particular thing caused the strike?  
A.—It just forced me into organization, that I wasn't intending to go into. I hadn't the slightest grievance against the company except what I have explained here.
451. Q.—What was your idea of a pit committee?  
A.—I thought that if I had grievances and couldn't settle them that a pit committee would be more intelligent than what I was, as they are generally selected from among very intelligent men, and that they would look into all the deficiencies, and if any question did arise they could arbitrate for me.

ROBERT JARVIES, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Boyce.)

452. Q.—Where did you work?  
A.—In Wellington; No. 4 shaft.
453. Q.—Previous to the strike?  
A.—Yes.
454. Q.—Did you ever work where you couldn't make wages?  
A.—Yes, in deficient places, and I asked Mr. Sharpe to give me a little on one place, and his answer was "get the pit committee," and other slurring remarks. I asked him if there was \$3 a day in the place at the time, and he said no, but that when I got through I could make from \$3.50 to \$4 a day; and so I was to work on not knowing what I was to get afterwards. Another time he told me there was to be a strike in Wellington.
455. Chairman: Mr. Sharpe told you that there was to be a strike in Wellington?

- A.—Yes, and that the company reckoned that the strike would start in May, and that I would have June, July, and August, and that in September I would be back and beg at his knees for work.
456. Q.—What wages could you make in that deficient work?  
A.—From \$2.50 to \$3, at that time; \$3 I was given to understand was a day's work.
457. Q.—You were working for less than that?  
A.—I did.
458. Q.—Were the company paying \$3 at that time?  
A.—I don't know because I never worked any company work.
459. Q.—Would anything like that lead up to the strike, or had it any connection with it?  
A.—It is my opinion that the men had to organize to protect their own interests.
460. Q.—Had these deficient places anything to do with the strike?  
A.—It had a great deal to do with it.
461. Q.—Was there any other question, which, in your opinion, led up to the strike?  
A.—There was docking. I was often docked, and one time, just after I started in No. 4, Mr. Sharpe came into the place where I was and said he was told I was loading dirty coal and, in that place, I don't think it was possible for any man to load the coal thoroughly clean, because there was dirt coming down from the top; but we were trying our utmost to keep it clean, and still we were docked.
462. Mr. Boyce: In your opinion would it have been possible to organize the men of Wellington, if they had been treated properly and got good wages?  
A.—Never; no; you could never have organized the men of Wellington if they had been treated properly and got sufficient wages.
463. Mr. Booth: Do you think the question of wages had anything to do with the strike?  
A.—They were gradually going down, but we wanted to be recognized as an organized body of men, which I believe we have a perfect right to be.
464. Chairman: And you also think that the fact of the men receiving unfair remuneration was one of the causes which led to this strike?  
A.—Yes.
465. Q.—Were any of the men there earning more than you were earning?  
A.—In other parts of the mine those who had better places made better money.
466. Q.—Was it the habit in this colliery to pay a certain sum per ton, no matter what the place was?  
A.—No; in this place where I worked it was low coal, and there was all this dirt to be handled.
467. Mr. Booth: In bad places, you were allowed more per ton?  
A.—The low coal was 90 cent coal, on account of this dirt. In driving the place you couldn't stow the whole of the dirt, and you had to load it.
468. Q.—What was the price where the coal was good?  
A.—Seventy-five cents.
469. Q.—A difference of 15 cents for the extra work?  
A.—Yes, and that didn't pay for the extra work.
470. Q.—Did you ever have any differences with the boss about anything particular?  
A.—Well, those were the prices on those places, and if you couldn't make wages at them, you could ask for more, I suppose.
471. Q.—Arrange with the foreman?  
A.—Yes. Very often when you ask you are told, "If you don't like it, you can take your tools out," and then if we had a pit committee that committee could see whether it could make any arrangement with the boss, and see if it was worth \$3 or not, and if they said I was deficiently paid I would have to take my tools and go off.
472. Q.—Then the idea of the pit committee is to make it not so much of a personal matter between the man and the boss?  
A.—Yes.
- Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell:
473. Q.—How long have you been a miner?

- A.—I started working when 14 years of age.
474. Q.—Where?  
A.—In South Wales.
475. Q.—Been mining ever since?  
A.—No, I have travelled some, since.
476. Q.—Were you not a sailor?  
A.—I went in a ship for a while.
477. Q.—How long were you sailing?  
A.—Sometimes I would be a twelvemonth.
478. Q.—During how many years were you a sailor?  
(Objected to by Mr. Boyce on ground that it was immaterial to question under enquiry.)
479. Chairman: How long were you working at Wellington?  
A.—I started here a twelvemonth last October, That was the second time; I had been working here before.
480. Mr. Bodwell: How long before?  
A.—About ten months.
481. Q.—What were you doing between times?  
A.—I went away prospecting.
492. Q.—How long ago was it that you worked that ten months?  
A.—I went away in April and returned in September.
493. Q.—What year?  
A.—It will be two years next spring, that I left here.
494. Q.—How many years were you sailing, altogether?  
A.—For about one year.
495. Q.—No more?  
A.—No; I have been working in different parts of the world.
496. Q.—How much wages do you make now? What is your average wage per day, at present?  
A.—I don't know that I am making any particular average wages now, because I am keeping the marrow in my bones, and not letting it go out.
497. Q.—You are having a rest?  
A.—Yes.
498. Q.—Out on strike?  
A.—I don't know that it is a strike, exactly.
499. Q.—You are paid by the union?  
A.—I didn't tell you that.
500. Q.—How much do you make?  
A.—That is my business.
501. Q.—How much do you consider a fair wage for a miner—a first-class man, like yourself?  
A.—I guess I could go and work a place along-side of you any day.
502. Q.—Well, how much are you worth?  
A.—The average wages, I was given to understand, that they gave in this place, was \$3.00; that is to a man that knew how to dig coal.
503. Chairman: Was that the contract wage, or the company wage?  
A.—It was supposed that if a miner was working a place that place was worth \$3.00 to him; that is to a man that knew how to dig coal.
504. Mr. Bodwell: How much did you make for the last month?  
A.—I couldn't tell you that.
505. Q.—I can tell you—you made \$3.05 a day?  
A.—I didn't.
506. Q.—Do you swear you didn't.  
A.—I swear I didn't.
507. Q.—You swear you didn't make \$3.05 a day, on an average, for the last month?  
A.—I do.
508. Q.—That is as correct as the rest of the statements you have made here?  
A.—I have my paper here, showing what I received.
509. Q.—What did you make the month before?



- A.—I don't know.
510. Q.—Did you make \$3.04 a day, on the average?  
A.—I don't know about the month before.
511. Q.—But you will swear that you didn't make it for the last month?  
A.—I swear that I didn't. There are expenses—powder and different expenses.
512. Q.—Will you swear that, after taking out all the expenses, you didn't clear \$3.05 a day?  
A.—No, I didn't.
513. Q.—And that in the month before that, you didn't make \$3.04 a day?  
A.—I don't say about the month before; I said the last.
514. Q.—You say that the men of Wellington could not have been organized if they had been properly treated—do you stick to that?  
A.—Yes, I do.
515. Q.—Were there lots of complaints?  
A.—Lots.
516. Q.—Among the men?  
A.—I guess you will hear some more, yet.
517. Q.—Did you hear many complaints?  
A.—Lots of things.
518. Q.—What were the complaints?  
A.—I don't carry a newspaper in my head.
519. Q.—You say that there was great discontent and a great deal of complaint—I want to know if you heard it?  
A.—I heard it; I have heard it on lots of different subjects.
520. Q.—There were lots of complaints?  
A.—Yes.
521. Q.—You swear to that?  
A.—Yes.
522. Q.—When did they begin?  
A.—They had been brewing for a long while.
523. Q.—Where did you generally hear them?  
A.—Sometimes I heard them all round; in the mine, or anywhere where conversation would be going on.
524. Q.—Were they all reported to the union?  
A.—No; we don't report every little thing to the union.
525. Q.—Anything that you considered important you reported to the union, didn't you?  
A.—If it was important.
526. Q.—They were reported in the lodge, weren't they?  
A.—I am telling you that all that I heard was not reported.
527. Q.—So that you don't know how much wages you were making, on an average?  
A.—I didn't average \$3.00 a day while I was in No. 4.
528. Q.—Swear to that?  
A.—I can; for the whole of the time.
529. Q.—Will you swear for the last month?  
A.—I said I didn't receive it in the last month.
530. Q.—And the month before?  
A.—I didn't say I didn't the month before, because I didn't know. I worked 14 days in the last month.
531. Q.—What were you doing the last month?  
A.—I was digging coal.
532. Q.—What were you doing on the 5th of May?  
A.—I was working.
533. Q.—How many boxes did you send up?  
A.—I don't know how many boxes. There were some days, towards the end, that I didn't send up any. There were sixteen days in May. If I had started to work on the following Monday I would not have made \$3.00 a day, because the place was getting worse.
534. Mr. Forster: Were you ever on a committee to interview Mr. Bryden?  
A.—No.
535. Q.—Have you ever worked in a mine where there was an organization?

- A.—Yes, I have. I have been in South America in the mines.
536. Mr. Semlin : Did you ever work in mines where you received better wages than at Wellington ?
- A.—I never worked much in the States. I have been down in South America and round there.
537. Q.—Did you earn as much in South America ?
- A.—The wages in South America are not the same as here.
538. Q.—Is it your opinion that miners get better pay and better treatment, by having an organization ?
- A.—Yes, they do.
539. Q.—Do you think that, unless there is an organization, the employers are able to impose on some of their people ?
- A.—Yes.
540. Mr. Forster : That is, not to give as good terms to some men as to others ?
- A.—Yes ; the pets have always got good places, of course.
541. Chairman : I understood you to say that you had been docked unfairly. Do you believe that if there had been an organization you would not have been docked ?
- A.—I would not have been docked so much.
542. Q.—You say you earned from \$2.50 to \$3.00 ?
- A.—Yes.
543. Q.—Do you think that was not enough ?
- A.—I was given to understand that the wages were \$3.00 ; but you must remember that there were lots of men who didn't make that.
544. Q.—Was \$3.00 a day accounted good wages in a good place, or in a bad place ; how was the line drawn ?
- A.—According to my understanding \$3.00 was the regular wage for the whole of the places. If a man didn't make \$3.00, he was supposed to be given a little to make it up.
545. Q.—Was it to be made up to \$3.00 ?
- A.—I was always under that impression, and I believe there was some understanding with old Mr. Dunsmuir to that effect.
546. Q.—Were you made up to \$3.00 when you were underneath that ?
- A.—No.

VICTOR DELCOURT, called and sworn. (Examined by Chairman.)

(A. Berteaux sworn in as interpreter.)

547. Q.—What is your name ?
- A.—Victor Delcourt.
548. Q.—Were you working in Wellington ?
- A.—Yes ; before the strike.
549. Q.—What, in your opinion, led up to the strike ?
- A.—In the place where I was working, at No. 5, there was about 20 or 25 yards where the roof was all dirt, and I wanted to put stringers—timbers—in there, but they didn't let me, and one day Mr. Bryden came there with the Mining Inspector, I think it was, and the Mining Inspector came to the place and told me to get out.
550. Q.—Why did he do that ?
- A.—Because the roof was so bad that I couldn't stay under.
551. Q.—The roof was so bad it was dangerous to work there ?
- A.—Because the roof might come down at any time.
552. Q.—What did the fire boss say about that—had he seen it before ?
- A.—Yes, he saw it. Every morning when I was going down, I asked them to put stringers in there, but they said they couldn't put timbers down there.
553. Q.—He wanted to put up timbers and the company wouldn't let him ?
- A.—I asked them before the Mining Inspector came in there.
554. Q.—And they wouldn't let you ?
- A.—No.

555. Q.—What was that for?  
A.—I don't know just why, but I think it was because the coal was too high.
556. Q.—What height of a place was it?  
A.—There was about seven feet of coal.
557. Q.—What, in your opinion, led to the strike?  
A.—Because men were not making good wages.
558. Q.—That is your opinion?  
A.—Yes.
559. Q.—What wages were you making?  
A.—The most I ever made was \$2.50.
560. Q.—How long have you been mining?  
A.—Since I was 10 years of age, and I am 32 now.
561. Q.—Miner for 22 years?  
A.—Yes.
562. Q.—You were not paid enough for your place?  
A.—No, not enough.
563. Q.—So far as you are concerned, was that the sole reason why there was a strike?  
A.—For my own part, I was not making money enough, that was my trouble.
564. Q.—Did you ask the company to make it up to you, in this place that was so deficient?  
A.—I didn't ask them, because I didn't expect they would.
565. Q.—In that case the company didn't know about it?  
A.—They knew it well.
566. Q.—Mr. Forster: When did you come to British Columbia?  
A.—One year and a half ago.
567. Q.—Did you come direct from Belgium?  
A.—No, I lived awhile in America; I came here from Nova Scotia.

Cross examined by Mr. Bodwell:

568. Q.—What kind of coal were you working in, at the time you couldn't make wages?  
A.—It was a small coal place where I couldn't make wages.
569. Q.—What shaft?  
A.—No. 5.
570. Q.—Who was your boss?  
A.—Johnson.
571. Q.—Were you working at No. 5 just before the strike?  
A.—No, not just before the strike.
572. Q.—Where were you just before the strike?  
A.—At No. 6.
573. Q.—Were you running No. 83?  
A.—Yes.
574. Q.—How much were you making then?  
A.—The last place I don't complain of; but, before that, I couldn't make \$2.25.
575. Q.—What did you make in March?  
A.—Can't remember.
576. Q.—Don't you remember that you made over \$3 a day?  
A.—I never made \$3 a day at No. 6.
577. Q.—How long before the strike occurred did you know that there was going to be one?  
A.—From the first day I got in Wellington, from what I heard from the Belgian people, I said it would be good to have a strike.
578. Q.—First day you came to Wellington?  
A.—Yes.
579. Q.—When was that?  
A.—Eighteen months ago.
580. Q.—Who spoke to you about having a strike?  
A.—Nobody told me, I just said it to myself.

(Adjourned for one hour.)

SATURDAY, 21st March, 1891.

## AFTER RECESS.—EVENING SESSION.

MARTIN HORRIBAN, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. BOYCE.)

581. Q.—Did you work at the Wellington Collieries previous to the strike?  
A.—I did.
582. Chairman: How long were you working there?  
A.—Seven or eight months.
583. Mr. Semlin: Up to the time of the strike?  
A.—No, sir.
584. Mr. Boyce: What was the last pit you worked in?  
A.—No. 3.
585. Q.—Why did you leave No. 3?  
A.—For two reasons. In the first place I was scared of being blown up by the gas, and in the next place I loaded a car of coal, and the weigh boss up there—I believe his name is Gillespie—stole it from me; wouldn't give me anything for it. I asked him the reason why he took it, and he said I loaded two pieces of boney in it. He showed me the boney, and I asked him where he put the rest of the coal, and he said he dumped it in the schute, and I guess the company sold it. The two pieces of boney, I guess, would weigh about 75 lbs.; no more, anyway.
586. Q.—What do you know about the gas in that mine?  
A.—There was three successive mornings that the fire boss—I believe his name is Baker—told me and my partner to brush the gas away from the face of our place; and I heard that there was a big body of gas in No. 3, and I got scared to work.
587. Q.—Is that a usual thing to do, for the miner to brush the gas out of his place?  
A.—I have never been told that before.
588. Q.—Don't you know, as a miner, that it is dangerous?  
A.—I know that it is dangerous.
589. Q.—Did you work anywhere else?  
A.—I worked in No. 4 previous to that.
590. Q.—Did you hear any complaints about that?  
A.—I left No. 4 because I wasn't making any money. I worked 23 shifts, and I drew between forty and fifty dollars for those 23 shifts, and I worked hard for it; and while I was working those shifts, my partner, John Thompson, made arrangements with Mr. Sharpe that he would make it up. I was working with the understanding that I would be made up to three dollars a day, and when I came to draw my pay it was not so. I got nothing to make it up—they made up nothing. I went to work the next day there was work in the pit, and I saw Mr Sharpe about the place, and he said if I didn't like the place I could take my irons out; so I took my irons out. We loaded nine cars of coal, I think, that day, and there was between seven and eight hundredweight of it docked. That is why I quit there.
591. Q.—You were a member of no union then?  
A.—No.
592. Q.—There was no union here?  
A.—No.
593. Q.—If there had been a union, could you have got paid for your work?  
A.—If there had been a union I believe it would have been better for me; I would have got pay for that deficient work, and I don't believe I would have been allowed to go into the place with that gas there.
594. Q.—How does that affect the question of the present strike or lock-out at Wellington?  
A.—My statement is to show the need of organization.
595. Q.—And you had no alternative but to take what was given you, or quit?  
A.—That is so. If there had been an organization at the time that Mr. Sharpe told me to take my irons out if I didn't like it, I could have called in the committee.
596. Q.—Are you a practical miner?  
A.—Yes, I am.