

Cross-examined by Mr. Boyce :

1182. Q.—In speaking of Greenwell you said that he refused to take a place where he could make \$6 a day :
A.—I said he might have made it for aught he knew.
1183. Q.—How many men were working in the Wellington mines on the 17th of May ?
A.—About 570.
1184. Q.—How many walked in the procession from Wellington ?
A.—About 340. I was standing on the office verandah when the Wellington men were marching, and I made it a point to count them, and the reporter of the Free Press the following morning bore out my calculation.
1185. Q.—There was evidence given here that it was 410 ?
A.—That is quite possible.
1186. Q.—You made a statement that there was only 45 per cent. of the Wellington miners in the union at that time ?
A.—I am speaking from a statement of your own. You said on the Bluffs that day, if I remember rightly—I am speaking from memory, subject to correction—in congratulating the men on your unity, that their organization had now reached 900. I think if you look at the Free Press of Monday, May 19th, you will find that statement made. Well, I looked at it in this way, if your organization was composed of 900 miners, and we had 570 miners, why, if they were all in, there must have been very few from Nanaimo and East Wellington. Now you must know that your organization was very perfect at that time in Nanaimo. So that if you take your own words about the union being 900 strong on the 17th of May, and the Wellington miners being 570, you will find that we could not have had any big percentage of union men at all. Look at the members who were enrolled in the union at that time.
1187. Q.—There were 400 walked from Wellington, and Wellington had nearly as many members at the meeting as the others combined—no one walked but members ?
A.—I know scores that walked in the procession that day that were not members. I know twenty men, if I know one, who are working in Wellington to-day. I will give you names, lots of names, of men who were in the procession that day who, I think, were not in your union.
1188. Q.—How do you know that they were not ?
A.—They are working in Wellington to-day ; they were never in the union.
1189. Q.—How do you know ?
A.—Well, if a man's word is worth anything, I will tell you of one—a man who has wrought to me for years and years, a Scotchman, who came to the country the same day I did,—Robert Watson. That man walked in the procession that day, and you won't find his name on your roll.
1190. Q.—But as a matter of fact we know that there were that many, or about that many, enrolled in the union at that date ?
A.—If you interest yourself on that point you will see that my statement, that 45 per cent. of the Wellington men were in it, is right ?
1191. Chairman : You say 340 in the procession ?
A.—Yes.
1192. Q.—And that you had about 570 employed altogether ?
A.—Yes, under-ground.
1193. Q.—But you don't think there were more than 340 in the procession ?
A.—No.
1194. Mr. Boyce : As a reasonable sensible man, do you think it possible that any man could have the influence to bring to bear upon that number of men sufficient to induce them to lay down their tools and go out, and stand evictions, and all that sort of thing, unless there was a real grievance ?
A.—Yes, I believe that, and I will tell you what leads me to come to that conclusion. During the first week of the strike, if there was one idea more prevalent in the neighbourhood of the Wellington mines than another, it was, that for once they had learned that Mr. Bryden was an arbitrary man and a tyrant ; and his most tyrannical act they heard was, that a deputation consisting of

Messrs. Richards, Suggett, and Hall, went to his door, and he banged the door in their face. I found that that made an impression among the Wellington men more than you could conceive; and the main opinion that the men entertained, from statements made to them, was, that the company positively refused to receive a deputation of their own men. Although these statements were absurd, yet it is not very difficult to go on adding absurdity to absurdity, and poison the minds of the whole community.

1195. Q.—Were those statements ever made publicly?
 A.—Publicly; I think if you would give me time I could find them in print here. Then there are other things. There is another thing I would like to state,—and at the time I was very near issuing a challenge to Mr. Boyce for \$1,000. During the first week of the strike if he had taken a poll of the Wellington Collieries, there would have been a unanimous vote to return to work. I was very near issuing that challenge; and if there is one thing more than another that I regret, it is that I didn't.
1196. Q.—You want to establish the fact that the Wellington men had no more sense than to be led around by somebody else with an imaginary grievance?
 A.—The way in which they have been led has astonished me, and has astonished scores of others, and of themselves.
1197. Mr. Bodwell: How were they led?
 A.—Just these things told them. They were told “Oh, join the union, and we will compel the bosses to do this, that, and the next thing for you, through our organization.”
1198. Chairman: What proof have you of these statements?
 A.—Just the men talking. Mr. Boyce has no other means of information than that. I have the same means of getting information as he.
1199. Mr. Boyce: But I have never made any such statements. Ask that man there, Mr. Carr, what he came out on strike for—and I am only pointing out one man, out of scores.
1200. Mr. Berteaux: Did Mr. Sharpe make the statement that he would make the miners dig this coal for fifty cents a ton?
 A.—Never mentioned such a thing in my life.
1201. Mr. Boyce: Never stated such a thing?
 A.—No, sir.
1202. Q.—Did you ever tell the men that eight shillings a day was a day's wages?
 A.—No, sir. I have hunted for the men who state that I said these things, but never could find a man brave enough to say that I did.
1203. Chairman: When that committee came to see Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden on the 26th May, who was it that made the statement that they had struck work rather suddenly, and that they had found out that they were working half an hour a day more than the other collieries?
 A.—Some of the members of the committee.
1204. Q.—Who were they?
 A.—I will be surprised to hear that neither Mr. Suggett or Mr. Carter here, didn't make some allusion to that. Of course, I am only giving my impressions of the interview.
1205. Q.—You are on oath?
 A.—Yes; and so far as my memory serves me, that was what they said.
1206. Q.—They had struck work rather suddenly?
 A.—Yes, that is what they said, I think.
1207. Q.—Did they tell you how long it was since they found out?
 A.—No.
1208. Mr. Semlin: You have mentioned that you have been connected with coal mines for a number of years—during that time were you ever a member of an association?
 A.—Yes.
1209. Q.—What, in your opinion, are the advantages of such an association from a miner's point of view?
 A.—I was quite a boy then; just a young lad.

1210. Q.—But you would know of its workings?
 A.—No, not much. At that time I might have been from 15 to 17 years of age. Of course the unions there in no way interfere with the general arrangements in any way. They were an organized body of workmen, dealing with an organized body of employers.
1211. Q.—Have you ever had the partial management, or management, of a mine in which an organization existed?
 A.—Yes.
1212. Q.—Did you find it troublesome?
 A.—No more than 30 or 40 per cent. of the men would be in the union, probably. A man, generally, if he joined a union would join it because he believed in it. Sometimes a deputation of men has come to me and said that they were to see about a certain grievance, and if I knew they were all union men I would say to them, “Now, you only represent a section of the men here; could you not get some of the non-union men to come into this committee, and then we can talk it over together.”
1213. Q.—Do you think that these unions or organizations are beneficial to the miners—from a miner’s point of view?
 A.—No, I don’t think it.
1214. Chairman: How can you speak from a miner’s point of view when you say you haven’t been a member in that sense?
 A.—I will tell you why I think so. One has nothing to go on, except just what they can learn about the case, and if you take Scotland for instance you will find that the largest wages paid in Scotland are given in Lanarkshire, where the least percentage of the men are in unions; and the smallest wages are in Ayrshire and Fifeshire, where the unions are strongest.
1215. Q.—You don’t mean to infer that where unions are strongest, that the pay is the least?
 A.—I just gave it to show that these districts that had organizations were not at all superior. In fact it is well enough known that the largest wages in Scotland are paid in Lanarkshire, and that district has no union scarcely, as compared with Ayrshire and Fifeshire, where wages are least.
1216. Mr. Forster: Might it not be that the miners have joined the unions just because their pay was small?
 A.—There has been a union in Fifeshire, to my knowledge, for 25 years.
1217. Mr. Semlin: Are the miners of Fifeshire any more troublesome than the miners of Lanarkshire?
 A.—I think so.
1218. Q.—You stated that the men there joined unions because they thought it was good for them?
 A.—Because they believed in them.
1219. Q.—These men out here thought it would be a good thing to be in a union, too?
 A.—Charley McGarrigle didn’t think so, when he didn’t join until June.
1220. Q.—But then he must have thought it was good?
 A.—Not while he was working.
1221. Mr. Bodwell: In those places in Scotland where the miners have unions, is it not a fact that the masters also have unions?
 A.—Yes.
1222. Q.—Find it necessary to combine?
 A.—Yes.
1223. Q.—In order to protect themselves from the miners’ unions?
 A.—Yes.
1224. Mr. Forster: Where did you get your figures in regard to wages in Scotland?
 A.—I know them from 24 years’ experience in that country.
1225. Q.—In both districts?
 A.—Yes.
1226. Chairman: From general recollection?
 A.—It would be no hard matter for me, I could furnish them to you in a short time. I could show you the speeches of Mr. Ward, secretary of the Miners’

Association, and if there is one thing that man is doing, it is showing up the Fifeshire managers and comparing them to Lanarkshire, and every Scotchman knows that in Lanarkshire they have the least percentage of men in union.

1227. Q.—You are proving that the miners have to organize to get a fair, equitable wage?
A.—What I want to prove is that the fact of those Lanarkshire miners not being organized doesn't crush them down, so far as wages are concerned, or any other way.

JOHN HAIGH, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

1228. Q.—Your name?
A.—John Haigh.
1229. Q.—Where do you live?
A.—Wellington.
1230. Q.—Occupation?
A.—Miner.
1231. Q.—How long have you been working here?
A.—Since 1886.
1232. Q.—Have you been connected with the various labour organizations that have existed here?
A.—Connected with the Knights of Labour.
1233. Q.—Can you explain the workings of these labour organizations among miners in other places?
A.—I have been connected with labour organizations ever since I was working in mines—in England, Pennsylvania and Illinois.
1234. Q.—Have you held positions of authority?
A.—Certainly.
1235. Q.—Been on pit committees?
A.—Yes.
1236. Q.—Can you explain to this committee any of the effects of these organizations on miners, where the pit committee exists?

(Mr. Boyce objected on the ground that this had nothing to do with the causes of the strike. Answer admitted subject to objection.)

- A.—In Pennsylvania in 1869 I belonged to an organization and we had a pit committee, and the duty of that pit committee was to see that every person was properly paid according to what they thought was necessary, and that pit committee was continually causing trouble betwixt the men and the employers, for the simple reason that once now and again a committee of sensible men would be appointed, but next time there would be a committee of men that were drunkards and careless both with regard to the interests of their fellow miners and themselves, and the consequence was that we were continually having strikes and being late for work in order to call mass meetings, which I always considered was detrimental to the miners as well as to the employers. Then in Illinois, on Belleville Tract, in 1871, I belonged to a miner's association, and I served on the committee. If the boss at that place employed a man that we didn't like, we would send and watch that man commence his work in the morning, and if he didn't shape himself in such a position as that we thought he was a practical miner, we would merely tell the boss and he was discharged—turned out of the mine—not allowed to make his living in the mine. It was a district organization like Nanaimo and Wellington, and every morning as we were going to work we would stop to see if John Morgan, the president, was coming to tell us to have a suspension or a strike. We never knew when we left home whether we were going to have a working day or a holiday. I was a member of one of the lodges in St. Louis, and whenever a mass meeting was called in Ophs' Gardens, West Belleville, motions were never put to the meeting until every man had got more or less under the influence of liquor, and then, after speeches by the leaders of the organization, a motion would carry for a strike whether the men wanted it or not. Simply the whiskey, or the influence which the whiskey and the speakers together had over the men, caused them to vote for a strike. Then

probably after we would be on strike for two weeks or so it would be abandoned, and we would have to get work again the best way we could. That was caused by the pit committees. Here is another instance of the tyranny of pit committees. I didn't work at Roslyn myself, but I was there on my way from Spokane Falls. It was the rule at Roslyn that each miner working by himself should fill three boxes, for a day's wages, and if two men were working together they filled five boxes. Simpson, a miner, went to work and filled more than three boxes, and the consequence was that the pit committee laid a complaint against him, and he was turned away from Roslyn. My experience is that a pit committee is always detrimental to the employes as well as to the companies.

1237. Q.—Had you any connection with labour organizations here?
A.—Yes.
1238. Q.—What positions did you fill here?
A.—I was Worthy Foreman of the Knights of Labour.
1239. Q.—Did you become acquainted with the leaders of the labour movement here?
A.—Yes; oh, yes.
1240. Q.—Did you hear their speeches?
A.—Certainly.
1241. Q.—Have you any opinion as to the causes which led up to the Wellington strike on the 17th of May?
A.—Yes.
1242. Q.—Do you know anything of those causes?
A.—Yes.
1243. Q.—What were they?
A.—In the mines at Wellington, previous to the strike, for some time, the cars had been running very short. A great number of miners were employed in the mine, and they couldn't get enough cars to take out all the coal they could dig. The consequence was that these men were not able to make sufficient wages to suit them. That was one of the causes of the strike. Then, ever since the organization was formed, some two years back, from the speeches I have heard Mr. Tully Boyce make, it has been my opinion, that his intention has been to help to get up a strike at Wellington.
1244. Q.—Where have you heard those speeches made?
A.—At all of the meetings at that time. Then I have heard all the speeches he has made since.
1245. Q.—Now, was the eight hour question a grievance among the men?
A.—In my experience in the mines the eight hour question was no grievance among the miners, but it was better for the men. I never knew the time, if the miners could get all the cars they could load, that they were willing to come out when the time was up. I can give you one instance: Mr. Hughey Bates and George Taylor was working on the afternoon shift, and they had to be continually told to come out of the mine, and the miners generally was satisfied with the way they was working, and they never complained in regard to the number of hours they were working in all my knowledge, and I think I had as much experience as most. Not even the day men.
1246. Q.—You say that even the day men didn't complain about the eight hours?
A.—Not a complaint.
1247. Q.—And it was no advantage to the diggers?
A.—It was no benefit to the diggers to have the eight hours. The diggers was always ready to go down in the morning as soon as ever the boss would let them go down.
1248. Q.—You were not at the meeting on the Bluffs?
A.—No.

Cross-examined by Mr. Boyce :

1249. Q.—You seem to have a special antipathy to pit committees—do you say that you attribute all the trouble at Belleville Tract to pit committees?
A.—Not all of it. The pit committees, all the time, had the calling of the meetings among our men.

1250. Q.—Then, you stated that, as a general thing, the miners got pretty boozy before a motion was passed?
A.—At Oph's gardens.
1251. Q.—Wasn't that one cause of the trouble?
A.—If it hadn't been for the pit committees the meetings would never have been called.
1252. Q.—Yet you still remained a member of that organization?
A.—Certainly.
1253. Q.—You knew what they were?
A.—Certainly.
1254. Q.—Was that not rather an inconsistent thing?
A.—Simply for the very reason that in those days I had a great dislike to being called a blackleg, and I didn't want to leave Belleville Tract. During those meetings on Belleville Tract I was in several riots; I am glad to say there have been none here, but I certainly have an antipathy against mining committees for causes that occurred there, as well as here.
1255. Q.—Yet you identified yourself with a labour organization at Wellington, when there was no fear of your being called a blackleg, didn't you?
A.—There would have been a dread if I had worked against them.
1256. Q.—Will you swear that as a fact?
A.—For the simple reason that when I left the Knights of Labour, the pit committee, or gas committee, that was there, went and reported a certain difficulty which occurred on No. 2 level of No. 3 shaft, went right and told Mr. Haggart about it, and the consequence was that I had a grievance against the pit committee at Wellington. Since then I have resolved to do everything I can to keep down a pit committee.
1257. Q.—You think I have been making all my efforts to bring about a strike here?
A.—I say that that is my opinion.
1258. Q.—Did you ever hear me talking at a public meeting, or private meeting, for over 12 months after leaving Wellington?
A.—No, I was away at Comox part of that time.
1259. Q.—Did you ever read in the press, that I had made a speech, or any remark, during that 12 months?
A.—I read your speeches in Nanaimo.
1260. Q.—Within 12 months after?
A.—No, not for 12 months. I think your actions, and your endeavours, have been in favour of getting a revenge on Wellington, after you were discharged.
1261. Q.—You give that as your opinion?
A.—Yes.
1262. Q.—You won't swear that as a fact?
A.—I have no reason to swear it as a fact, because I don't know it positive.
1263. Q.—Chairman: Haven't you sworn to it as a fact?
A.—I have said that I am giving this as my opinion. I am swearing that everything he has said has tended to leave the impression upon my mind that he was one of the causes of the strike at Wellington.
1264. Mr. Boyce: Yet, for 12 months you never heard me opening my mouth with regard to Wellington, or matters there?
A.—I never heard it only from reading your speeches ever since the meeting at the Bluffs.
1265. Q.—For 12 months after my leaving here, did you ever hear of my making a speech against or in any way connected with Wellington?
A.—No, not for 12 months.
1266. Q.—As a fact don't you know that I didn't do it?
A.—No, I don't know it as a fact.
1267. Q.—Do you believe that I could have agitated during that 12 months without you knowing about it?
A.—No, I don't believe you could.
1268. Q.—You then admit that I haven't done it?
A.—I don't remember it.
1269. Q.—Have you been in John Greenwell's place?

- A.—Yes.
1270. Q.—Do you think that 75 cents a ton was sufficient for that place?
A.—I don't; but I remember that John Greenwell and Dick Harris told me that Mr. Sharpe offered him a place with Bob McDonald, and John Greenwell refused to move out of that place to go with Bob McDonald—he told me that himself.
1271. Q.—There has been a good deal said about your connection with labour organizations—what was the direct cause of your severing your connection with the labour organization in Wellington?
A.—It was when I took Jack Hough's job in No. 3 shaft; then I didn't think I had any more connection with the labour organization, because then, if they had brought on a strike, I had nothing to do with it, so I had no more occasion to keep on with them.
1272. Q.—Is it a fact that as soon as you took the position of fireman you resigned your position in the Knights of Labour?
A.—I never went to the Knights of Labour afterwards.
1273. Q.—Did you resign your membership then?
A.—I told Arthur Spencer to take my name from the books, but he never would take my name off the books, for the simple reason that he wanted me to go back and pay my dues, and then withdraw my card.
1274. Q.—Is it not a fact that after the men found gas in the place, and found that you were an incompetent fireman and had you discharged, that you resigned your position with them?
A.—No.
1275. Q.—You will swear to that?
A.—Yes, I will swear it.
1276. Mr. Bodwell: Can you explain that?
A.—I took Jack Hough's job, and I left the Knights of Labour, and told Arthur Spencer to take my name from the books, as I was not going up there any more, and didn't belong to it. John Bickle was then the brattice-man and Billy Morgan was the shot-firer, and the gas committee, or mine committee, were in No. 3 shaft. Bickle neglected to put up any brattice in Tom Galon's place, and the consequence was that he fired a shot and it made a hole, which the committee reported as a pot-hole, but which was not a pot-hole, it was a hole made by the shot on the left hand side of the cross-cut. A stringer had been put up, and I put up my safety lamp and there was no gas there, and there was no dust on the ground except what I considered to be mining dust. I never hunted for the hole, I just put up my safety. They were watching me very carefully, to see if they could find some fault and get me discharged, and when I reported all clear, they ran down and found a little gas there, and then they struck and demanded that I be discharged. I offered to give my lamp to Billy Morgan that same morning, so that the miners wouldn't lose any time, but they refused to have Morgan for a fire boss, they wanted McGarrigle. Then they struck three days, and I went to Arthur Spencer again and told him that I knew he was the leader of it, and I told him that I would give his Knights of Labour \$100, to be used as they desired, if they would allow me to give two weeks notice, but the Knights, in order to have their revenge upon me for leaving their organization, determined that I should be discharged at once.
1277. Mr. Boyce: Am I to understand that you had left the organization, and that the organization knew you had left, previous to that day.
A.—Arthur Spencer did.
1278. Q.—Are you sure that Arthur Spencer reported that you wanted to resign?
A.—I don't know; I never went near to see; I just told him.
1279. Q.—You make a charge against a whole association because you notified one man?
A.—He was the proper man. I never went to the lodge to pay up my dues after I took Jack Hough's job. I didn't take the trouble to go there and withdraw.
1280. Q.—Still you charge that they were using spite against you on that account?
A.—Well?
1281. Q.—You are prejudiced against pit committees?

- A.—I am ; yes.
1282. Q.—Then do you consider that you are an impartial witness in this case?
A.—I think I am an impartial witness in so far as I know that a pit committee is a detriment to the miners. I would like to make one statement right here, and say that the best places were given to the union men.
1283. Mr. Bodwell: Your opinion is that the best places were given to union men?
A.—Yes; were occupied by union men up to the time of the strike.
(Committee adjourned to call of chair.)

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VICTORIA, B. C., Friday, April 3rd, 1891.

Meeting of Select Committee. (Continued from Saturday, 21st March, 1891.)

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

Mr. E. V. Bodwell appeared for the owners of the Wellington Collieries. Mr. Tully Boyce appeared for the Union Miners.

JAMES SHARPE, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

1284. Q.—What is your name?
A.—James Sharpe.
1285. Q.—Where do you live?
A.—At Wellington.
1286. Q.—What is your occupation?
A.—Miner.
1287. Q.—Do you hold any position in the Wellington mines?
A.—At the present time I am foreman of No. 4 shaft.
1288. Q.—How long have you held that position?
A.—Two years and three months.
1289. Q.—How long have you been working at the Wellington mines?
A.—Twelve years come August.
1290. Q.—How did you begin there?
A.—Started as a labourer.
1291. Q.—Have you known of any labour troubles at Wellington prior to the present strike?
A.—There have been slight troubles; didn't amount to a great deal.
1292. Q.—When did those troubles begin?
A.—We had a little trouble after I had been there about three years.
1293. Q.—What was it about?
A.—About the yardage and narrow places, and so on.
1294. Q.—Did you have any difficulty in settling the matter with the mine owners?
A.—No.
1295. Q.—Did you find it difficult to do so without an organization among the miners?
A.—It was settled peaceably, without any organization that I know of.
1296. Q.—Did the miners get their rights in the matter?
A.—I believe so.
1297. Q.—Were they liberally dealt with?
A.—Yes.
1298. Q.—You say that was about three years after you first went there?
A.—Yes.
1299. Q.—Do you know of any others?
A.—Only this present one.
1300. Q.—Do you know how the trouble that occurred at that time was stirred up?
A.—As far as I could see our men seemed satisfied and contented, but some agitators dropped in once in a while and stirred them up, and made them believe they were ill-used, and not earning the wages they ought to earn.
1301. Q.—From the time of that strike up to the present, what has been the state of affairs among the miners?

- A.—There was four or five years of peace among the men.
(The Chairman suggested that the witness was being examined on subjects outside the matters under enquiry)
1302. Q.—Has that sort of thing any connection with the present strike, Mr. Sharpe?
A.—I believe so.
1303. Q.—In what way, can you tell us?
A.—I remember that about three years ago, or may be a little over, two or three men came to Wellington, and very shortly after they came there was a strike, and I noticed that while these men were round there was always something wrong. The men were cheated out of their pay, and different things wasn't right, and they were going to put them right.
1304. Q.—Do you mean that these things actually existed, or that these men said they existed?
A.—They said that they existed. Since those men come there, there has been agitation one way and another all the time.
1305. Q.—As a matter of fact, do you know of any grievance existing among the miners which required redress.
A.—Don't know of any.
1306. Q.—How long have you been foreman?
A.—Two years last January.
1307. Q.—How many men did you have working under you?
A.—About 170 or 180 men. Sometimes more, sometimes less.
1308. Q.—Say for six months prior to the strike, among these 170 or 180 men, had you any complaints?
A.—Never any complaints but what I remedied at the time.
1309. Q.—So far as your knowledge goes, was there any dissatisfaction among the men under your charge?
A.—None at all.
1310. Q.—So far as your knowledge and information go, with respect to other shafts, were there any causes of complaint?
A.—I didn't hear of any.
1311. Q.—How long have you been a miner altogether?
A.—I have been around coal mines for about 40 years.
1312. Q.—In different places?
A.—Yes, and working at all kinds of work in a coal mine.
1313. Q.—From your knowledge of mining, miners, and mine labourers, how did the condition of the Wellington men, at the time of this strike, compare with the condition of men in other places?
A.—I found it to be better than anywhere I had been, and that is why I stayed and made my home there.
1314. Q.—Did you ever find it, in your experience of twelve years in these mines, necessary to have an organization to protect your interests?
A.—Not a bit.
1315. Q.—Was it generally considered by the Wellington miners, as far as your knowledge goes, that it was necessary to have an organization for the protection of their interests?
A.—I have never heard any men, in speaking on organization, say it was really necessary.
1316. Q.—You say there have been lots of men at different times who asked for things they thought necessary?
A.—As far as No. 4 shaft is concerned, I have always remedied it right there, and heard no more complaints.
1317. Q.—Have the men had any difficulty in procuring a conference with the mine owners on any of these questions?
A.—Never heard of any.
1318. Q.—Have you had any experience in organizations of this kind in other places?
A.—I have had a little.
1319. Q.—How much?

- A.—I was in the United States for a number of years—15 years—and I was in a union there directly after I came to the country, and I just worked two weeks when I was put into a strike, and the way they had things arranged there was ridiculous—this here committee system. Men working away in the mines would never know that there was any grievance or anything wrong until the committee came into the mine and stopped them from working, and told them that they were wanted outside. Of course we would have to go outside and see what was wanted, and a strike would be declared right off—throw us all out of work where we were making good wages with no grievance among the men that they knew of.
1320. Q.—Did that thing happen more than once in your experience?
A.—Dozens of times.
1321. Q.—In a 15 years' experience?
A.—Yes.
1322. Q.—From that 15 years' experience, what is your opinion as to these organizations?
A.—I have never found them to be of any benefit to the workmen yet.
1323. Q.—I want to take you over some of the evidence that has been given here with reference to specific complaints. Do you know a man named Robert Jarvies?
A.—I do.
1324. Q.—Was he working in your shaft?
A.—Yes.
1325. Q.—He says he was working in No. 4 shaft, working in deficient places, and that he asked you to give him a better place, and that your answer was that he had "better get the pit committee" and other slurring remarks, and that he couldn't make enough wages in the place you put him at. Do you know anything about that?
A.—I never told that man anything of the kind. That man asked me if I couldn't give him something more for the place. I said, "Robert, you are just getting the same price as other men; the company is paying 15 cents a ton more for coal here than elsewhere in the mine, and this man right beside you is making \$4 a day, and if you were a miner you could make it too." He had told me before that he hadn't been a miner, but a sailor, that he had been all round the world, and I came to the conclusion that that accounted for him not making as good wages as his neighbour, when he was not a practical man.
1326. Q.—You are a practical man in a mine?
A.—I ought to be.
1327. Q.—You know the place spoken of, and the time spoken of; in your opinion could a miner have made good wages in that place at that time?
A.—Certainly.
1328. Q.—How much?
A.—From \$3.50 to \$4.
1329. Q.—In the very place Jarvies was working?
A.—Yes; a miner could make it in that place.
1330. Q.—Now, there is a man named Martin Horriban; do you know that man?
A.—A man of that name never worked in No. 4 shaft.
1331. Q.—Did you see the man giving his evidence?
A.—I saw a man come up there and give that name. The man worked in No. 4 shaft, but not under that name.
1332. Q.—What name did he work under?
A.—Martin Riley. He was there some two or three weeks; I couldn't say exactly how long.
1333. Q.—What he says is: "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 arrangement with Mr. Sharpe that he would make it up. I was working with the understanding that I would be made up to \$3 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." Can you tell me anything about this man?
A.—I mind this man leaving, but he never said a word to me about any grievance

whatever; I don't know what the man was making, and never heard any grievance from him at all.

1334. Q.—At that time were there a great many men seeking work in the mines?
A.—Plenty.
1335. Q.—Can you tell us anything about the state of affairs with reference to having cars for the work?
A.—Well, there were two or three months there that there were more men working than we could take coal from. I was to blame for it, and I did it for pity. There was men lying around there week after week and month after month begging for work, and I let them down, and the consequence was that we couldn't take the coal from them.
1336. Q.—Did you tell them that?
A.—I told them that we couldn't take the coal from them, but that we were working at a new engine, and if we could only get that new engine going we could take the coal from them. It was the case all through the mine, the men weren't really getting their coal out. Some man would come to me and say can't you give some work to my brother, or my uncle, or my friend, and I put 50 men down on those conditions, telling them that they would have to be content until the new engine was ready.
1337. Q.—They went to work knowing that that would be the case?
A.—They went to work knowing that they would have to be content until the engine started so that we could take the coal from them.
1338. Q.—The regular men that were in before—you took their coal from them?
A.—Until I commenced to put these men in they got their coal out, but when I commenced to put these extra men in they took it from the rest; the work was divided.
1339. Q.—Do you remember whether this man Martin Riley was one of that number?
A.—Certainly. There was some spots that were a little more affected than others.
1340. Q.—So, if he didn't make wages that month, it was to be accounted for in that way, was it?
A.—Yes.
1341. Q.—Do you know a man named Gustav Dendouve?
A.—Yes, he worked in No. 4.
1342. Q.—He says he put in 17 sets of timbers, and wasn't paid for them?
A.—He never put up 17 sets of timbers in one month, but he did put up 15 sets and was paid for them all.
1343. Q.—Did he put up any timber that he wasn't paid for?
A.—Not a stick.
1344. Q.—Now, a man named John Greenwell gave evidence, and he says that he was working in a bad place and he asked you to give him a better place, and you said "Best thing he could do was to force you." Can you tell us anything about that?
A.—I never told John Greenwell anything like that, but I told him there were two other places that he could go and work. One with another man—I pointed out the man; and I pointed out the other place where he could go and work by himself, but he said "I am going to work right here." He wouldn't even go and see the places.
1345. Q.—What kind of a place did he have, and what sort of wages did he have for it?
A.—He was paid the regular price that was paid to the other men.
1346. Q.—Speaking from your knowledge as a miner, what kind of pay was he getting for the work?
A.—He was paid 75 cents a ton, and he had the same coal as other men were working in.
1347. Q.—What reason did he give you for not making wages?
A.—He said it was hard.
1348. Q.—And you offered him another place and he wouldn't even go to look at it?
A.—I offered him two other places. I told John that I didn't care about that place working anyhow, and that if he wasn't satisfied in the place he could take any one of the other two, but he wouldn't go and see them.

1349. Q.—Here is a man named David Jones. He says “I worked in No. 4, on the green sink line, in the east level, and I could make very poor wages all the time I was there.” He says he drew \$27.00 in May, \$56.00 in April, and \$65 in March; and that in February he only had \$30.00, and he don't think he lost much time that month. Can you tell us anything about this man?
- A.—Yes, I remember that man coming for work and working in No. 4. He was there probably a month waiting for work, and I said “David, we have too many men on now, we can't take the coal from them.” He said “If you could only give me a start I would be very much obliged; half a loaf is better than none.” By putting him to work I was injuring some of the rest, because the work had still to be divided, still I put him to work and he seemed contented.
1350. Q.—He begged you for work, did he?
- A.—Yes.
1351. Q.—You say he was round for how long?
- A.—Four weeks.
1352. Q.—Waiting for work?
- A.—Yes; he hadn't a cent and couldn't get away. I put in a number of men on those conditions, expecting that we would get the new engine in and be able to lift the coal from them.
1353. Q.—He thoroughly understood the position of affairs before he went to work?
- A.—Certainly.
1354. Q.—Do you know a man named John R. Thomas, who was working in No. 4?
- A.—I don't remember that name.
1355. Q.—He was working in No. 4, and his number was 37?
- A.—No, I don't remember him.
1356. Q.—He says he got \$5.00 for putting up stringers, because he couldn't speak English. Would that be a fair price for 21 stringers?
- A.—No man in No. 4 ever put up stringers for less than \$1.25 each, up to \$2.25, and in some cases we have paid as much as \$5.00 for difficult work.
1357. Q.—You don't know John Anderson, do you, who was working in No. 3?
- A.—I know the man, but he never worked in No. 4—not mining.
1358. Q.—I will ask you the general question—what, in your opinion, were the causes which led to the present Wellington strike?
- A.—My opinion is what I have said before—that it was just agitation. If our own men in Wellington had been let be, and if others from neighbouring works had kept away from them, they would have been working peaceably all along.
1359. Q.—What was the agitation you refer to?
- A.—Men coming from neighbouring works.

Cross-examined by Mr. Boyce.

1360. Q.—This first trouble you had was nine years ago, wasn't it?
- A.—I couldn't say exactly the year.
1361. Q.—What was the cause of that?
- A.—Some grievance in regard to yardage.
1362. Q.—How long were they out?
- A.—I couldn't say exactly.
1363. Q.—Give the committee a little idea?
- A.—Some few weeks.
1364. Q.—Weren't you out a couple of months?
- A.—Probably we were.
1365. Q.—Three months?
- A.—No.
1366. Q.—Sure?
- A.—Yes; I don't think they were out three months.
1368. Q.—Were the men turned out of their houses on that occasion?
- A.—I believe they were notified to leave, but I never was notified to leave and I never left my house.
1369. Q.—Can you tell the cause of the strike of two years ago?

- A.—I might give some little items about it. As far as I could learn, it was something about the pillar men. They wanted an advance on pillar coal, but I wasn't interested in that kind of business. I attended to my own business, and if every man would do the same we wouldn't have this trouble.
1370. Q.—Wasn't it because Mr. Dunsmuir refused to come and talk to them at all, that they stopped that time?
A.—I couldn't say whether it was or not.
1371. Q.—You wouldn't say that it was not the cause?
A.—I remember this much—or at least some of the miners who were working there told me—that they were waiting for an answer from Mr. Dunsmuir. Well, I said “Why don't you go to work and wait for that answer—why do you stop the mine?” I was a labouring man myself, and I never could see any sense in stopping the work. Let them get the answer and try and settle the grievance before stopping work. That was always my policy.
1372. Q.—Do you remember what answer the men got from Mr. Dunsmuir?
A.—No, I don't know; I never went to any of the meetings.
1373. Q.—Did you ever hear of that answer?
A.—No.
1374. Q.—Would you believe that when they asked him to come up and talk with them, the answer was “If you are not satisfied, shut down the mine.”
A.—I don't remember.
1375. Q.—You say there were some agitators came in about three years ago and raised some trouble. Were there any causes for those troubles?
A.—The men were working peaceably, and it seemed strange for new men to be coming in there and finding fault when the men were doing well—telling them that they were not getting their wages, when the men seemed to be perfectly contented and were getting good wages.
1376. Q.—Do you mean to tell this committee that there were no difficulties and that the men were really getting their rights?
A.—I do; when men are satisfied I think they are getting their rights. If a man is satisfied he doesn't need any more “rights”
1377. Q.—In other words, when men are not kicking and striking, they are doing well enough?
A.—I don't believe there would have been a strike at Wellington to-day if those agitators had kept away.
1378. Q.—Do you remember the standard of weight for the boxes?
A.—I wasn't mining coal then.
1379. Q.—Did you never hear anything about it?
A.—Never heard any men complain about it—about the weight. The only complaint I ever heard was when the check-weighman was there; they said they wouldn't pay the check-weighman any longer; that they were getting less weight when he was there than they were before.
1380. Q.—You heard men saying that?
A.—Yes, working men, miners, said that it was only so much loss keeping a man there and paying him \$3 or \$4 a day, and no benefit to them.
1381. Q.—You swear that you heard men saying that?
A.—I will swear it.
1382. Q.—And you don't remember what the weight was, before the check-weighmen went on?
A.—No, I don't remember anything about the weight. I heard miners say that they were not going to pay any more money for a check-weighman, it was only a loss.
1383. Q.—You have just told the committee about the union in the States; how that you would be working peaceably there and the committee would tell you to come out on strike, and you would know nothing of the cause. Do you wish to create the impression that such a state of affairs actually existed?
A.—Yes, it existed 27 years ago, and it exists yet.
1384. Q.—Now?
A.—Yes, and worse now than it was then, and that was bad enough.

1385. Q.—Then the committee is all powerful?
A.—You know well enough that it is a common thing for men to go into the mine and stop the work in the States, and they are trying to bring the same system here but, Mr. Boyce, it will never work anywhere.
1386. Q.—Men always left work without making any enquiries or holding a meeting to see whether it was right or wrong?
A.—The committee would come into the mine and order the men out.
1387. Q.—Would they go out without making any enquiries or holding a meeting?
A.—Without any enquiries whatsoever. You would see them dropping out one at a time or two at a time, until they were all outside.
1388. Q.—I want to know where such a thing occurred?
A.—At Six Mile Ferry, 27 years ago.
1389. Q.—Do you know if it has occurred since then?
A.—I could go on for two or three hours telling you where the same kind of thing has happened in my time.
1390. Q.—Bring us down to something, say within the last six or seven years?
A.—I couldn't give you any improvements, only for the worse.
1391. Q.—I have been through the States myself, you know?
A.—Yes, and it would have been a good thing for you if you had stayed there.
1392. Q.—Will you swear to that?
A.—Yes; we wouldn't be having this trouble now, if you had stayed there.
1393. Q.—What is that you say?
A.—I told you that we should not have been in this trouble now, if you had stayed in the States.
1394. Q.—Now, Martin Riley, or Horriban his name is—you don't know what wages he made there?
A.—I never examined the books myself, but they are in the office. That man didn't work at No. 4 shaft for a few months previous to the strike. He never complained to me about any grievance, and I never told that man to take his irons out.
1395. Q.—He swears that his partner made an agreement with you?
A.—Well, if his partner was here he wouldn't swear it.
1396. Q.—Do you want to make this committee believe that Martin Horriban swore a lie when he swore that?
A.—Yes; swore a lie, and more beside him swore a lie.
1397. Q.—You say that the cause of these low wages was that the men couldn't get their coal out?
A.—It is not altogether that that causes a man to get low wages.
1398. Q.—Is it not something singular that no men complained of making deficient wages, except those who had deficient places?
A.—They didn't complain but, at the same time, they didn't make big wages. If you take a sailor off a ship and set him digging coal he can't make as big wages as a man who has been working in a mine for twenty years.
1399. Q.—You are referring to Jarvies?
A.—We have had dozens of Jarvies?
1400. Q.—Well, even supposing that Jarvies wasn't a miner—what sort of a miner was John Greenwell? Was he miner?
A.—He had been mining a little while.
1401. Q.—You would call him a practical miner?
A.—No, I don't.
1402. Q.—What do you call a practical miner?
A.—A man that has been working at it for years. He gets to be a practical miner if he stays with it a few years, but John Greenwell never dug any coal until we learned him to mine at Wellington.
1403. Q.—You learned him at Wellington?
A.—Yes.
1404. Q.—You find in his evidence that he is making as high as \$6 a day—do you think that if he was not a miner that he could make \$6 a day?
A.—Probably, if he was an experienced miner, he could. We have had men who

would pick up mining and make good wages in a year, and then other men wouldn't make miners at all.

1405. Q.—But a man that could earn \$6 a day, you would consider a miner, wouldn't you?
A.—You didn't ask him how much he made in a month. It is possible for any man to make \$6 in some one day, he didn't say what he had made in a month.
1406. Q.—Well, he made \$2.10 a day under your management, do you call that good wages?
A.—I offered him another place and he refused to take it?
1407. Q.—Will you tell this committee that, while he was making only \$2.10 a day, you offered him another place where he could make better wages and he didn't take it?
A.—He said “No, I won't go and look at it; I will stay where I am.” I said “We are not particular about this place working.” I didn't know anything about John's earnings and thought he was doing well enough until he complained, and then my answer was that he had two other places to go to. Possibly he might have made \$6 a day in them, for all I know.
1408. Q.—Was it because you couldn't take the coal away from Mr. Jones, that he couldn't make good wages?
A.—It was because we couldn't take the coal away from him. There were so many men in the place all the time that we couldn't take the coal away.
1409. Q.—His testimony is that he was working hard and couldn't get the coal to be taken away?
A.—We have lots of testimony that is not true.
1410. Mr. Bodwell: Speaking about these strikes; Mr. Boyce asked you if the men would go out when they were told to—why did they do that?
A.—The pushers were stopped; there were no more cars in.
1411. Q.—Suppose the men refused to go on strike, what was the result?
A.—I suppose they would be scratched off the books and called bad names, and so on.
1412. Chairman: How long is it since that occurred?
A.—Twenty-seven years.
1413. Mr. Bodwell: As long as you knew labour organizations was that the rule?
A.—Always a rule similar to that.
1414. Q.—Men refusing to obey the orders of the union were scratched off and called back-legs?
A.—Certainly.
1415. Q.—If there is a blackleg in a camp where a union exists, what chance has he to get work?
A.—If there is one of these committees in force there, he can't get work.
1416. Q.—Was there any pressure brought upon the Wellington men to join this union?
A.—Not that I am aware of.
1417. Q.—Who was the leader of those first strikes among the Wellington men?
A.—I was not at the meetings. You will have to get a man who attended the meetings to answer that question.
1418. Q.—You knew from talk among the men?
A.—As far as I could understand among the men, in this last one, it was Tully Boyce.
1419. Q.—He was the leader, as far as you understand, of the present strike?
A.—Tully Boyce; yes, as far as I can understand from the talk of the men.
1420. Q.—You don't know anything about the ten per cent. on the pillars?
A.—No.
1421. Mr. Boyce: Is No. 4 entirely under your management?
A.—Not exactly; there is a superintendent there pretty much all the time.
1422. Q.—Does he be there every day?
A.—Either one or both are there every day.
1423. Q.—Go down the mines every day?
A.—Yes; very often he is down and I don't see him—down examining the mine.
1424. Q.—Are you a certificated manager?
A.—No, sir, only from my experience.
1425. Q.—You are an old fireman—were fireman when I worked there?
A.—Yes.

1426. Q.—Some testimony has been given with reference to brushing gas out of a place—do you consider it safe?
A.—It just depends on the conditions.
1427. Q.—Take it as a practice?
A.—If I was in a coal mine myself, and had charge of a place, I would brush it out.
1428. Q.—You would brush it out?
A.—Yes; if I was by myself and there was nobody else there; but, Mr. Boyce, in answering that question fully, if I found gas in No. 4 shaft, or knew there was gas in there, I would stop the mine till the ventilation took the gas away.
1429. Q.—You never knew such a thing to occur in No. 4 while you were fireman there?
A.—No, and no body of gas to injure workmen. There was no committee ever found gas in No. 4.
1430. Mr. Bodwell: What was the rule of the mine with reference to brushing gas?
A.—We wouldn't allow it to be done where there is men working.
1431. Q.—Has it ever been done in your mine while men were working there?
A.—Not that I am aware of.
Mr. Bryden: By the rules of the Wellington Collieries the brushing of gas is strictly prohibited.
Mr. Boyce: I have seen it done in Wellington. I saw it done in No. 4 while Mr. Sharpe was fireman.
1432. Mr. Forster: You say that the fact that the coal couldn't be taken away from the men, accounts in some measure for the low wages?
A.—In some cases. We have men that can't make big wages anyhow.
1433. Q.—And you stated that even the men who had been working in the mine previous to the employment of so many new men, couldn't make such good wages after the new men were employed, as they couldn't get their coal out?
A.—That was the injury through all the mines.
1434. Q.—Then I want to direct your attention to this point—If one man only makes \$2.10 a day because he can't get boxes to make any more, then practically none of the men in the mine can make more than \$2.10 a day, because they can't get boxes either?
A.—It is like this, if you will allow me to speak, if you are making \$3 or \$3.50 when the cars are plenty, probably your neighbour is making \$4 or \$4.50. You must come down in proportion when the cars are scarce—that is the idea. When the boxes are scarce it is very hard to regulate it all over the mine.
1435. Mr. Booth: So that if a man was making \$4 a day, it would be reduced only in proportion?
A.—Yes, in proportion.
1436. Mr. Forster: What I want to make out is, that you try to make the number of boxes given to each man as nearly the same as possible?
A.—Yes, as possible. I just want to show you this, that when the boxes are plenty a man who can get all he wants, and is in an average place, will perhaps make only \$2.50 while another man will make \$3.50, and when the cars fall off both are bound to fall off in proportion. We have deficient men to contend with.
1437. Q.—But in a case where boxes are scarce a man, a deficient man, has a chance to make about as much as a good man with a good place?
A.—Haven't I just showed you not. Suppose you and I are working in two places, and you are making \$1 more than me, and then the cars fall short, what is the consequence? We fall down in proportion—you still make your \$1 a day more.
1438. Q.—Let us put it in this way—Suppose the turn comes down to four boxes each, a man will make about \$2 a day, won't he?
A.—We have one part of the mine where five boxes would make you very nearly \$4 a day. We pay different prices, owing to the kind of work.
1439. Q.—What is the difference in price?
A.—We pay 90 cents a ton for some coal.
1440. Q.—Is that the highest?
A.—No, we pay more—\$1 a ton.
1441. Q.—What is the lowest?
A.—Seventy-five cents.

1442. Q.—That makes the difference in price, as far as coal is concerned, does it?
A.—Yes.
1443. Q.—Now then, what is the highest number of cars generally given to one man in a day?
A.—Nobody could answer that question. You can get all you can load. That is what I have been trying to show you.
1444. Q.—Answer my question—generally?
A.—From 5 to 20.
1445. Q.—What will be a fair good run?
A.—It will be according to the price he is paid.
1446. Q.—Would you consider eight or ten cars a day a fair good run?
A.—Certainly.
1447. Q.—Say ten?
A.—Ten is a good run, but there are men loading fifteen.
1448. Q.—But some men can't load ten?
A.—No.
1449. Q.—They might not load more than five?
A.—No.
1450. Q.—That would be because they are deficient men?
A.—Certainly.
1451. Q.—Or it might be because they had a deficient place?
A.—If that was the case I generally remedied it.
1452. Q.—If ten was the run, and the cars fall off, the man who could only load five before will continue to load five, won't he?
A.—You can't get at that in any other way than what I have explained already.
1453. Q.—If each man can only get five cars, the man who can only load five cars anyway will make as much as the man who can load twenty if he can only get them?
A.—I can put you in a place where you will make as much with five cars as the next man will make with seven or eight cars.
1454. Q.—That is narrow work?
A.—No, wide work.
1455. Mr. Booth: In other words where there is a deficient place you try to make it up to a certain average?
A.—Always. When I see the deficiency they are paid yardage to make it up.
1456. Q.—What do you consider to be a fair average wage for a fair average man in a mine?
A.—I like to see an average man make \$3.50.
1457. Q.—And when a place is deficient you try to make it up, so that an average man can make that?
A.—Yes; and an average man can make it, and always has made it, and a good man sometimes make from \$4 to \$5.
1458. Q.—For a fair average man \$3.50 is a fair average wage?
A.—Yes.
1459. Mr. Boyce: When the boxes are scarce the men who can load a great many boxes bear all the loss. Is that not so?
A.—In answer to that I say that if a man is at a deficient place I always remedy it in some way. When the boxes are running slow there is just a complaint all round; there is nobody satisfied. That is the only thing I hate around a mine—to see men not getting their coal out.
1460. Chairman: Then you contend that those men who were in deficient places would be making more money than men in good places with the same number of boxes?
A.—I don't know of any of those grievances but what have been remedied when I have been told of them.
1461. Q.—You don't understand the question—you say that the boxes were running slow?
A.—Yes.
1462. Q.—And that the men knew it?
A.—Yes.
1463. Q.—And you state that in some places five boxes would make as much as seven in another?

A.—Certainly.

1464. Q.—Then if all the men in the pit were only getting five boxes, the man with a deficient place would be better off than a man with a good place?

A.—He would not be any worse of. Those cases, Mr. Keith, don't occur very often; just at that time we were making preparations for a new engine, and I took men on, on those conditions that half a loaf was better than none, and that they would work on and just take what they could get until the engine was ready; and the first thing I knew these meetings were going on and the mines stopped.

JOHN VEDDER called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

1465. Q.—What is your name?

A.—John Vedder.

1466. Q.—Are you a miner?

A.—I am.

1467. Q.—Were you working at the Wellington mines at the time of this strike?

A.—Yes.

1468. Q.—How long before?

A.—Over two years.

1469. Q.—Are you a Belgian?

A.—No, a Frenchman.

1470. Q.—The Belgians speak the French language, don't they?

A.—Yes, sir.

1471. Q.—Did you have much talk among the Belgians in the mines?

A.—I was, when outside of the mines, much among them. I went round with them, and was much in their company.

1472. Q.—Much in the company of the Belgian miners?

A.—Yes, sir.

1473. Q.—Did they talk freely to you?

A.—Yes, talked over everything.

1474. Q.—Speaking, first, for yourself—did you know of any cause for the strike at the Wellington mines?

A.—I did not.

1475. Q.—Did you ever hear of any dissatisfaction among the miners?

A.—I never heard of any before the strike.

1475a. Q.—Do you know anything about the efforts that were made to get up a union there?

A.—Yes; I was in the first meeting at Nanaimo. It was a miners' meeting, and I went there, and I saw that the leaders, or the committee which called the meeting, were trying to find some cases where the wages were cut down in Wellington, but to my knowledge no cases were there, and it was stated that at the next meeting they should bring their cases to show.

1476. Q.—There wasn't anything upon which they could get up a strike at that time?

A.—No.

1477. Q.—Although they were looking for cases?

A.—Yes. I left before the meeting was closed, but I heard that a union was formed and that every miner would have to join that union, and if he didn't join—
(Mr. Boyce objected on the ground that the witness was giving hear-say evidence.)

1478. Q.—Was it told to you?

A.—Yes; It was thoroughly understood.

1479. Q.—Was that the general impression among the miners?

A.—That was the general impression among the miners?

Mr. Bodwell: Now I propose to ask him what that general impression was.
(Question allowed.)

1480. Q.—What was that general impression?

A.—The general impression was that a man should join the union, and that if he didn't join it he would be stamped as a blackleg, and if a committee got in he would have to leave Vancouver Island; he wouldn't get work in any mines on Vancouver Island.

1481. Q.—That was the general impression?
A.—Yes.
1482. Q.—As a matter of fact, were the Belgian miners treated differently from any other miners?
A.—I don't think so; I never heard of it, or, at least, no one ever mentioned that to me.
1483. Q.—Do you know a man named John R. Thomas?
A.—Yes, sir; I know him very well.
1484. Q.—What is he?
A.—He is a miner.
1485. Q.—Do you know anything about how that man got along?
A.—He was always making good wages; his brother-in-law stated to me that they were making \$180 a month together, and he was saying to me, "Why don't you ask for pillars?"
Chairman: That evidence is not admissible, being merely a statement made to the witness by a third party.
1486. Q.—Did you ever find it necessary to have an organization to protect your rights?
A.—No; I never needed anything. I got my rights all the time. I was working in a place where I always made good wages, but there were some workers beside me in the same kind of place that couldn't make good wages.
1487. Q.—Do you know any reason for that?
A.—It seems to me that they were deficient workers.
1488. Q.—Not good workers?
A.—No.
1489. Q.—And up to the time of the strike you heard of no cause for dissatisfaction?
A.—Never were mentioned to me—causes of dissatisfaction.
1490. Q.—Did you come out with the men?
A.—Yes.
1491. Q.—Why?
A.—I don't know very well why I came out.
1492. Q.—Don't know of any reason why you did come out?
A.—No; but it was said on the Bluffs that if the men were not let down after seven o'clock they should not go down.
1493. Q.—Why didn't you go back to work afterwards?
A.—It was mostly for fear of getting hurt; I was telling my partner, who is a Belgian, that we would go back to work, and he was saying "it is better you don't, because you might get shot."
1494. Q.—So you didn't go?
A.—No.
1495. Chairman: Do you know of any one being shot?
A.—No, I didn't hear of any one.
1496. Mr. Bodwell: But you were afraid you might be?
A.—Yes; such things occurs every day.
1497. Chairman: But they didn't occur at Wellington?
A.—No.

EDWARD WILMER, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)
(John Vedder sworn as interpreter.)

1498. Q.—What is your full name?
A.—Edward Wilmer.
1499. Q.—What nationality are you?
A.—A Belgian.
1500. Q.—Were you working at the Wellington mines at the time of the strike?
A.—Yes.
1501. Q.—How long had you been working there?
A.—Eighteen months.
1502. Q.—How long have you been mining?
A.—Twenty-two years.

1503. Q.—In what places?
A.—In Belgium and Nova Scotia.
1504. Q.—What sort of wages were you making in the Wellington mines at the time?
A.—I was working with my boy. He is under age. After paying him \$2.50, I was always making \$3 or \$4 myself—after paying the boy company wages.
1505. Q.—Do you consider that a fair thing?
A.—Yes.
1506. Q.—Do you know about the other Belgians?
A.—All the Belgians were making good wages, and some were saying that they were making more than I was making.
1507. Q.—Did you come out on strike?
A.—I came out on strike, but I had never heard of it before, and I belonged to the Knights of Labour months before and never heard speaking there about a strike, and didn't know anything about the strike.
1508. Q.—What made you come out?
A.—I was told that I had to join the union, and they came out on strike so I came out too.
1509. Q.—Did you have to join the union?
A.—They all said, "It is better to go into the union."
1510. Chairman: Who told you that?
A.—All the Belgians.
1511. Q.—Said it was better to go to a union?
A.—Yes.
1512. Q.—Were you forced to join the union?
A.—Those who were before in the union said that if I wouldn't join the union, that when the union came in I would have to leave the mines. If the union would get strong those who didn't belong to it would have to leave.
Mr. Hall: The proper interpretation of the phrase used by the witness is, "Would be driven out."
1513. Mr. Bodwell: Why didn't you go back to work?
(Objected to by Mr. Boyce, on ground that it had no connection with the causes of the strike. Objection sustained.)
1514. Q.—Do you know of any reason for the strike?
A.—No; don't know of anything.

HENRY VAN OISENOUF, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)
(John Vedder, as interpreter.)

1515. Q.—What is your full name?
A.—Henry Van Oisenouf.
1516. Q.—Are you a Belgian?
A.—Yes.
1517. Q.—Were you working in the Wellington mines at the time of and prior to the strike?
A.—Yes.
1518. Q.—Do you know anything about the general condition of the Belgian miners at that time?
A.—I never spoke about such things to them.
1519. Q.—Did you hear any causes of dissatisfaction?
A.—No.
1520. Q.—How were you getting on yourself?
A.—Always got good pay.
1521. Q.—Do you know anything about the effect of organization on miners? Have you had any experience in unions?
A.—No; no experience.
1522. Chairman: How long have you been mining?
A.—Eleven and one-half years.
1523. Mr. Bodwell: Have you worked in any mines where there was a union in force?
A.—Only in Wellington.

1524. Q.—Did you work in any mine where there was a union in force?
A.—I was working in No. 5.
1525. Q.—Did you work at Northfield?
A.—No.
1526. Q.—Where did you work after the strike?
(Objected to by Mr. Boyce, on ground that question had no connection with the causes of the strike. Objection sustained.)
1527. Q.—Do you consider organization necessary, in order to protect the interests of the miner?
A.—No; I don't think it is necessary.
1528. Q.—Why don't you think it is necessary?
A.—I don't think it is necessary because I find that I can earn my daily wages anyway.
1529. Q.—Did you have any trouble before there was a union?
A.—I was pushing boxes after the strike in Nanaimo and had—
(Objected to by Mr. Boyce, on ground that answer had no connection with the causes of the strike. Objection sustained.)

GEORGE SCARTH, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

1530. Q.—What is your name?
A.—George Scarth.
1531. Q.—How long have you been working in the Wellington mines?
A.—About 11 month previous to the 17th of May last.
1532. Q.—Did you know of any causes for the strike there?
A.—No, no such thing.
1533. Q.—Did you ever hear anything about it before?
A.—There was never such a thing as a strike mentioned, and little or nothing in regard to dissatisfaction round the camp.
1534. Q.—How long have you been a miner?
A.—About 40 years.
1535. Q.—How did the condition of the Wellington miners compare with the condition of those in other places, according to your experience?
A.—The wages are about three times as much as any place where I have been—at least to what I had generally been accustomed to.
1536. Q.—Do you know anything about labour organizations?
A.—I know something about them this last 20 years.
1537. Q.—Do you consider it necessary, for the protection of the miners' interests in the Wellington mines, to have an organization?
A.—It was of less importance than in any place I have seen. I have been a union man myself for the last 20 years, and I wouldn't make any objection to it, however good things may be. The necessity for it was of less importance than in any place I have been.
1538. Q.—Was there any reason why a union should have existed in the Wellington mines, at the time you speak of?
A.—I don't remember anything, and I don't know of anything as regards myself, personally.
1539. Q.—Were there any grievances that you know of, that wanted redress?
A.—I don't know of any grievances there then.

Cross-examined by Mr. Boyce:

1540. Q.—Where did you work?
A.—In No. 5.
1541. Q.—But before coming to Wellington?
A.—In Illinois—in Coal City.
1542. Q.—What wages did you make there?
A.—Ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.
1543. Q.—How long ago?
A.—Two years since.
1544. Q.—Then you were making \$6 at Wellington according to that?
A.—No.

1545. Q.—You said three times as much as elsewhere ?
A.—Than in the Old Country ; of course, I made a little more wages when I was in the States.
1546. Q.—Did you work anywhere else than in Coal City ?
A.—I worked in Michigan.
1547. Mr. Forster : Did you work in coal mines in the County of Durham, England ?
A.—Yes.
1548. Q.—Have they unions there ?
A.—Yes ; unions there.
1549. Q.—Are the unions generally recognized by the employers in that County ?
A.—Oh, yes ; there are some cases where they won't.
1550. Q.—Do they find them generally beneficial ?
A.—In some cases they do. I wouldn't say that there is a great deal of benefit derived from it.

PETER MORRISON, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

1551. Q.—What is your name ?
A.—Peter Morrison.
1552. Q.—How long have you been working at the Wellington mines ?
A.—I suppose I have been working there eleven years ; may be better.
1553. Q.—Do you know of any reason for the strike at the Wellington mines, which began on the 17th of May last ?
A.—No, sir.
1554. Q.—Did you know of any dissatisfaction among the men ?
A.—No, sir ; I don't know of any cause for it, and the men along side of me had no cause for it—used to tell me they had no cause for it. The men next to me, and the man working with me, said that there was no cause for it, and that they were sorry for it.
1555. Q.—Did you hear this eight-hour question discussed among the miners ?
A.—Never until after the strike ; until after the 17th of May.
1557. Q.—Did you know of any reason for the strike ?
A.—No, sir.
1558. Q.—How did it come about ? What created the strike ?
A.—That is something I am not positive about, except from what I heard. There were plenty of rumours.
1559. Q.—What, in your opinion, created the strike ?
A.—It was agitation by people that didn't work in the employ at all, except one or two—outsiders that belonged to Northfield and Nanaimo.
1560. Chairman : Some outsiders, and some Wellington men ?
A.—Yes.
1561. Mr. Bodwell : Who were the Wellington men ?
A.—I believe Joseph Carter was one.
1562. Q.—Do you know anything about Joseph Carter ? How long had he worked in the mine ?
A.—Oh, I don't know. McVeigh was another.
1563. Q.—Did they have any cause of complaint that you knew of ?
A.—I am sure that McVeigh hadn't.
1564. Q.—You are sure he hadn't ?
A.—Yes ; he was making good money.
1565. Q.—What kind of a miner was Carter ?
A.—I don't know. McVeigh was a good miner.
1566. Q.—And he was making good wages ?
A.—Good wages.
1567. Q.—In the eleven years that you have been in the Wellington mines, have you found any difficulty in getting your grievances redressed, if you had any ?
A.—Never.
1568. Q.—Do you think it would be necessary to have an organization to get your grievances redressed ?
A.—I think not.

Cross-examined by Mr. Boyce.

1569. Q.—Did you ever work in a deficient place?
A.—Yes, I have worked in deficient places.
1570. Q.—Did you ever have a personal grievance yourself?
A.—With who?
1571. Q.—With the superintendent, or the company, or any one?
A.—Never but what I got it rectified. I always got the price that was going, and worked the place on that price and made wages—good wages.
1572. Q.—You generally had good places?
A.—I took refused places—places where people had got up and left—and I made good wages. There are men that consider themselves miners and they are only agitators, and they think that they should get paid \$3.00 every time they go down into the mine. If they got into a deficient place they would lie down—this is one thing I am positive of—they would lie down there, and then expect to get paid \$3.00 a day by the company, when another man would go into the place and make \$3 a day there. Some men go in that have very little experience in a mine, and others go in that are lazy and go down just to pass the time more than for any other reason.
1573. Q.—You said one of the men mentioned was a good workman?
A.—Yes.
1574. Q.—What did you state about the other?
A.—I said I never worked in a mine with him, and didn't know.

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

1575. Q.—What is your full name?
A.—Thomas Richards.
1576. Q.—How long have you worked in the Wellington mines?
A.—About seven years.
1577. Q.—How long have you been a miner?
A.—For thirty-three years I have been in pits.
1578. Q.—During the seven years that you have worked in the Wellington mines, how has the condition of the Wellington miners compared with the condition of miners in other places?
A.—I did very well there—better than anywhere else.
1579. Q.—You did better there than you had done in any other place?
A.—Yes.
1580. Q.—How did the condition of the Wellington miners compare with those of other places?
A.—Some men are making big money, and others not so well. I believe that every man makes pretty well. Certainly, a man gets into a poorish place sometimes and can't make so well. I have done so myself—I have got into poor places.
1581. Q.—Do you know of any causes of dissatisfaction amongst the men prior to the strike?
A.—No, I did not.
1582. Q.—What, in your opinion, led to the strike?
Mr. Boyce—Agitators.
A.—I believe you spoke the truth.
1583. Chairman: In your opinion it was caused by agitators?
A.—Yes.
1584. Mr. Bodwell: Who were the agitators?
A.—I think there were more than Tully Boyce.
1585. Q.—Where did the agitation come from, principally?
A.—I can give you my opinion, but not my oath. My opinion is that it was outside of Wellington.
1586. Q.—In other mines?
A.—In other mines—that is my opinion; I can't say it as a fact.
1587. Q.—Speaking from your experience acquired during the seven years you have been in Wellington, do you consider organization necessary to protect the interests of the miners?

- A.—I never worked in any organization, and I didn't need it for myself. I have always fought my own battles with my employers, and when anything went wrong I went to them and always had it rectified—since ever I was in Wellington.
1588. Q.—Ever had any trouble in getting justice done?
A.—No, none. I have worked in deficient places and I have spoken to the foreman, and he has said, "You do what is right and I will see you paid," and I would say to him, "You see that I do what is right and then both sides will be satisfied."
1589. Q.—You know from your own experience at Wellington whether there has been any trouble to adjust grievances?
A.—None; but, as miners, we are naturally growlers.
1590. Q.—Has there been any trouble in adjusting those grievances properly?
A.—I never knew the sound of any trouble until after the 17th of May. I joined the union about the first of May, and I walked in the procession to the Bluffs to attend what had been given out as a political meeting.
1591. Q.—The meeting of the 17th of May was called as a political meeting?
A.—Yes, I understood so from the "Free Press."
1592. Q.—What happened at that meeting?
A.—I couldn't tell you. I didn't stop there much. I was there off and on, but I couldn't give you any details.
1593. Mr. Booth: You say that in your opinion agitators were the principal cause of the strike?
A.—That is my opinion.
1594. Q.—What were the principal questions that they agitated?
A.—I heard a little on the Bluffs, but I couldn't repeat it all now. They said we would have to climb up to them or they would have to climb down to we. I didn't understand it at first. Then, the first time I heard about the eight hours was there. I never heard it mentioned till then. The eight-hour question was brought up there.
- Cross-examined by Mr. Boyce:
1595. Q.—Didn't you belong to any union before the first of last May?
A.—I was in the Knights of Labour once.
1596. Q.—Were there ever pit committees at Wellington?
A.—Yes.
1597. Q.—Did you ever serve on them?
A.—Yes.
1598. Q.—Did you ever act officially on a pit committee?
A.—Yes, once.
1599. Q.—What was the difficulty there?
A.—Some men came to me about a piece of long wall work. They were not sufficiently paid they said. It is something over two years ago.
1600. Q.—Did you adjust that difficulty?
A.—Yes, we went to Mr. Bryden.
1601. Q.—Did you interview Mr. Bryden on that occasion?
A.—Yes.
1602. Q.—What reply did he give?
A.—He told us that he wished we would go away and not give so much bother, that he would pay the men day wages, and I looked up and said "We have nothing more to say."
1603. Q.—That was all that passed between you?
A.—There was lots passed between us. There was a lot of argument about pit committees and one thing and another. I don't remember now what did pass.
1604. Q.—Did Mr. Bryden tell you that rather than work the mine with a pit committee there he would dig clams?
A.—I believe he did say so. I would like to explain that I was with the union for sixteen weeks.
1605. Mr. Bodwell: With this union?
A.—Yes; sixteen weeks I was out.

ROONEY, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

1606. Q.—Where do you live ?

A.—In Wellington.

1607. Q.—Near the Wellington mines ?

A.—Yes.

1608. Q.—Are you a miner ?

A.—Yes.

1609. Q.—Were you familiar with the condition of the miners, and with what was going on in the mines at the time of the strike ?

A.—I have a pretty good idea. I worked in the Wellington mines in the summer of 1888, and I worked up until after the first strike, that was two years ago this January. I was employed as a bratticeman there. My work led me to go into the different mining places, so that I had a chance of seeing the good places and the bad ones, and, of course, I had a chance to see good miners and worse ones. I used, occasionally, to go to Mr. Boyce's place to put brattice up, the same as to the others. As far as hearing grumbling goes I have been in mines about 40 years and I have never been in a coal mine yet but what I heard some grumbling and some dissatisfaction. As far as I can judge in the mines at that time they averaged about \$3.50 a day—that is, average miners. There were some \$2.50, and some, perhaps, \$4 or \$5.

1610. Mr. Boyce : Between the two strikes did you work in the mines ?

A.—Yes ; after January a little while. To the spring of the year.

1611. Q.—How long before the 17th of May were you out of the mines ?

A.—Several months.

1612. Mr. Bodwell : Were you familiar with the miners and the mines ?

A.—Yes ; I was familiar in Wellington, and my boys were working in the mines, and I knew all about it, just as if I worked in there myself—it was just the same thing.

1613. Q.—Did your boys live at home ?

A.—Yes ; two went away just before the strike, and one still remained working in the mines until this present strike took place.

1614. Q.—What was the cause of the strike, so far as you know ?

A.—My opinion is that the same leaders who led the strike in 1889 are leading yet, although they left the mines at that strike—whether they left of their own accord, or were discharged by the company for taking a leading part in the strike, I don't know. Mr. Boyce was one, and I could name several others. As far as organization is concerned, I believe it is necessary when the employers, as I have seen it in my travels, are organized with each other against the miners ; then it is certainly right and lawful for the miners to be in union also. But in this camp, as far as I understand, the employers are not organized with any outside employers, but are individuals by themselves ; and as far as I can see this trouble could have been avoided by the miners settling any little grievances they had with the employers direct. I have heard men speaking of deficient places, but when this strike came up two years ago those deficient places never were spoken off ; they struck for ten cents on the ton for the pillar men.

1615. Q.—Speak about the present strike ?

A.—I am coming to that. Two years ago I was there, and was a labouring man, and they asked me to strike, as well as the others. I asked the chairman of one of the meetings what benefit would it be to the miners to get this ten cents a ton on the pillars, and nothing for other miners who were working in deficient places, as they claimed ; and I also asked the day hands why they should strike for these men who were already getting bigger wages and striking for more. I thought it was nonsense to help a man to get \$2 to our \$1. If it had been a general thing, and for the men to get a general advance of wages, I would have voted for it. I could see that there was lots of the men that didn't want to strike ; lots of them that didn't attend the meetings ; and when men don't attend the meetings it is as much as to say they don't want to

strike. I told the men at those meetings that half the miners were not there, and that it was useless for them to go out on strike and pass rules and laws for men who were sitting home in their houses. I called the attention of the meeting to the fact that there were lots of men who didn't want to strike, and after doing so, I stood on the railroad track and told the men who wanted to go to work to go on one side, and told the men who wanted to strike to go the other side, to see whether they really wanted to stand to their words or not. Quite a number went on the side for going to work, and there was quite a pile for a strike, and I said to them, "Boys, before you call a strike you must have a majority of two-thirds; all labour organizations call for two-thirds of the men before a strike can be declared; half never calls for a victory for a strike." They objected to that, but in a day or two after that the strike was broke up, and the men that were anxious to go to work went back, and that busted the strike. Then Mr. Boyce, and several other men who were prominent in the strike, left the camp, and they went to work at Northfield and Nanaimo. Well, in my opinion, and I am on oath and must tell the truth, there has been a sore and ill-feeling breeding in these men, who were either discharged or left the camp of their own free will, disgusted with their own actions, and that ill-feeling has been in them all the time up to this strike. At that time they just had the Knights of Labour at Wellington. I was a member of the Knights of Labour myself previous to coming to this camp, and I certainly would have joined here had I not seen that the leaders were not capable of leading organized men, either in a strike or out of a strike. They were good enough men, but they hadn't the judgment as to what they should strike for, and when they should strike or not strike. That is my reason. It is a good organization if properly carried out. Then this present strike took place. They had a large demonstration on the 17th; I didn't attend that, as I didn't think I had any right to. It was not for a strike, I thought I could see that, but the next thing I saw was notices posted up for all miners and mine labourers that belonged to Wellington to attend a mass meeting at the Somerset House. I went to that meeting, as I had a boy working in the mines at that time, and I heard several men going on the stand and making speeches. I spoke a word in the midst of the crowd, and as soon as I spoke several of them hollered to me "Mr. Rooney go on the stand." I preferred to say a few words just where I was, but they wouldn't have that, and I went on the stand. I gave them my best opinion about going on a strike, and to be careful not to ask for anything more than they could get.

1616. Q.—When was that?

A.—At this strike—just in the strike. The meeting that led to the strike.

1617. Chairman: Was it after the strike?

A.—The strike was not proclaimed until then. The men stopped working on Monday morning and called a general mass meeting for miners and mine labourers. It was called for all hands that had a voice, both union and non-union. I should think there would be 7 or 8 or 900 men at that meeting. After I went on the stand, they seemed to be satisfied for quite a little while with what I was saying, and I was saying just exactly what I thought was right. I mentioned a few things that happened in Roslyn and other places, where strikes was the ruination of the people, and I advised the people of Wellington not to be led by a few individuals, and to see just what they were doing and not to put something forward that they couldn't accomplish. Right there, they objected to my saying anything more; they didn't have the sense to wait and see what I would say. Some men hollered "He is paid by the company to come here and talk," and another said "He has no business here, he is not in our union and is not working in the mines." Then I made the remark that I had a boy working in the mines and I came in the interests of the boy, because he was a householder and living in the camp. They objected to that also. One of the reporters that was there got up and told the meeting that I had a perfect right to speak as a representative of the boy, it being an open mass meeting; yet they wouldn't allow me to speak. Then for several weeks after that the mines

were idle and the strike went on. We called a meeting amongst ourselves, that is, those men who were idle and were not getting support from the union, and there came about 300 or 400 miners from Northfield and outside camps and broke that meeting up. They wouldn't allow us to have a word to say as to whether we were going to join the union or go back to work.

1618. Chairman: Were you working in Wellington previous to that?
A.—Yes, previous to that.
1619. Chairman: Some twelve months before the strike took place?
A.—Yes; and my family was working there.
1620. Q.—You went to that meeting on behalf of your family?
A.—Yes; and so as not to leave the camp. I had a right to stay in the camp, I thought.

WILLIAM LINDSAY, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

1621. Q.—What is your full name?
A.—William Alfred Lindsay.
1622. Q.—Where do you live?
A.—Wellington.
1623. Q.—What is your occupation?
A.—Paymaster, Wellington Collieries.
1624. Q.—Have you charge of the books?
A.—I have.
1625. Q.—A man named Robert Jarvies has given evidence here. Have you looked up in the books to see what wages he was making?
A.—I have; for the four months prior to the strike.
1626. Q.—Have you prepared a statement of that?
A.—I have.
1627. Q.—Is this (producing document) the statement?
A.—It is.
(Statement marked exhibit "A.")
1628. Q.—Now then (looking at exhibit "A.") what were the average earnings of Jarvies for the month of February, prior to the strike?
A.—\$3.47. Nineteen shifts in which he sent up coal.
1629. Q.—And for the month of March?
A.—It is \$3.15.
1630. Q.—And for April, the month?
A.—It is \$3.06.
1631. Q.—And for the month of May, up to the strike?
A.—\$3.05 per day.
1632. Q.—A man named Horriban, or Martin Riley, worked in the mines. Have you a statement of his wages?
A.—Yes, for the last month he worked. He was working in company with Townshend.
1633. Q.—What was his average?
A.—His average for September—the two of them worked out 45 days—was \$3.50 per day. In October, when they had 33 shifts, it is \$3.27.
1634. Q.—Those are the last months he worked in Wellington?
A.—Yes.
1635. Q.—John Greenwell—can you tell us what his average was prior to the strike?
A.—Greenwell had eight days in May, prior to the strike, and his average was \$3.70.
1636. Q.—David Jones—what shaft was he in?
A.—In No. 4; with his brother. His average was \$2.70. That is in the month of May, prior to the strike.
1637. Q.—What pits were working in the month of May, prior to the strike?
A.—Four, five and six.
1638. Q.—Have you prepared, from the books, a statement of the wages in those three pits for that time?
A.—I have.

1639. Q.—Is this (producing document) the statement for pit No. 4?
A.—It is.
(Statement of wages in No. 4, marked exhibit "B.")
1640. Q.—What does it show?
A.—It shows the numbers of the men, the number of days, and the wages per day, for each man.
1641. Q.—Looking at exhibit "B," what was the highest wage paid during that month, to any one man?
A.—\$6.
1642. Q.—Who was that man?
A.—Two; Williams and Short.
1643. Q.—Working in No. 4?
A.—Yes; working together, \$6 each, per man.
1644. Q.—What was the average wage, for all the men working in No. 4?
A.—\$3.40.
1645. Q.—What was the lowest?
A.—I think \$2.12 was the lowest.
1646. Q.—Is this (producing document) the statement for No. 5?
A.—It is.
(Statement of wages in No. 5, marked exhibit "C.")
1647. Q.—What was the highest wage in No. 5?
A.—\$5.70, I believe.
1648. Q.—What was the lowest?
A.—\$2.57.
1649. Q.—What was the average?
A.—\$3.39.
1650. Q.—Is this (producing document) the statement for No. 6?
A.—It is.
(Statement of wages in No. 6, marked exhibit "D.")
1651. Q.—Looking at exhibit "D," what was the highest wage paid in No. 6?
A.—\$5.29.
1652. Q.—What was the lowest?
A.—\$2.15. The man had just started. Worked nine days I think.
1653. Q.—Just beginning mining?
A.—Yes; the man had just begun.
1654. Q.—What was the average for that mine?
A.—\$3.31.
1655. Q.—How long have you been connected with the Wellington mines as cashier?
A.—Going on nine years.
1656. Q.—Do these statements fairly represent the average wages earned by miners during those seven years?
A.—I wouldn't say they did, because we are not taking the average man here at all, but are taking in some very inferior ones. For instance, some of those Belgians at \$2.50 are away below an average man.
1657. Q.—What, in your experience, has been the average wage of a good average man, during those years you have been there?
A.—He has been making from \$3.25 to \$3.50.
1658. Q.—Are there many men who make more than that?
A.—Quite a few.
1659. Chairman: And many more make less?
A.—Yes, but not average men, though. I can say that a great many have never worked for less than \$5.
1660. Q.—Up to the time of the strike, were you aware of any causes for dissatisfaction among the men?
A.—No.

Cross-examined by Mr. Boyce:

1661. Q.—How do you determine the number of shifts a man works there?

- A.—By the quantity of coal sent up.
1662. Q.—Two men, as a general thing, work together?
A.—Yes.
1663. Q.—They run the one number?
A.—Yes.
1664. Q.—How are you to know whether there are two men there or only one man there?
A.—By the coal they are sending out.
1665. Q.—That is the only way you can determine it?
A.—Yes.
1666. Q.—Then you can't tell whether these estimates are correct or not?
A.—Yes—why?
1667. Q.—Suppose the coal sent out was only one man's work, you would suppose there was only one man working?
A.—If a place sends out only one ton we would only call it one man, unless it was company work, when we would allow a day's work.
1668. Q.—Suppose that two of us were working in a place together and loaded five boxes in a day, you would think there was only one man in there, although there were two?
A.—Generally we can only tell from the amount of coal that comes up.
1669. Q.—Had Jarvies a partner?
A.—No, he was by himself.
1670. Q.—Was he working alone all the time?
A.—Yes, four months.
1671. Q.—For the four months was he working single?
A.—Yes.
1672. Q.—In this average you gave for the four months, did you take his expenses out of it?
A.—Yes; that was his nett earnings.
1673. Q.—About Jones; you have only given his wages for one month?
A.—For the month of May, I believe.
1674. Q.—\$2.70?
A.—Yes.
1675. Q.—Twenty-three shifts?
A.—Yes.
1676. Q.—How do you make that out?
A.—There were two men there. I think there were thirteen shifts altogether in May.
1677. Q.—What I want to establish is that you are not really keeping the time of the miners?
A.—No, I wasn't down there to see whether any particular man was there or not. He is to go down there digging coal, but I am not supposed to go down and see whether he is there or not.
1678. Q.—If coal, sufficient only for one man, comes out, you at once say there is only one man working there?
A.—If two men have a place, and one day 12 boxes come out, and the next day one box comes out, we naturally suppose that only one man is working there.
1679. Q.—Is it not often the case that two miners will be down and working hard all day, getting no recompense for day work from the company, and not load one-third of a day's coal?
A.—I don't think it is. I have allowed for it just as well as I could. Of course, I couldn't go back to nine months ago and swear the man was in his place.
1680. Mr. Bodwell: You have an account of all the coal sent out from the stall, and the men get credit for it?
A.—Certainly, they get credit for it.
1681. Q.—On one day, when one man is there, two days' coal may come out?
A.—Certainly.
1682. Q.—In addition to this, how much coal is allowed to each miner?
A.—One ton a month, and in many instances two.
1683. Q.—How much rent do they pay for their houses?
A.—The rents are from \$1.50 to \$6.00.
1684. Q.—The highest is \$6.00?

- A.—Yes.
1685. Mr. Forster : Don't any of the miners own their own houses ?
A.—No.
1686. Q.—They belong to the company ?
A. Yes.
1687. Mr. Boyce : How many days did the pit work in May ?
A.—Thirteen days.
1688. Q.—If those men worked every day, there would be 26, instead of 23 ?
A.—Yes, if they worked double. Here is one day with only two tons.
1689. Q.—You can't swear whether there were two men there, or only one ?
A.—Well, every other day they sent out six, seven, or eight, and this day they sent out two, so I think there was only one there. If they had wrecked their place it was by carelessness and by not attending to what the boss told them. If they had been putting up stringers or taking out rock they would have been paid for it, and we would have allowed a day's pay and not counted the coal. If it was a mere accident they would be paid for it.
1690. Q.—How many days did the pit work in February ?
A.—23.
1691. Q.—Jones and his partner were working there ?
A.—Yes.
1692. Q.—What did they make in the month of February ?
A.—\$2.52.
1693. Q.—After taking off expenses ?
A.—Yes, taking powder and oil off.
1694. Chairman : What Jones ?
A.—David Jones.
1195. Mr. Boyce : Are you figuring on full time for both partners ?
A.—No ; the 3rd and the 20th are off. There are no charges appearing for those days.
1696. Q.—But you don't know but what they were in ?
A.—I should rather think that they were not in though.
1697. Q.—Mr. Jones gives an estimate of his wages, and swears that he worked every day that the pit worked ?
A.—Well, I have his full time for May, and have allowed him full time for that month.
1698. Q.—Those wages given for Short and Williams—were they working themselves, or had they other men with them ?
A.—There were four men.
1699. Q.—Then they were getting smaller wages ?
A.—I don't know that.
1700. Q.—Didn't the whole four men earn \$6 ?
A.—I have allowed for the four men—supposed they were paying their men \$3. It leaves an average of \$6.
1701. Q.—Were Short and Williams the only names that you had on the books ?
A.—Short, Williams, and Campbell ; they had a driver.
- 1702.. Q.—Were they paying the driver ?
A.—Yes, he was driving and helping them too.
1703. Q.—You allowed for the driver in the \$6 a day ?
A.—Yes, four men.
1704. Q.—In what months did Greenwell say that he made only \$2.10 a day ?
A.—All the months that he worked, I think it was.
1705. Mr. Booth : What was the last month ?
A.—May.
1706. Chairman : How does that estimate compare with your figures ?
A.—He had \$3.70. Before that, in April, he was working double. When his question was brought up he was told he could change and go into a single place, but he wouldn't do it ; he preferred to hang on where he was, but those last 12 days he was working single. His partner went away in the last week in April. There was nobody working with him in the whole of the month of May.

1707. Q.—Nobody working with him in May?
A.—No, no one. In the month of April, allowing him every day that the mine worked, full time for both—and every one knows that his partner, Dick Harris, was one of the brokenest workers in Wellington, he would never work two days but what he laid off one—they averaged \$2.45.
1708. Q.—That is allowing that both of them worked full time?
A.—Yes, full time.
1709. Mr. Bodwell: And the probability is what?
A.—That Harris was off ten days during that time. That was Greenwell's trouble. He said Harris wouldn't work his share, but when he was offered a single place he wouldn't take it.
1710. Q.—Now, there is Riley's statement. He said he made less than \$3 a day?
A.—In October, \$3.27. He left on the 16th, and allowing them 33 shifts, and allowing them a double shift for the three tons as well, they had \$3.27
1711. Q.—What did he get in September?
A.—\$2.97.
1712. Q.—Does that include expenses and all?
A.—That is after taking his powder and oil off.

Mr. Bodwell: That is our case.

Mr. Boyce, on behalf of the union miners, stated that he had no more evidence to bring forward.

(Committee adjourned to call of Chair.)

EXHIBIT "A."

R. JARVIS.

February, 1890:—

Coal.....	\$51.61	
Yardage.....	24.00	
		—————\$75.61
Powder.....	9.25	
Oil.....	.30	————— 9.55
		—————
		\$66.06

19 days @ \$3.47 per day.

March, 1890:—

Coal.....	\$53.55	
Yardage.....	16.00	
		—————\$69.55
Powder.....	9.25	
Oil.....	.30	————— 9.55
		—————
		\$60.00

19 days @ \$3.15.

April, 1890:—

Coal.....	\$88.02	
		—————\$88.02
Powder.....	13.87	
Oil.....	.60	————— 14.47
		—————
		\$73.55

24 days @ \$3.06.

May, 1890:—

Coal.....	\$41.31	
		—————\$41.31
Powder.....	4.63	————— 4.63
		—————
		\$36.68

12 days @ \$3.05 per day.