

SATURDAY, 21st March, 1891.

## AFTER RECESS.—EVENING SESSION.

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

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

597. Q.—Able to do a day's work?  
A.—Yes, I am.
598. Q.—Are you working now?  
A.—Yes.
599. Q.—What wages can you make?  
A.—I am making from \$3 to \$4.50 a day.
600. Q.—At the present time?  
A.—At present.
- Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell.
601. Q.—How long before the strike did you leave the Wellington mines?  
(The witness asked the Committee if he was obliged to submit to cross-examination, and the Committee ruled that while they had no power to oblige him to do so, still it would be advisable for him to answer all questions connected with the enquiry.)  
A.—I left in November.
602. Q.—And the strike was in the following May?  
A.—Yes.
603. Mr. Booth: You couldn't then have any actual knowledge of the immediate or direct cause of the strike?  
A.—I believe the cause of the strike was because the company wouldn't recognize the union.

GUSTAVE DENOUE, called and sworn. (Examined by Chairman.)

(A. Berteaux sworn in as Interpreter.)

604. Q.—How long have you been at Wellington?  
A.—Twenty-one months.
605. Q.—Are you a miner?  
A.—Yes.
606. Q.—Were you working at Wellington up to the strike?  
A.—Yes.
607. Q.—What, in your opinion, led to that strike.  
A.—Because we wanted a union, for when we asked pay for some work that we ought to get, we were not paid.
608. Q.—What do you know about the strike?  
A.—I think it was because there was no union, and because those people who could not speak the English language were worse treated than the others.
609. Q.—You were not well treated because you could not speak English?  
A.—There was no union, and so I could not get paid for my work—could not get paid for what it was worth.
610. Q.—What did you go out on strike for?  
A.—Because there was no union, and because where there is no union they can't get on right.
611. Q.—Did you strike because the company refused to recognize the union?  
A.—Yes.
- Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell.
612. Q.—How long did you know about the strike before it came off?  
A.—I knew nothing about it, because I couldn't speak the language.
613. Q.—Did you ever hear about it before the meeting on the Bluffs?  
A.—Yes; I heard the Belgians talking about it, and saying that there ought to be a strike here to try and get a union.
614. Q.—Were the Belgians told that they were not getting as good places as the Englishmen?  
A.—I heard a good many Belgians say that they could not ask for their rights, and I heard that some English people could not get their rights, either.
615. Mr. Forster: Did you come direct from Belgium to British Columbia?  
A.—I came here from Nova Scotia.
616. Mr. Boyce: Do you think an organization is necessary at Wellington?  
A.—Yes, sir.

617. Mr. Bodwell: What pit were you working in?  
A.—No. 4.
618. Q.—Who was the boss?  
A.—Jim.
619. Q.—Who was your partner?  
A.—Baptiste Vandernook.
620. Q.—What was your number?  
A.—Forty-one. One month I put in 17 timbers, and I was not paid for them—17 sets.
621. Mr. Forster: Seventeen sets of timber?  
A.—Yes, sir.
622. Chairman: How much was usually paid for a set of timbers?  
A.—\$1.25.
623. Mr. Bodwell: What month was it?  
A.—I don't remember what month it was, but I can take and show you the place. I had gone in for 8 or 9 yards without any timbers at all, and one post was knocked down, and there was a great deal of rock coming down, and the fireman came and told me to put three sets in.
624. Chairman: Were you told to put any more up?  
A.—The boss came there next, and he told me that if I wanted to put any more in there I would not be paid for them.
625. Q.—And how many did you put up?  
A.—I was paid for ten out of the seventeen; but it was because I was hunting the boss every day.
626. Q.—And for the seven remaining sets you were not paid?  
A.—That is right.

JOHN GREENWELL, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Boyce.)

627. Q.—Did you work at Wellington previous to the strike?  
A.—Yes.
628. Q.—What pit?  
A.—No. 4.
629. Q.—What wages were you making previous to the strike?  
A.—\$2.10 for the last month I worked.
630. Q.—Did you consider that fair wages?  
A.—I did not.
631. Q.—Did you get any redress?  
A.—The redress that I got from Sharpe was “that we had better force him.” When I stated my case to Mr. Sharpe, he said “we had better force him.” When I was driving the stile I showed the place to the under-manager, and the remark was, “that he had seen worse places.”
632. Q.—What wages could you make if you got an average good place?  
A.—I made \$6 the other day.
633. Q.—What wages could you make in an average fair place?  
A.—From \$3 to \$4.
634. Q.—You would not be satisfied with less than \$3 or \$4?  
A.—If I made \$3 I was always satisfied. I had many conversations with Mr. Sharpe, and on one particular day I told him that the very moment labour got thoroughly organized man and master would shake hands and pull together; and I believe it is coming to that at the present day.
635. Q.—Were you at the meeting held on the Bluffs on the 17th May?  
A.—I was.
636. Q.—Was it your opinion that you were out-numbered in any way, or coerced, or forced into voting for the strike?  
A.—My opinion is that we were the biggest number.
637. Q.—Were there as many Wellington miners as from the other branches combined?  
A.—My opinion is that we were the biggest number.
638. Chairman: More Wellington men?  
A.—That was the remark made when we passed.

639. Q.—What, in your opinion, was the cause which led to this strike?  
A.—I believe Mr. Bryden was not in the office when the committee was sent to him.
640. Q.—Do you remember the name of the man that made the motion that a committee should be sent to Mr. Bryden?  
A.—I don't know.
641. Q.—Do you remember anything being said there about working shorter hours, or about a demand being made on the company to recognize the union as an organized body, or anything like that?  
A.—They came to the conclusion that they would not go down until seven o'clock on account of not getting a satisfactory answer.
642. Q.—How did they come to that decision?  
A.—The body of men came to that conclusion. That was the understanding, not to go down until seven o'clock, but when we got to the pit we were refused.
643. Mr. Boyce: Was there anybody voted against it?  
A.—I couldn't say.
644. Q.—It was a unanimous resolution that you shouldn't go to work until seven o'clock on Monday morning?  
A.—Yes, I didn't see or hear of anybody voting against it.
645. Q.—Was there any gas committee at Wellington?  
A.—Not since the last strike, because we knew we wouldn't get satisfaction.
646. Q.—You were working at Wellington previous to the little strike that was there last January?  
A.—Yes.
647. Q.—Did you work there after that?  
A.—Not for a few months. Mr. Bryden told me I was too much influence. I told him I didn't think so, but I have found out something since, that I think satisfies me. I went up to Texada for a little while and came back. I was very well acquainted with Mr. Sharpe, and we had a little parley one night, and he offered to bet me \$20 that I could not find gas in No. 4, and not wanting to get into any trouble I walked away; he came out with the \$20 so I was told.
648. Chairman—Did you see him bring out the \$20?  
A.—No, but I was told so. During the time I was on the gas committee I was complained of for not doing my duty, and I said that by all means next time I would see that I did my duty, and I went to Mr. Bryden and stated the case to him, and he gave me full power to do whatever I wished to do.
649. Mr. Forster: In what way did people complain that you didn't do your duty?  
A.—Because we didn't go up one stile and down another. The very moment we did that, we found gas in Wall's stile.
650. Q.—When was that?  
A.—After the time of the explosion. I was on the gas committee six months after.
651. Q.—What did Mr. Bryden give you power to do?  
A.—To go anywhere we wished; any place at all. There was another committee in No. 4, and they asked if they were bound to do the same as we were doing.
652. Q.—What reason had the other men for asking if they had to do the same as you had done?  
A.—Because they were not going up one stile and down another.
653. Q.—Didn't want to do it?  
A.—They had to get through some water.
654. Q.—Mr. Bryden was willing?  
A.—Mr. Bryden was perfectly willing to have everything done.
655. Chairman: Who paid this gas committee?  
A.—The workmen.
656. Q.—The workmen put the committee on, and paid them, themselves?  
A.—Yes; paid them up to the last strike when we found that we couldn't get the power; that was the way I understood it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell:

657. Q.—Was this a working stall?

- A.—It was right behind the working stall.
658. Q.—Don't you know that this stall, in which you found the gas, was not a workingstall?  
A.—It didn't matter whether it was or not.
659. Q.—Why don't you answer me?  
A.—It was all the time going ahead.
660. Chairman: Was there anyone working in the stall?  
A.—Wall.
661. Mr. Bodwell: Was there anyone even travelling that road?  
A.—Chinamen were lifting the rails.
662. Q.—Were there any Chinamen in the mines at that time?  
A.—Chinamen was lost in it at the time the accident occurred. The time the gas was found, was two months after the accident, and the gas had been there all the time.
663. Q.—Was a man working in it, with this gas in it?  
A.—The man lost his life in it.
664. Q.—No one was working in it at the time you saw it?  
A.—Wall was the man who worked there last.
665. Q.—Was that a working stall?  
A.—It was working right up to the accident, but they cut it off and run them in a different way afterwards.
666. Chairman: Was a man working in it at that time?  
A.—No, of course not.
667. Q.—How long before that, had he stopped working in that stall?  
A.—A couple of months; it was not working after the accident.
668. Mr. Bodwell: Were there 900 people, do you think, at that meeting on the Bluffs.  
A.—I couldn't tell you any number.
669. Q.—The newspaper says so; do you think it is right?  
A.—I wouldn't contradict the paper.
670. Q.—Do you know how many Wellington men were there?  
A.—Pretty nearly all.
671. Q.—The paper says 363, was that right?  
A.—I wouldn't say. You can't believe papers anyway.
672. Q.—It is the "Free Prees," that is generally correct, isn't it? It says there were 363 Wellington men, and 900 men altogether, at that meeting?  
A.—It is a little correcter than the "Colonist."
673. Q.—So you think, after hearing those particulars, that the Wellington men were just as strong as all others combined; that is what you said, wasn't it?  
A.—I said we had, perhaps, as big a number as all the other three.
674. Mr. Semlin: Are you a member of this organization?  
A.—I joined the Knights of Labour when the accident was, and have been in it ever since.
675. Q.—Are you a member of this Miners and Mine Labourers Protective Association?  
A.—Yes.
676. Q.—Did you ever work in the mines in the North of England?  
A.—Yes, I worked in England; but mostly in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.
677. Mr. Booth: Are there unions there?  
A.—Yes, there are unions there.
678. Q.—Then, if they have an organization, how was it that there was an accident there the other day?  
A.—Probably the managers did it, I don't know.
679. Mr. Semlin: Do you think it necessary or desirable for the miners to have a union?  
A.—Yes, sir, I think it is. Things will work better and the two sides pull together.
680. Mr. Booth: You think it will be beneficial to both parties?  
A.—Yes; I talked to one of the officials and he talked the same way. I told him that Mr. Bryden might possibly have the choosing of his own committees, and pick out the best men himself.
681. Chairman: You thought that would be agreeable to Mr. Bryden?  
A.—I told him that if Mr. Bryden came to them terms, he might pick the committees out himself. The gentleman over there—Mr. Young—I stated the case to.

EDMUND RICHARDS, called and sworn.

682. Mr. Boyce: Do you remember being sent on one occasion, by the branch of which you are a member, to see Mr. Bryden about recognizing the union?

A.—Yes, I do.

683. Chairman: Previous to this meeting on the Bluffs?

A.—Yes.

684. Mr. Boyce: Do you remember the date?

A.—No.

685. Q.—Sometime between the 1st of March and 17th May?

A.—It was previous to the strike. We went to the door and knocked, and Mr. Bryden came to the door, and we asked him if he would do business with committees, and recognize our organization; he said no, he couldn't think of it, or something to that effect. I am not quite sure of the words.

686. Q.—Did you have much conversation with Mr. Bryden?

A.—About three or four minutes, that was all.

687. Q.—What was the result?

A.—He refused.

688. Q.—Just simply refused to have anything to do with you?

A.—Yes, refused to recognize the committee.

689. Chairman: Did he give any reasons?

A.—He said he would deal with the principals if there was any grievance.

690. Q.—Did he mean the persons concerned?

A.—Yes, the persons that had the grievance.

691. Q.—He would deal with them direct?

A.—Yes.

692. Q.—He wouldn't recognize interference from a committee?

A.—He wouldn't recognize an organization or a committee.

693. Q.—Was that the only time you ever went on a committee to interview Mr. Bryden?

A.—After that, I was sent as one of the committee from the Bluffs.

694. Mr. Boyce: Were you at that meeting on the Bluffs?

A.—Yes.

695. Q.—Could you give any idea of the proportion of Wellington men there, in comparison with the others?

A.—I was marshal, that day, of the Wellington brigade, and I counted in all 400 Wellington men—over 400; I couldn't tell how many more, but over 400; I counted them.

696. Q.—Did you count the number that came from the other places?

A.—I told one of the men from town what number we were, and he said that we were more than they were.

697. Q.—That the Wellington out-numbered the others?

A.—Yes.

698. Q.—Were you there when that motion to work only the same hours as the other miners in the district, was put and voted on?

A.—No, I was not.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell.

699. Q.—Do you remember Harry McVeigh making a speech at that meeting?

A.—I remember him speaking there.

700. Q.—Do you remember that he was opposed to taking immediate action, and wanted it postponed until you could confer with the Dunsmuirs?

A.—No, I don't.

701. Q.—Do you remember his putting a motion to that effect, which was voted down?

A.—I don't.

702. Q.—You were on the committee which came to see Mr. Bryden?

A.—Yes.

703. Q.—Didn't he say, then, that he would recognize a committee from his own men?

A.—He said he would meet a committee of his own men.

704. Q.—He objected to conferring with you, because you were not working for him?

A.—I suppose that was his objection.

705. Q.—Didn't the committee then agree with Mr. Bryden, that a committee, to be formed from his own men, should come and wait upon him and the Messrs. Dunsmuir a week from the following Monday?  
A.—Yes, I believe the committee did.
706. Q.—That was agreed upon?  
A.—I believe so.
707. Q.—Did you report that fact to the meeting?  
A.—We started back, but the meeting had adjourned—had finished—before we got there.
708. Q.—Then while you were away on this committee the resolution not to go to work until seven o'clock was passed?  
A.—It must have been passed while I was away, because it was not passed while I was there; I am sure of that.
709. Q.—You were not working at Wellington at that time, were you?  
A.—I was discharged at the first of April.
710. Q.—You had trouble with the foreman?  
A.—No, I didn't, I had trouble with the docking boss.
711. Q.—You were discharged?  
A.—Yes.
712. Mr. Boyce: What was the trouble between you and the docking boss?  
A.—I asked him what I was docked for, and he said it was for slack, or small coal.
713. Q.—Was it the rule, or the custom, that they should dock for small coal?  
A.—I don't think it was.
714. Q.—The agreement was to the contrary?  
A.—Yes.
715. Chairman: And he was docking you for small coal?  
A.—Yes.
716. Q.—Was it understood that you could load up all coal you had in the place?  
A.—I believe that was the understanding after the explosion. There was an understanding, so far as I was aware, to fill all coal.
717. Q.—Were you docked for filling small coal?  
A.—Yes; he told me that Mr. Bryden had told him to dock for small coal.
718. Mr. Bodwell: Your way of remedying that matter was to assault the boss—that is what you did, isn't it?  
A.—Oh yes, I don't deny it.
719. Q.—You didn't make any complaint to the manager, or anyone in authority, but you took the law into your own hands?  
A.—Yes.
720. Q.—That is the kind of a man you are?  
A.—Oh yes.
721. Q.—How long was it before this meeting on the Bluffs that you were discharged from the Wellington Collieries?  
A.—I was discharged on the first of April.
722. Q.—And this meeting was in May?  
A.—Yes.
723. Chairman: Had you seen anything in the Wellington Collieries, previous to that time, that you think led up to this strike?  
A.—There was lots of dissatisfaction among the men; particularly amongst the Belgians.
724. Q.—Was there any dissatisfaction among the English-speaking people?  
A.—There was some.
725. Mr. Bodwell: Did you ever know of a mine where there was no dissatisfaction?  
A.—I know some mines where there was not much dissatisfaction—very little dissatisfaction.
726. Q.—Where were those mines?  
A.—I was working in a mine in Washington Territory where there was not much dissatisfaction.
727. Q.—Where was it?  
A.—Black Diamond.

728. Q.—There was some dissatisfaction there too?  
A.—Might have been after I left.
729. Mr Semlin: Was there an organization among the miners in Washington Territory?  
A.—Yes, there was.
730. Q.—Have you worked in mines where there was no organization before coming to Wellington?  
A.—I have, in the old country.
731. Q.—Speaking generally, which do you prefer from a miner's view?  
A.—Any mine where there is organized labour.
732. Chairman: You went to interview Mr. Bryden, and he refused to treat with you as representing an organized body?  
A.—Yes.

DAVID JONES, called and sworn.

733. Chairman: Were you working at Wellington previous to the strike?  
A.—Yes.
734. Q.—How long were you there?  
A.—About a year before the strike.
735. Mr. Boyce: What pit did you work in?  
A.—No. 4.
- 735A. Q.—Were you making good wages there?  
A.—No, not good wages.
736. Q.—Will you tell this committee the amount of your earnings for three or four months previous to the 17th May?  
A.—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.
737. Chairman: How much did you make?  
A.—The last money I drew from No. 4 was in May, \$27. I don't know exactly how much I worked that month.
738. Mr. Boyce: You don't know how many days you worked that month?  
A.—I don't know exactly. The next month to that was \$56. I worked the whole of the month that time.
739. Q.—Were you on contract or day work?  
A.—Contract work. In March I drew \$65.
740. Q.—For how long?  
A.—Every shift the pit was working. In February I had \$30.
741. Q.—For working a full month?  
A.—I don't think I lost much time that month.
742. Q.—You had \$30; was it enough?  
A.—I don't think so.
743. Q.—During that time did you ask the foreman for any recompense for the deficient place?  
A.—I asked him many times.
744. Q.—What did he tell you?  
A.—He only laughed at me, and said "If you don't like it, leave the place; there are lots of men around glad to get a chance to work at it" I think that kind of an answer, given to a man who is working hard, calls very loud for an organization of some kind to protect him. If a man can't get any justice except to be told to take out his tools, it is very hard, and I think that we ought to have an organization to protect us, so that we will have something to fall back on, and not be working along the same as slaves.
745. Q.—Were you at the meeting on the 17th May?  
A.—Yes.
746. Q.—Did you, as a Wellington man, feel that you were out-voted, and that something had been thrust upon you? Were you satisfied with the result of the meeting?  
A.—I was well satisfied.
747. Chairman: Were you in favour of working eight hours only?  
A.—Yes; that is enough for any man.
748. Q.—Were you in favour of organized labour being recognized?



A.—Yes, and voted for it, every time.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell.

749. Q.—Do you know what organized labour means?  
A.—I think I do.
750. Q.—You voted for it because it has a good sound, didn't you?  
A.—I think it has.
751. Q.—Had you ever heard anything about the eight hour system before that meeting?  
A.—Of course I had.
752. Q.—Where?  
A.—Many places.
753. Q.—Before the meeting out here?  
A.—Yes.
754. Q.—Had you been working more than eight hours in No. 4 shaft?  
A.—Yes.
755. Q.—Actually working?  
A.—Yes.
756. Q.—How do you make that out? Did you take any time to rest at all for meals?  
A.—I reckoned all the time I was down in the pit in working clothes as working time.
757. Q.—You counted it all, whether you worked or not?  
A.—I don't go down into the pit to lie down, I go down to work.
758. Q.—Were you working by contract?  
A.—Yes.
759. Q.—You generally took half an hour for meals?  
A.—We could please ourselves.
760. Q.—Most of the men do?  
A.—They might.
761. Q.—Did you?  
A.—I hardly had time only to eat what I could, and jump back to my work.
762. Q.—You worked awfully hard, I suppose, and didn't make good wages?  
A.—That is it.
763. Q.—Do you know how many days you worked in the month of April?  
A.—No, I don't know.
764. Q.—Would it surprise you to know that you made \$2.70 on an average for all the days you worked?  
A.—No, sir; I didn't do that.
765. Q.—You worked 23 days and made \$2.70 a day. Your brother, A. S. Jones, was working with you?  
A.—John Jones was his name.
766. Q.—You worked 23 shifts between you?  
A.—I don't know.
767. Q.—As a matter of fact, you don't know whether you were making good wages or not?  
A.—I think I know that.
768. Q.—And you struck, whether you were making wages or not?  
A.—How many days did I work in February?
769. Q.—Was your brother working with you in February?  
A.—Yes.
770. Q.—And you worked 23 shifts, and made \$2.70 a day?  
A.—No.
771. Chairman: How much did you draw for February?  
A.—\$30.00.
772. Q.—How many shifts did you work?  
A.—I couldn't tell you.
773. Q.—How many do you think?  
A.—I can swear to 20, anyhow. I can do that because the mines were working pretty regularly.
774. Q.—In working in a deficient place, doesn't it very often occur that you work all day without having any coal, or very little?  
A.—I think I was working many days in that place without getting out coal at all. It was very low coal, and Mr. Sharpe told us to put up timbers there and we

did, and sometimes the shots would knock the timbers out, and it was a very soft top there and would come down—a good many boxes of it—and we had to clear it out and put up another set of timbers, and would get nothing for it, except for the set of timbers.

775. Mr. Boyce: And you would be working just as hard as if you were getting coal?  
A.—Yes, I was working harder in No. 4 than ever I worked in my life.
776. Mr. Bodwell: Were you not paid for it?  
A.—Yes, if you call \$30.00 in a month pay for it.
777. Chairman: Did you get any allowance?  
A.—No.
778. Mr. Bodwell: What class of timbers did you put up?  
A.—About 9 feet stringers.
779. Q.—In what month?  
A.—In February, and I think in January.
780. Mr. Forster: Were you paid for the stringers?  
A.—Yes; they paid us \$1.25 for stringers, and I am not sure, but I think Mr. Sharpe gave us \$1.50 one month, and I reckoned we did very good that month.
781. Q.—How long is it since you left Wales?  
A.—About three years.
782. Q.—Did you work in the mines there?  
A.—Yes.
783. Q.—Do they have unions there?  
A.—Yes.
784. Q.—Is it customary for the mine owners there to recognize unions?  
A.—Sometimes.
785. Q.—Well, generally speaking, was it?  
A.—Yes; sometimes. It is not quite the same as here. There one man settled all the grievances between the masters and the employés; he is called the miners' agent.
786. Q.—Do you think there is any other way to obtain fair terms for miners than by organizing into unions?  
A.—That is the only way I know of.
787. Mr. Booth: How are these miners' agents supported, in Wales?  
A.—They are paid by the miners.
788. Q.—And picked out by the miners?  
A.—Yes, and the companies recognize them.
789. Mr. Forster: Do you think it is absolutely necessary, in order to secure fair terms for the miners, that they should have their unions?  
A.—Yes.
790. Q.—What do you think would have been the result here if the company had recognized the union?  
A.—I think it would have been a great deal better.
791. Q.—What are the principal duties of a miners' agent, in Wales?  
A.—They settle the grievances between masters and workmen.
792. Q.—Have they power for that?  
A.—Yes; power on the side of the workmen.
793. Q.—Do they take the place of a pit committee?  
A.—No; not exactly.
794. Chairman: Does an agent go round from pit to pit, or does he belong to one pit?  
A.—They belong to a district.
795. Q.—Each agent belonged to a district and was empowered to try and settle all differences between masters and employés in that district?  
A.—Yes, and the masters recognized that man and were willing to talk to him.
796. Q.—He represented the miners, only?  
A.—Yes.

CHARLES MCGARRIGLE, called and sworn.

797. Chairman: What is your name?  
A.—Charles McGarrigle.

798. Q.—Are you a miner?  
A.—Yes, sir.
799. Q.—Been mining long?  
A.—Over 20 years.
800. Q.—Been working in Wellington?  
A.—Yes.
801. Q.—Previous to the strike?  
A.—Yes, for the past nine years.
802. Q.—Right up to the strike?  
A.—Yes.
803. Q.—Have you been working there since?  
A.—No, not since.
804. Q.—Are you out on strike?  
A.—Yes.
805. Mr. Boyce: Have you held the position of fireman at the Wellington Collieries?  
A.—Yes.
806. Q.—What shaft?  
A.—No. 5.
807. Q.—What condition was that mine in, for safety?  
A.—At one time there was quite a little gas in it.
808. Q.—Could you give any estimate of the amount, in cubic feet?  
A.—I couldn't, exactly.
809. Q.—Were any means taken to have that removed?  
A.—Yes.
810. Q.—Was it removed?  
A.—No, it was not removed.
811. Q.—Were the miners working in the mine, at the same time that body of gas was there?  
A.—Yes; they were working at a distance from it.
812. Q.—Did you report it on the books?  
A.—Yes.
813. Q.—Was the mining inspector aware that that body of gas was there?  
A.—Yes, he knew it was there.
814. Q.—Is it your opinion that if the mine had had a gas committee, and found that body of gas, they would have allowed their men to continue working?  
A.—It is my opinion that they would have made a big noise about it.
815. Q.—You think they would have protested against working, if they knew the gas was there?  
A.—Yes.
816. Q.—You found that gas there?  
A.—Yes.
817. Q.—Reported it, in your books?  
A.—Yes.
818. Q.—How long do you think it remained there?  
A.—Until the mine was shut down.
819. Q.—Did you draw the manager's or superintendent's attention to it?  
A.—Yes; they knew all about it.
820. Q.—What did he say about it?  
A.—I can't say that he ever said anything to me about it. I reported it to the under-boss and he talked to them.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell:

821. Q.—How long ago was it that this gas was there?  
A.—Probably 18 months.
822. Q.—What had that to do with the strike in May?  
A.—I couldn't say that it had anything to do with it.
823. Q.—You were down in the mine every day, weren't you?  
A.—Yes.
824. Q.—It was safe enough, wasn't it?

- A.—I couldn't say much about that; safe enough if no accident happened.
825. Chairman: Is it a customary thing to allow a body of gas to accumulate in a pit?  
A.—No, it is not a customary thing.
826. Mr. Bodwell: You were the fireman, were you not?  
A.—Yes.
827. Q.—It was your duty to report upon it?  
A.—Yes.
828. Chairman: Were you at the meeting held on the Bluffs on the 17th of May?  
A.—I was there, but only for about half an hour. I had business in Nanaimo that I had to go and attend to.
829. Q.—Did you see the Nanaimo company coming in?  
A.—I did not.
830. Q.—You have no idea how many were present?  
A.—I haven't the least. I was there only half an hour, and I couldn't give any estimate of the numbers.
831. Q.—Was there any organization at Wellington at that time?  
A.—Yes.
832. Q.—What was it?  
A.—Miners and Mine Labourers Union.
833. Q.—You were in that union?  
A.—Not at that time.
834. Mr. Boyce: You stated that this body of gas was some distance away from where the men were working. Between that body of gas and where the men were working were there any accumulations of gas—any pockets with gas in them?  
(Mr. Bodwell objected, on the ground that this had nothing to do with the strike.)
835. Chairman: How long was that before the strike?  
A.—I think the mine was closed down about a year ago last Christmas, and it was before that.
836. Mr. Boyce: Were you fireman up to the time of the strike at No. 3?  
A.—No.
837. Q.—That body of gas was there as long as you were fireman there?  
A.—Yes.
838. Q.—Where did you first commence to work in mines?  
A.—In the county of Northumberland, England.
839. Q.—Have they an organization there?  
A.—Yes.
840. Q.—Is that organization recognized by the employers?  
A.—Yes.
841. Q.—In what way do the miners there present their grievances to their employers?  
A.—By committees.
842. Q.—They are generally recognized?  
A.—Yes.
843. Q.—Do you know of any other way for the miners to obtain redress for their grievances, than by organization?  
A.—No.
844. Q.—Do you think that it is an absolute necessity that miners should be allowed the privilege of organizing?  
A.—Yes; I think it is. So far as my experience goes they always seem to get along better.
845. Mr. Bodwell: Were the miners here, ever refused the privilege of organizing?  
A.—I couldn't say.
846. Q.—Didn't they always have an organization here—the Knights of Labour? The miners belonged to that, didn't they?  
A.—Probably some of them might.
847. Q.—Did you ever belong to an association before you joined this Miners' Protective Association?  
A.—Yes, in England.
848. Q.—None in this country?  
A.—No.

849. Q.—How long have you been working in the mines here?  
A.—Between 13 and 14 years.
850. Q.—You got along all right, didn't you?  
A.—Yes, generally.
851. Mr. Semlin: I understood you to say that you had been here 9 years?  
A.—Yes, but between here and Nanaimo I have been 13 years.
852. Mr. Forster: Is the right to organize, without recognition by the employers, of any benefit to the workmen?  
A.—No, I don't think it.
853. Q.—Organization to be effectual must be recognized?  
A.—Yes, I think so.
854. Chairman: Did you say you were in this organization previous to the 17th of May?  
A.—No, I didn't join it until June.
855. Q.—Were you out on strike then?  
A.—Yes.
856. Q.—What did you go out for?  
A.—I came out with the balance.
857. Q.—What reason had you?  
A.—I had no reason personally. I have made pretty fair wages, but I heard a great many complaints, and of course, when they all stopped, I would not be a black sheep amongst them, I would stand by them. I always go with the majority in everything.
858. Q.—Do you think that the miners were well treated?  
A.—I have heard a good many complaints.

JOHN SUGGETT, called and sworn.

859. Chairman: Are you a miner?  
A.—Yes.
860. Q.—Ever work at Wellington?  
A.—Up to the strike.
861. Q.—Can you give us any information as to what took place on the Bluffs on the 17th of May?  
A.—Motions were passed, in regard to the eight hours.
862. Q.—Anything in connection with organization?  
A.—I counted the men in the procession, belonging to Wellington, that day, and there was a little over 400, I don't know how many exactly, but over 400.
863. Q.—Where did you count them?  
A.—Just on the other side of the hotel there, just before they crossed the railway track. I know that there was just very nearly an equal number from the other places.
864. Q.—About an equal number?  
A.—Yes, somewhere about an equal number.
865. Q.—Were the miners of Wellington coerced into doing anything that day, that they didn't want to do?  
A.—No, sir; there was not one dissenting voice. It was a unanimous vote.
866. Mr. Boyce: Can you tell who made the motion, that day, to work only the same hours as the other miners in the district?  
A.—Mr. Joseph Carter.
867. Q.—Where does he work?  
A.—He was working at that time in Wellington.
868. Q.—Do you know who seconded the motion?  
A.—Harry McVeigh. He has gone now to Australia.
869. Q.—He worked at Wellington?  
A.—Yes, at No. 6.
870. Q.—I think he made the motion?  
A.—No, he seconded it.

Cross-examined by Mr. BODWELL.

871. Q.—Who spoke first in favour of the 8-hour business?  
A.—I can't just exactly tell who spoke first.

872. Q.—Was it a Nanaimo man?  
A.—I believe—I am very near positive—that it was Mr. McVeigh who spoke first, but I can hardly call it to memory.
873. Q.—Wasn't it the Nanaimo men who were urging the 8-hour business?  
A.—There was some of the Nanaimo men spoke on it.
874. Chairman: Do you remember at whose request that meeting was called?  
A.—I can say as far as Wellington is concerned that I, myself, was the mover of the motion in favour of calling the meeting on the Bluffs.
875. Q.—To call the mass meeting at Wellington?  
A.—Yes.
876. Mr. Bodwell: Do you know who the officers of the association were?  
A.—District officers.
877. Q.—Was Mr. Forster an officer?  
A.—No sir.
878. Q.—Is he a member of the union?  
A.—I don't think he is. I am positive he ain't.
879. Q.—Was Mr. Keith?  
A.—I believe Mr. Keith is a member of the association.
880. Q.—Wasn't he an officer?  
A.—No sir.
881. Q.—So you were the one who proposed to have the meeting called at Wellington?  
A.—Yes sir.
882. Q.—Had this 8-hour question been discussed before the meeting?  
A.—Yes, it had been; but never in a meeting I don't suppose. I have heard a great deal talked of it.
883. Q.—You were well enough satisfied with the way things were going on here?  
A.—Hardly.
884. Q.—Were you not making good wages?  
A.—Pretty good wages myself.
885. Q.—How much were you making, can you tell? About \$4 a day weren't you?  
A.—Pretty good wages all the time.
886. Chairman: Did you make \$4, or anything round that?  
A.—Well, with the exception of one or two months.
887. Mr. Bodwell: Don't you know, as a fact, that the diggers were perfectly contented with the arrangement about the eight hours?  
A.—They certainly were not, or else they would not have voted for it.
888. Q.—Did you hear of any discontent among the diggers—the men digging the coal?  
A.—They are the men I am speaking of.
889. Q.—Did you hear any expressions of discontent from them about the 8 hours prior to the meeting?  
A.—We had heard it talked generally, but never in meeting.
890. Q.—You were one of the committee that came to confer with Mr. Bryden the week following, that is, a week from the following Monday, weren't you?  
A.—I believe it was on Monday that I saw Mr. Bryden?
891. Q.—Didn't you come a week after that Monday when a committee came to Mr. Bryden's office?  
A.—Yes, I was one of them; when the Mr. Dunsmuir were there.
892. Q.—Don't you remember that the 8-hour question was discussed there? Didn't Mr. Dunsmuir say that that half-hour belonged to the men, and that if they wanted to come up he would bring them up?  
A.—I don't remember.
893. Q.—Didn't he say that the men had been accustomed to take the half-hour for meals, but the half-hour belongs to the men, and if they would rather come up than stay down, I will bring them up at three?  
A.—I don't remember Mr. Dunsmuir saying anything of that kind.
894. Q.—Nothing of that kind was said?  
A.—I don't remember it.
895. Q.—Swear to that?  
A.—I don't remember.
896. Q.—What you were discussing was the eight-hour question?

- A.—If he said it I never heard it.
897. Q.—What impression did you have when you left there about the 8 hours?
898. Q.—I heard Mr. Dunsmuir state this, which proves that he didn't say the other. He said that he couldn't feed his animals if we worked that hour right through. Then I told Mr. Dunsmuir that the animals wasn't fed at that hour anyway; I knew, because I had driven them and worked on the track, and worked at almost every work in the mine; and I knew that the animals were not fed in that half-hour anyway.
898. Q.—Wouldn't it be quite consistent to suppose then that, after that, he should have stated what I said a moment ago?
- A.—I think not.
899. Q.—How long had you been working in Wellington prior to that?
- A.—I started to work in No. 5 shaft on the second of February.
900. Q.—February last year?
- A.—1890.
901. Q.—Chairman: Were you working at Wellington previous to that?
- A.—That was when I first came on to the island.
902. Q.—Who were the other members of that committee that went with you to interview Mr. Bryden—this time that Mr. Bodwell is speaking of?
- A.—Mr. Carter, Mr. Berteaux, myself; and the different nationalities were represented, but I can't tell the names. There was one Italian and one German.
903. Q.—Was this the time that Mr. Bodwell was speaking about that you went to interview Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden about the eight hours?
- A.—We went to see Mr. Bryden, and I believe I went in first, and he said that one of the Dunsmuirs was away at the time, and that we would have to wait; after he came back we saw him.
904. Q.—You saw Mr. Alex Dunsmuir?
- A.—Yes, afterwards.
905. Q.—Did Mr. Dunsmuir say that the half-hour was the men's time, and they could do what they liked with it;
- A.—I don't think Mr. Dunsmuir made any such statement.
906. Q.—Was that the 26th day of May?
- A.—Yes, sir; I was out there with the deputation.
907. Q.—Who were with you that day?
- A.—Carter and Berteaux and others. Six of a committee; I can't remember the names.
908. Q.—Six altogether?
- A.—Six of a committee that day. One German, one Italian, one Belgian, myself, Carter, and one Russian Finn.
909. Q.—Did Mr. Bryden receive that committee as representatives of an association?
- A.—I am almost sure that Mr. Bryden knew that I was a member of an association, but he didn't know whether the others were or not, and didn't know whether we were representing an association or not.
910. Q.—Where did you get your authority?
- A.—We were appointed at an outside meeting, held right here by the hall. One from every nationality that was working here at the time.
911. Q.—Do you remember what passed at that meeting—anything beyond what you have already given evidence of?
- A.—There was no other business done. It was just stated by men from the different shafts that they were not permitted to go down after seven o'clock, and so we were appointed to wait upon Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden.
912. Q.—When you had stated your business to the Messrs. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden, what was their answer?
- A.—They generally referred to Roslyn, and told us that organization there had been detrimental.
913. Q.—Their answer was, in reality, a refusal to treat with you as an organization?
- A.—Yes, that was their answer.

JOSEPH CARTER, called and sworn.

914. Chairman : What is your name ?  
A.—Joseph Carter.
915. Q.—Miner ?  
A.—Yes.
916. Q.—Work at Wellington ?  
A.—Yes, up to the 17th of May.
917. Q.—Were you at the mass meeting on the Bluffs ?  
A.—I was.
918. Q.—Do you remember at whose request that meeting was called ?  
A.—At the request of the Wellington miners, to have it on the Bluffs here.
919. Q.—Was there any particular object in calling that meeting ?  
A.—No, not just at that time, that I know of. The object of calling it here was that two mass meetings had already been held in Nanaimo, and we discussed it at our lodge, and we thought that it was nothing but right that a mass meeting should be called here, and Wellington men not have to walk to Nanaimo every time. That was the reason it was called on the Bluffs.
920. Q.—Do you remember anything that transpired on the Bluffs touching the question of organization, or the eight hour question ?  
A.—Yes, the thing was brought up and discussed by a good many different speakers, and I got up and made a motion that we would have eight hours from bank bank, the same as the rest of the district had.
921. Q.—You were working at Wellington then ?  
A.—Yes.
922. Q.—Do you remember who seconded that motion ?  
A.—Harry McVeigh. Harry got up and made this remark : Wouldn't it be as well for to send a committee to Mr. Bryden and notify him about this, and let the thing stand over a week. And I said I didn't see what good it could be, for we had sent a committee to Mr. Bryden the week before and he refused to recognize them, and I said it was no use choosing a committee to send to him for he wouldn't recognize them. That was the reason that no notice was sent to Mr. Bryden that we were not going to start to go down before seven o'clock.
923. Q.—Have you any idea of the number of men that came out from Nanaimo to that mass meeting ?  
A.—Three hundred and seventy were in the procession.
924. Q.—You counted them ?  
A.—I counted them myself, and there were 450 Wellington miners. I went through the ranks and counted all the men there.
925. Q.—Three hundred and seventy ?  
A.—Three hundred and seventy came from Nanaimo, and 450 Wellington men opened out in two rows for the Nanaimo men to pass through.
926. Q.—Did the Nanaimo men attempt to coerce you into doing anything contrary to your will ?  
A.—They couldn't.
927. Q.—Were you on the committee that went to interview Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden, the Monday week following ?  
A.—I was.
928. Q.—What transpired there, do you remember ?  
A.—On that Monday morning we went to the mine and they wouldn't let us go down after seven o'clock, and we called a meeting outside here, and me and Suggett, and four other men, were appointed a committee to go to Mr. Bryden. We went to Mr. Bryden and he told us that he couldn't do anything unless both Mr. Dunsmuir were there, and that Mr. Alex. was away and would not be back for a week ; and he said that he had understood from the committee that had been to him the Saturday before, that this matter was going to lay over for a week, and we told him that we had never seen the other committee that had been sent to him before, because, before the committee got back the meeting had broken up and the men gone away.
929. Q.—Was there any grievance existing between the men and the Messrs. Dunsmuir, more than the matter of organization ?



A.—There have been grievances all the time because they have been taking undue advantages of the men, all that they possibly could. I know that because I was working in the place at the time, and one day, about three weeks or a month before the strike, we filled 14 boxes with coal, and one of the boxes was docked three hundred weight, and we had filled with nothing but the best coal, and I saw Mr. Bryden about it, and he said that there must have been a mistake made by the docking boss; that the docking boss must have taken our box instead of the box dumped before. That was all the recompense I got.

930. Q.—Did Mr. Bryden deal with the men as an organized body, or as representing an organized body?

A.—No, he wouldn't.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell:

931. Q.—You lost 300 pounds, did you?

A.—Three hundred if it was weighed correct.

932. Q.—That was nine cents?

A.—I don't know what it was.

933. Q.—That was what it amounted to, wasn't it—that was your grievance. This mass meeting was called to discuss political and other matters, wasn't it? Wasn't that the way it was advertised?

A.—Yes, it was called just to discuss labour matters and political matters.

934. Q.—Did the miners have any notice that this eight hour question was to be brought up at the meeting?

A.—Any question that the committee ask me I will answer.

935. Q.—You decline to recognize me, in the matter, do you?

A.—Any question the committee ask me, I shall answer.

Chairman: You must also answer any questions which the committee permits Mr. Bodwell to ask.

936. Mr. Forster: How long have you been working in the mines?

A.—Thirty years.

937. Q.—Where did you commence?

A.—In England.

938. Q.—How long is it since you left England?

A.—Four years this month.

939. Q.—You were working in the mines up to that time?

A.—Yes, always worked in the mines—all my life.

940. Q.—Belong to any organization in England?

A.—Always.

941. Q.—Were those organizations generally recognized by the employers?

A.—Always; I have never known one but was. In fact, I have known places where the masters would have the men organized, because they said they got on with the men better as an organized body than without organization.

942. Q.—Did the miners present their grievances to the masters through committees?

A.—Yes, always by committees. If a single individual had a grievance with the pit boss, and they couldn't settle it, he would always call in the committee, and the committee would always go to the boss and investigate the thing, and try to bring about a peaceable settlement.

943. Q.—Do you think there is no other way for miners to obtain redress for grievances than by organizing?

A.—No, there is not.

944. Q.—It is not possible for them to open up mines, is it?

A.—Not without money—that is the only thing. There are not many miners who have money enough to go and open up mines.

945. Q.—Give us your version of what took place at the meeting on the 26th day of May, between the committee and the Messrs. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden?

A.—Well, Suggett and me, and four others, went and waited on Messrs. Dunsmuir, and we had a long discussion there, and we talked about the eight hours. Mr. James Dunsmuir stated that the half hour belonged to the men and the

men could do as they liked with it, but that they would have to be down in the mine before seven o'clock in the morning. We told him that then a man was more than eight hours in the mine, and Mr. Alex. Dunsmuir spoke up, and said that they wanted the men to be working at the face eight hours. We told them that that was not our view of it; that wherever we had seen the eight hours recognized, the time counted from the time you left the pit bank until you got back to the pit bank again. That was one thing I tried to put before the Messrs. Dunsmuir, that we would start going down at seven o'clock and start coming up at three—that was giving and taking. That was going down in the employers' time, and coming up in the men's time. That is all, I think, that was done.

946. Q.—Wouldn't they consent to that?  
 A.—No, they said the men must be down and working at seven o'clock.
947. Q.—And come up at half-past three?  
 A.—No, if the men liked to do away with the half-hour for dinner, they could come up at three o'clock.

JOHN R. THOMAS, called and sworn.

948. Chairman: Miner?  
 A.—Yes.
949. Q.—Work at Wellington?  
 A.—Yes.
950. Q.—Working there before the strike?  
 A.—Yes.  
 (A. Berteaux sworn in as interpreter.)
951. Q.—What evidence have you to give?  
 A.—I was working in No. 4, and I put up 21 stringers, or sets, and I got \$5, because I could not speak English.
952. Q.—You put up 21 stringers?  
 A.—Yes.
953. Q.—Did you get the \$5 for putting up those stringers?  
 A.—Yes, gave me \$5 and told me it was by permission. The boss told him that if he could have spoken English he would have got nothing.
954. Q.—What connection has this with the strike?  
 A.—I am on strike to try and get a committee.
955. Q.—Do you think a committee will be a good thing?  
 A.—Yes, I think it is good for the men.
956. Q.—Did you go out on strike because there was no committee?  
 A.—When I started to work here there was a committee for the gas.
957. Q.—Did you want another committee?  
 A.—Yes, a committee to see after my interests.
958. Q.—You wanted organization, is that what you wanted?  
 A.—Yes, to get organization was the principal point.
959. Q.—You struck to get organization?  
 A.—Yes; to get protection.
960. Mr. Boyce: Why couldn't you get that protection yourself?  
 A.—Because I couldn't speak English.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bodwell.

961. Q.—Who drummed that idea into your head?  
 A.—It was no one else but myself.
962. Q.—What number were you working, and where?  
 A.—No. 4; 37.
963. Q.—14—19—37?  
 A.—It was before that I put the stringers.
964. Q.—Do you know how much you made, on an average?  
 A.—Sometimes \$2.50, sometimes more, and sometimes less.

On behalf of the owners of the Wellington Collieries Mr. Bodwell called—

JOHN BRYDEN, sworn. Examined by Mr. Bodwell.

965. Q.—What is your name?  
A.—John Bryden.
966. Q.—What position do you hold?  
A.—Manager of the Wellington Collieries.
967. Q.—How long have you held that position?  
A.—Ten years on the first of April.
968. Q.—How long have you been connected with collieries in British Columbia?  
A.—Twenty-eight years past on the 17th of December.
969. Q.—Prior to that what experience had you in coal mining?  
A.—I had experience in Scotland.
970. Q.—For how many years?  
A.—Altogether I have been in mines for about 43 or 44 years.
971. Q.—You have heard the evidence given by Mr. Tully Boyce here to-day?  
A.—Yes.
972. Q.—In which he spoke of a change being made with reference to the props used by the miners—will you explain that?  
A.—Two or three men once came to me and asked that the props be cut. I consented, because if it would benefit them it would be no loss to the company. For this reason: Ever since I have been in the Province it was the custom for every man to cut his own props. I have been 26 years in the Province, and up to that time it had always been the custom for every man to cut his own props and take them to the pit-head to be sent down. I found that when a man required a prop perhaps eight feet long he would find a stick perhaps ten feet long, and take it down the mine and cut two feet off—that was a loss of two feet.
973. Q.—So that you were quite willing to make the arrangement that the company should get the props?  
A.—Yes, it came to the same thing, with the saving in lumber.
974. Q.—As a matter of policy?  
A.—Yes.
975. Q.—Mr. Boyce stated that that was done by means of an organization they formed?  
A.—There might have been one, but not to my knowledge.
976. Q.—You had no knowledge of it?  
A.—No knowledge of any organization.
977. Q.—You made the change simply because it was requested by some of your men?  
A.—Yes. Because it was in the interest of the company as well as the miner.
978. Q.—He also said something about check-weighers?  
A.—A check-weigher is a man selected by the miners, and whenever they wish to appoint a check-weigher they can do so.
979. Q.—Were any people ever discharged from the Wellington mines because they wanted a check-weigher?  
A.—Never. At one time they were appointing a check-weigher, and they selected not a Wellington man, but a man from Nanaimo. They asked me if I would have any objection to a man coming from Nanaimo. They said he was a good man, steady and sober. I said no, none.
980. Q.—You allowed a man from Nanaimo to be check-weigher for the men at Wellington?  
A.—Yes.
981. Chairman: Could you have refused?  
A.—They asked me and I didn't refuse. They represented him as being a steady man.
982. Chairman: Is it not in the mining laws that they can have a check-weigher if they wish?  
A.—I am perfectly aware of that. Some time after that man had been check-weigher I did object. I told the men that before I would have such a man I would shut the mine down. He came to the mine drunk, and laid around

the weigh-house drunk, and went in where the boilers are and laid down there drunk, sick, and vomiting, and I told them that I would not have such a man around.

983. Mr. Bodwell: The only other thing he mentioned, I think, was the change in the standard of boxes—can you explain that?  
A.—A standard is a thing that is put on in every mine?
984. Q.—Will you explain the necessity for a standard?  
A.—The first necessity is, that your cars must be made of a size suitable for the gradients of a mine. The car should be easily handled; not too heavy, because if too heavy they are dangerous; and you have got to make them of a certain capacity. Our boxes were made with a capacity for 1,500 pounds, the cubic contents of a box being about 27 feet, and we allowed them 1,500, that was while the miners were screening their coal down below—cleaning it below.
985. Q.—In the first place, the miners used to screen the coal below?  
A.—Yes.
986. Q.—Afterwards you changed it and screened on top?  
A.—Yes, and because a car of unscreened coal, containing 1,500 pounds will not be loaded quite so high as the standard, we raised it to 16½ hundredweights—not hundreds, but hundredweights, cwts.,—112 pounds to the hundredweight. The coal in the cars must be kept within certain bounds, and not built up too high or too loosely.
987. Q.—Why?  
A.—If built too loosely, in hoisting the cars out coal is liable to fall off, and this creates danger to those below. While they are pushing the cars along the roads it is liable to fall off, and this creates danger where they are going on a steep descent. A portion may go down between the cars and the whole train of cars be thrown from the track. Another thing is the insecure seat given to the drivers on the level roads.
988. Q.—The drivers usually sit on the cars?  
A.—Yes.
989. Q.—If the car is filled up improperly what is the effect upon the driver?  
A.—It gives an insecure seat.
990. Q.—And the result?  
A.—Danger to the driver, and danger of having the train of cars thrown from the track.
991. Q.—Receiving them at the bottom of the shaft improperly loaded is a danger then?  
A.—In going up the shaft if any over-lapping lump projected so far as to catch the cage—and sometimes it does—the consequence is that one side of the car is being drawn from the cage at the back, and a piece of coal may go down the shaft and cause an accident below.
992. Q.—What has been the result?  
A.—Sometimes injury; once we had a man who lost two fingers from the same thing.
993. Q.—How did it occur?  
A.—He was pulling the cars out from below and the coal came down the shaft and struck him on the hand.
994. Q.—What was the reason you raised the standard?  
A.—The reason was that we were taking coal and dross together, and of course coal and dross means coal and dirt in a great many instances; so that a box built to the same height as screened coal would hold more than 1650, because there is more than a hundred and a half of dross in it.
995. Q.—What sort of coal were they filling at the time that Mr. Boyce speaks of in his evidence—as to when that change was made?  
A.—That change was made soon after the change from clean coal to all in all.
996. Chairman: How long?  
A.—I couldn't remember.
997. Q.—Have you any idea?  
A.—It might be three months. It was not a year, I am positive. It could not have been six months.

998. Mr. Bodwell: Were those changes made by reason of any organization among the miners?  
 A.—I was not aware of any organization. I made the changes simply because it was represented to me.
999. Q.—Have you ever refused to listen to any representations made to you on behalf of your miners?  
 A.—Never. This thing about loading the boxes, I may state, is provided for in the special rules, “Improperly loaded boxes.” It is in clause eleven; it gives the employer power to make deductions for rock, and dirt, and improperly loaded boxes.
1000. Q.—It is a matter of contract between the miner and the employer?  
 A.—Yes, it is.
1001. Q.—All the miners know about this regulation box, don't they?  
 A.—The special rules are posted up for them, and if they don't they ought to.
1002. Q.—As a matter of fact, do they very often over-load their boxes?  
 A.—Sometimes they load them very loosely.
1003. Q.—But a miner can tell whether he has his box loaded above the regulation, can't he?  
 A.—If he is an experienced miner.
1004. Q.—If you allowed for this over-loading, would you have any means of checking the practice of loading boxes in the way you have spoken of?  
 A.—Well, I have seen places where a catch was placed over the track, and a car loaded over a certain height could not pass under and would be run back.
1005. Q.—Have you ever known a mine in which the regulation box was not adopted?  
 A.—Never; not a mine where there was no standard or gauge of some kind.
1006. Q.—It is necessary?  
 A.—Necessary for the safety of the men.
1007. Q.—Coming down to the time of the strike, which occurred on the 17th of May. Prior to that time, had any representations been made to you, on behalf of the miners, of any trouble or grievance?  
 A.—None, whatever.
1008. Q.—Had any representatives from your miners waited upon you?  
 A.—There were three men came—Suggett, Richards, and Hall.
1009. Q.—How long before the strike?  
 A.—I expect about six weeks.
1010. Q.—State what occurred then?  
 A.—They came to my house, and I went out to see them, and they asked me if I would recognize their union organization and the pit committees. I told them that that was a thing which had been discussed before. Previous to that it had been discussed, and I wouldn't recognize them. The thing was referred to Mr. Dunsmuir and he wouldn't recognize them, and gave me instructions not to recognize them; and I told that party so. Whether they were a committee from anything or not I was not aware; they simply came to me as private individuals.
1011. Q.—What are your reasons for not recognizing pit committees?  
 A.—Mr. Dunsmuir gave me positive instructions not to recognize them, and I told the men that I still had those instructions and I had never heard anything to the contrary.
1012. Q.—What objection is there to those pit committees?  
 A.—Those pit committees are committees for manufacturing grievances.
1013. Q.—Do you know from experience what their working is?  
 A.—I have never worked with them, but I speak from the experience of others.
1014. Q.—As manager of the mine, you consider it inadvisable to have such committees?  
 A.—I do; I believe in free labour; I am opposed to any organization, of either employer or employed.
1015. Q.—Do you believe that pit committees have a tendency to interfere with free labour?  
 A.—I do.
1016. Q.—In what way?  
 A.—Because they gradually run the mine.
1017. Q.—Prevent contracts between employers and employed?

- A.—Yes, I prefer entering into all contracts with principals.
1018. Q.—Have you ever refused to do justice to your miners?  
A.—I have done justice, as far as I could.
1019. Q.—Have you ever refused to listen to any reasonable complaint they had?  
A.—I have not.
1020. Q.—Where any injustice has been shewn to you, have you remedied it?  
A.—I have; and when any complaint was made to me, I have always enquired into it. I may not have let the man or the boss know that I was looking into it, but I have always enquired into it.
1021. Q.—Prior to the 17th May, were any grievances represented to you by your men, as existing in the works?  
A.—None whatever.
1022. Q.—Will you tell us what happened on the 17th May?  
A.—On the 17th May there were three men came to me. Mr. Keith was one, and I believe Salmon and Richards. Salmon, of course, I never saw before.
1023. Q.—Were any of those men working on your works?  
A.—Not at the time. Richards had worked for us, but none of the others.
1024. Q.—Will you state what occurred?  
A.—We told them that we didn't feel like recognizing a committee of men coming to us from an outside colliery. There was, at the first of the conversation, some little wrangling, and Salmon was very abusive. I may say one of the most abusive men I have ever come into contact with.
1025. Q.—What was his conduct and language at the time?  
A.—Cursing and swearing. Mr. Keith, I must say, acted gentlemanly, and Mr. Richards said but little.
1026. Q.—What was it that they requested of you, at that meeting?  
A.—The request that the company recognize their union as an organized body.
1027. Q.—What reply did you make to that?  
A.—They also said that there was some little grievance in regard to men not having been sufficiently paid for deficient work. Mr. J. Dunsmuir was there, and I suggested that he appoint a day, when his brother Alexander would be there, when we would meet our men and discuss the grievances. That day was appointed for the 26th May.
1028. Chairman: Who were you to meet?  
A.—A committee of our own men.
1029. Mr. Bodwell: You suggested that, a week from that day, you should meet a committee, composed of your own men, and discuss the grievances alleged to exist among your own men?  
A.—Yes.
1030. Q.—Was any objection made to that?  
A.—None.
1031. Q.—They assented to it?  
A.—They assented to it.
1032. Q.—What was the next thing that happened?  
A.—On the 17th the mines were idle; but on the 19th one of the shafts—No. 6—worked as usual. The other miners were not there at the usual time for going down the mine.
1033. Q.—At that meeting on the 17th May, was anything said about the eight hour question?  
A.—Nothing on the 17th whatever.
1034. Q.—What happened on Monday?  
A.—On Monday there was a committee came. I don't remember who composed that committee; I remember three—Mr. Carter, Mr. Suggett, and Berteaux; the others I don't remember. They spoke about the eight hours, and I told them that it had been arranged to meet a committee on the following Monday, and I asked them to allow the eight hour question to lay over until then, and bring everything on at the same time, and asked them, also, to allow things to go on as they had been going until that time.

1035. Q.—Had there been any more than eight hours work among the Wellington miners?  
A.—Never more than eight actual hours. There was  $8\frac{1}{2}$  below, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  allowed for lunch; at one time there was an hour for lunch, but we did away with half of that because an hour was too long, and made it half.
1036. Q.—How long had that been the custom at the Wellington mines?  
A.—Ever since I was connected with them.
1037. Q.—Had it ever been suggested that there should be a change?  
A.—Never heard it mentioned.
1038. Q.—You requested the committee to let it stand over until the meeting of the general committee, at which the Dunsmuir's were to be present?  
A.—For a week.
1039. Q.—What was said to that?  
A.—Never heard a reply from them.
1040. Q.—Did you have a meeting on the following Monday?  
A.—Yes.
1041. Q.—Who was there?  
A.—The same parties I have named, and some others whose names I don't remember.
1042. Q.—What was discussed at that meeting?  
A.—Eight hours from bank to bank. They were asked if that was all; they said that was all they were commissioned to speak about. They were asked if there was not something about their grievance committees; they said they believed there was, but they were not commissioned to speak about it. They were asked about the new scale, and they said they were not commissioned to speak about that either.
1043. Q.—What was said about eight hours?  
A.—I believe that Mr. Dunsmuir said that the half-hour belonged to the men, and they could have it if they liked.
1044. Q.—How could you explain that?  
A.—That they could work that half-hour if they liked, and come up half an hour sooner.
1045. Q.—At three?  
A.—Yes.
1046. Q.—A great many opinions have been given as to the causes which lead to this strike, what is your opinion?  
A.—My opinion is, that the cause of this strike was the same cause which leads to a great many other strikes, that is, a few active unprincipled agitators.
1047. Q.—In what way?  
A.—Men who have a love for that sort of thing, like to be in trouble; like to have a little notoriety, or something of that sort.
1048. Q.—In what way would they cause the strike?  
A.—By agitating and misrepresenting.
1049. Q.—Have you any reason to know that misrepresentations were made?  
A.—I have heard a great many things said that were not true.
1050. Q.—Did you have any communication with reference to wages in the early part of the year?  
A.—None.
1051. Q.—Did you have any communication with reference to \$2.50 wages for pushers?  
A.—There were three gentlemen—one from our own mines; one, I believe, from East Wellington, or Northfield; and one from Nanaimo,—came to enquire as to a rumor they said they had heard that wages were to be reduced, that is, the wages of pushers and drivers.
1052. Q.—What reply did you make to that committee?  
A.—I told them that such a thing had not been contemplated. I may say, in connection with that, that ever since I have been in the Province, until the Chinamen went out of the mine, the wages for pushers and drivers have been \$2—that was for 26 years. At the time that the Chinamen went out of the mines, the miners agreed to give every assistance that they could, and to assist in the running until arrangements could be made, and they asked that they be paid \$2.50 when taken from the face of the shaft, and we agreed to that;

but no agreement was ever made as to what should be paid for ordinary runners or drivers. We paid \$2.50, and I believe we were the first to do it. I am not sure, but I think they continued paying \$2 in Nanaimo until the men there, knowing that we paid \$2.50, asked for it, and got it. The \$2.50 was to be paid for miners taken from the face of the shaft, and nothing was said about ordinary pushers and drivers. For 26 years, to my knowledge, it had been \$2, and I don't know how long before.

1053. Q.—When miners were taken from the shaft it was to be \$2.50 ?

A.—Yes.

1054. Q.—You told the committee there was no intention of reducing it ?

A.—Yes. What led to that was, that we were just as well off to pay new-comers that as to take men from the face.

1055. Q.—Now, do you know of any grievance existing among the men, prior to the 17th of May, which the company were not willing to recognize and remedy ?

A.—I heard of no grievance.

1056. Q.—None reported to you ?

A.—None reported to me.

1057. Q.—Were any attempts made, on behalf of the miners, to settle the alleged grievances prior to the strike ?

A.—Prior to the strike no, and no complaint was made.

1058. Mr. Forster : Do you remember, Mr. Bryden, when the change was made from the old method of riddling the coal to the present method of loading coal and slack altogether ?

A.—Yes.

1059. Q.—About what date was it ?

A.—Three years past.

1060. Q.—Can you tell at what time you changed the standard ?

A.—I couldn't tell the date. It was changed at the time a request was made. Three or four men requested it, and it was changed.

1061. Q.—You say that after that change was made, that you could easily put on 150 lbs. more, and have no bigger box ?

A.—Have no bigger box.

1062. Q.—Fifteen hundred pounds was the standard before the change was made ?

A.—Yes.

1063. Q.—It was considered that that limit was sufficient ?

A.—Yes.

1064. Q.—When that change was made so that they could put on 150 lbs. more, you didn't consider it necessary to make any change in the standard ?

A.—Not at that time ; no.

1065. Q.—Not until the men objected ?

A.—I don't know that the men objected ; they asked that it be increased. It was just as much to our advantage to increase it, as theirs. If the pushers could take 1650 instead of 1500, it was to our advantage.

1066. Q.—The company got all the advantage ?

A.—Not at all. Do you think any man was going to put on 1650 when he only got 1500 ? The thing is ridiculous. He would simply load his box the smaller. There is one thing I might state, that after the 1650 lbs. was adopted, we increased the strength of the axles of the boxes ; we had to increase it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Boyce.

1067. Q.—You say that that system about the props had been the system here for 27 years ?

A.—For 26 years in the district of Nanaimo, to my knowledge.

1068. Q.—You stated that you changed it simply because it was in the interests of the company ?

A.—I said that if it was a benefit to the men, it would be no disadvantage to the company. They had got into the habit of taking the props down. In former years they didn't keep axes below, they cut the props to the length on top, but in later years they commenced to keep hatchets down below.

1069. Q.—As a matter of fact, didn't the committee have to go to you a couple of times ?

A.—No, I am positive they didn't.



1070. Q.—Will you swear to that?  
A.—I am positive of it; I will swear it. They came once, and only once.
1071. Q.—The system of loading the coal was changed sometime in January?  
A.—Sometime about that.
1072. Q.—In October of the same year the check-weighman went on?  
A.—I couldn't tell you.
1073. Q.—Before the check-weighers went on, there was no change made in the standard?  
A.—I don't know. I can't connect the check-weighman with the standard.
1074. Q.—Is it not the fact that Mr. Horriban took the full weight of a box at No. 4 shaft, when it came up, and noticed the discrepancy, and the committee waited on you and asked you to change the standard?  
A.—I changed the standard. I believe Mr. Horriban was one of them.
1075. Q.—Do you remember being on top of No. 4 pit, and a box of coal coming up, not quite full, and weighing over 1,700?  
A.—I do not.
1076. Q.—Do you remember making the claim that there must have been dirt in the box, and turning it over and finding only clean coal and slack?  
A.—No, I do not.
1077. Q.—Will you swear that such a thing didn't occur?  
A.—I don't remember it.
1078. Q.—Will you swear that it didn't occur?  
A.—I swear that I don't remember it.
1079. Q.—You stated that you didn't know that there was an organization in the place at the time?  
A.—I didn't know.
1080. Q.—Don't you remember a committee going to you and asking for the hall to meet in?  
A.—The hall has been asked for a great many times—they may have.
1081. Q.—Don't you remember their asking for it especially for a labour organization to meet in?  
A.—I don't.
1082. Q.—Don't you remember a correspondence passing between the committee and Mr. Dunsmuir, with reference to getting the hall to meet in, at that time?  
A.—There might have been, without my knowledge.
1083. Q.—With regard to committees—you say you never worked in a mine where committees were employed?  
A.—No.
1084. Q.—Yet you say they are a hindrance?  
A.—I speak from the experience of others.
1085. Q.—How can you speak from the experience of others?  
A.—If we could not gain our knowledge from the experience of others, it would be a strange world.
1086. Q.—Suppose one manager would say they were detrimental, and 15 managers say they were beneficial, which would you believe?  
A.—I have yet to meet the manager who says they are beneficial, and I have met a good many.
1087. Q.—Do you say there are managers in any country who object to committees being employed?  
A.—I have met managers from England, Scotland, and the States, and they all have the same thing to tell me.
1088. Q.—All object?  
A.—Yes; they say the committees become most tyrannical, not only to the bosses, but also to their fellow workmen.
1089. Q.—Are you aware that there are some managers who won't run their mines without these committees?  
A.—I think they would be a curiosity.
1090. Q.—Yet it is the case?  
A.—That may be.
1091. Q.—Now, in regard to the \$2.50 a day—is it not a fact, that \$2.50 a day is the recognized standard for pushers and drivers, and has been for at least three years?

- A.—I don't think it has been recognized. It was given as a matter of necessity at the time the Chinamen were put out of the mines. There was not a sufficient supply of white labour to be had; we employed some white labour and paid them \$2, and they were given \$2.50 simply because the supply was not here, and we might just as well take men coming in from other parts and pay them \$2.50, because we had to pay \$2.50 to the miners, and those men coming in were just as good drivers.
1092. Q.—Then a year ago last February, you did talk about taking down that standard?  
A.—I did not.
1093. Q.—Didn't your foremen notify some of the men that, after that date, their pay was to be \$2?  
A.—Not to my knowledge. I made enquiries, when I heard that, and I think it was not done.
1094. Q.—If a witness would come in and swear that it was done, would you believe him?  
A.—I know that it was not done, from the books. I know that a man just coming into the mine might have got only \$2, but he would be increased as he got worth more.
1095. Q.—Were any men who had been working in there, notified that on and after a certain date, their wages would be \$2?  
A.—Not to my knowledge.
1096. Q.—Do you say he didn't do it?  
A.—It is not to my knowledge; I can't be responsible for what every man says. I would like to make a statement in regard to the evidence given by Charles McGarrigle, about an accumulation of gas in No. 3 shaft. There was at one time gas in No. 3 shaft; it was caused by what is known as a "creed" (?), that is, a subsidence of the roof, and there was some gas came out, but that portion of the mine was stopped; in fact the whole mine was laid idle until some time till that gas was cleared away.
1097. Chairman: How long was that gas there?  
A.—It was not in the neighbourhood of where the miners were working; they were a long distance off, except those who were preventing the "creed" from going too far; and I may state that I once censured McGarrigle for being careless in opening his lamp at one particular place which I considered not sufficiently distant from where there was gas.
1098. Q.—How long do you think that gas was there?  
A.—There was no regular accumulation; every means was used to get it out, but where there is gas in a mine it is almost impossible to take it out.
1099. Q.—Do the mining laws permit you to work one part of the mine with gas in the other?  
A.—If you work at a distance, and with a split; the same as if it was a different mine. There is no one allowed where there is gas, unless they are with safeties.
1100. Q.—Is it not illegal to work your mine with that accumulation of gas in one portion?  
A.—The Act states a certain distance; I don't remember now the distance, but there was no one working there for 200 yards. It was a separate split.
1101. Mr. Forster: Have you been accustomed to discharge men for loading their boxes too heavily?  
A.—We never discharged them for loading too heavily; we have censured them.
1102. Q.—You generally considered that the loss to the men of everything over the standard weight would be a sufficient punishment for overloading?  
A.—They know the standard, and they know not to go above it.
1103. Q.—But still the evidence seems to prove that the boxes are overloaded?  
A.—If they are, it is the miners' own fault.
1104. Q.—But then if it is dangerous to overload the boxes you certainly ought to have some stricter rule than the confiscation of the overweight?  
A.—If they are loaded loosely the men are spoken to about it.
1105. Q.—Have you discharged a man for it?  
A.—I don't remember discharging a man for it.

1106. Q.—Do you remember the general weight of the boxes when Mr. Horriban went on as check-weighman?  
A.—I don't know.
1107. Q.—A great many of them ran over 1,700 pounds?  
A.—I couldn't say, as a fact.
1108. Mr. Semlin: I understood you to say that you never had worked in a mine in which these organizations existed?  
A.—I have been where there were unions, but not conducted in the same way as on this coast. Unions there never attempted to do anything in the way of controlling or running the mine. We never ask a man whether he is union or non-union, or anything about it; if he is an efficient worker that is all we want.
1109. Chairman: Did those men wish to run your mines?  
A.—They would eventually—I am speaking from the experience of others; in matters of this kind we have to be guided by the experience of others.
1110. Mr. Semlin: You have had a very extended experience with miners?  
A.—I have.
1111. Q.—Have you formed an opinion, looking from the miner's point of view, that it is not for the benefit of the miner to have a union?  
A.—From what I have heard, it is not. Even miners themselves have told me that is not.
1112. Q.—A great many, I presume, have told you that it is to their benefit?  
A.—More have told me that they are not. Miners have told me that they are most tyrannical; not only that, but we hear rumors of it from our neighbours.
1113. Chairman: Who do you call your neighbours?  
A.—From the adjoining colliery.
1114. Q.—East Wellington?  
A.—Yes.
1115. Mr. Boyce: Evidence has been given here to-night that men working in deficient places make very small pay. Is it your opinion that a man working in a deficient place is entitled to as much pay as a man working in an average place?  
A.—Is it the deficient man or the deficient place?
1116. Q.—A man who is able to earn a good day's pay in a good place?  
A.—Well, if he is an efficient man. You will find as many deficient men as you will find deficient places.
1117. Q.—Supposing an efficient man strikes a deficient place, don't you think he is entitled to as good wages as he can make in an average place?  
A.—Certainly he is.
1118. Q.—It has been given in evidence that such was not the case. Do you know of a case in your mines where an efficient man has not been allowed proper wages for a deficient place?  
A.—No, but of course unless a man comes to me personally and speaks to me about it, I can't learn of it at all.
1119. Q.—Is it not an unusual thing for a miner to come to you?  
A. He would speak to the boss of the mine first.
1120. Q.—Supposing he couldn't get redress from him, would he come to you?  
A.—They come to me.
1121. Q.—Is it a general thing?  
A.—They come occasionally, but I must say that not a great many come. I don't know why. I give them every encouragement to come; but if a complaint is made to me I will find out whether the man is right or wrong.
1122. Q.—As a general thing, however, a miner takes what he can get or leaves—he don't come to you?  
A.—I think some to-night stated that they had applied to me and had their grievances rectified.
1123. Q.—Is it not a fact, Mr. Bryden, that some men have been making exceedingly good wages, while other men who are considered to be equally good workmen have been working for very small wages?  
A.—I am not aware of it; where they are equally good workman, no.

1124. Q.—Do you mean to say that no favours were given to anybody—that everybody was treated alike?  
A.—Yes; those are the instructions to the foremen—to treat all the men fairly, to make no exceptions.
1125. Q.—One man stated here to-night that he earned \$6 a day in a place—would you consider him a good man?  
A.—He might, occasionally.
1126. Q.—He said that he worked in a place in Wellington and only made \$2.10 a day?  
A.—I don't think that is so. Who is that?
1127. Q.—John Greenwell. He said that he got a deficient place, made only \$2.10 a day, and got no make up?  
A.—The price paid is for an average place, but supposing the place improves we never reduce the man—if he makes \$10 a day that is his luck.
1128. Q.—Surely you wouldn't consider \$2.10 a day good wages?  
A.—I am not aware that he only made \$2.10 a day.
1129. Q.—He swears to it?  
A.—I don't know what he swears to, the books will show.
1130. Q.—Is it not a fact that you will give some men powder and explosives at a less rate than to others?  
A.—Never to my knowledge.
1131. Q.—Giant powder?  
A.—I don't know the rates giant powder is sold at. It is sold according to what it is bought at in the market.
1132. Q.—This is about a special agreement with yourself?  
A.—There is no agreement with me as to what they shall pay.
1133. Q.—Such a thing has never occurred?  
A.—It is charged in the office. I don't always know what they are being charged for it. They are charged according to the price in the market?
1134. Q.—I understand that you sell it for \$50 a box—the question I want to ask is, did you ever sell it to anybody for \$30 a box?  
A.—I don't know what it is sold at, it comes from the store and the store rates are charged.
1135. Q.—You never had any special agreement?  
A.—I never made any agreement.
1136. Q.—Swear to that?  
A.—I swear it; I didn't make any agreement with regard to supplying powder. There may have been a special agreement made with a contractor in sinking a shaft.
1137. Q.—This is for work in the mine?  
A.—For ordinary work I have made no such agreement.

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

1139. Q.—What is your name?  
A.—Alexander Sharpe.
1140. Q.—What position do you hold, with reference to the Wellington mines?  
A.—Assistant manager.
1141. Q.—Do you know this man Greenwell, who gave evidence here?  
A.—Yes.
1142. Q.—You heard his statement about \$6 a day in one place and \$2 in another—can you give an explanation of that?  
A.—Greenwell, on one occasion, complained to me while I was in his place, some months before the strike. He wasn't getting along quite well, and I listened to all he had to say and talked the matter over with him. I spoke to the boss, Mr. James Sharpe, on the subject, at the same time that Greenwell was complaining, and I learned from him that he didn't think that Greenwell's place was at all a deficient place, and I didn't think so myself, but I offered Greenwell a change to another place, where he could work himself, without a partner, but despite all he had to say against his place, he refused, and continued working there with a partner.

1143. Q.—He wouldn't change although you offered him another place?  
A.—No.
1144. Q.—In the other place he could have made better wages than he alleges he was making in this place?  
A.—He might have made \$6 a day for aught he knew—if he had done so much as gone and looked at it.
1145. Q.—He wouldn't go and look at it?  
A.—No.
1146. Q.—He kept on at the old place, and now makes a grievance out of it?  
A.—Yes.
1147. Q.—Do you remember John Anderson speaking here to-night of some trouble he had about slack?  
A.—I was out at the time; he was just leaving the stand when I came in.
1148. Q.—Do you remember any trouble about slack?  
A.—I never had any trouble with Anderson.
1149. Q.—He says you refused to allow him for slack?  
A.—I was just thinking over the matter after I got in. Anderson was a young man that I thought a very desirable lad, and it was reported to me by the boss of No. 3 shaft, one day, when I went my usual round there, that they had had some trouble with him filling in slate. Well, I think, on one occasion I mentioned the matter to Anderson and asked him to be more careful, with all the politeness with which it is possible for one man to speak to another. I was quite astonished to hear that Anderson had one single thing to say about anything I said to him. I thought I spoke to him in a reasonable way, and asked him to remember that it was clean coal that was wanted, not rock, and that it was wrong to fill in with rock.
1150. Q.—Have you ever refused to listen to the complaints of men?  
A.—No.
1151. Q.—Ever refuse to investigate their complaints?  
A.—No, sir. Ever since I came to Wellington if a man has made a complaint to me about deficient work, or being underpaid, I have made it a point, very generally the next morning, to make a full investigation into the causes of the man's grievances.
1152. Q.—Do you know of any grievances that were existing among the miners, prior to the 17th of May?  
A.—No.
1153. Q.—Were any such reported to you?  
A.—Just let me explain. After I had been in Wellington I think about six months, I was told that there was going to be a large meeting of miners in Nanaimo; that was sometime in February, I think. I was told that it was going to be an idle day next day. It struck upon me quite suddenly. I asked the cause of it, and I was told that it was because a report was going around the district that drivers and pushers were to be reduced from \$2.50 to \$2 a day. That night I went and saw one of the bosses, Mr. Jones, and I asked him when this new order had been issued. He said that it was a strange thing, and that he, as boss of the mine, had never heard it spoken about. Next day I was still more astonished to hear that it was me that was blamed for trying to make this reduction. I made it a point, then, to investigate the matter fully, and I asked Mr. Bryden if he had ever heard about any instructions being given to any of the bosses about it, and I went to the bosses, and along with the bosses I made enquiries in all the shafts, and I couldn't find a man to say that any of those bosses had ever said to him that there was to be such a reduction. The only source to which that was traced to was Richards. Several people told me that Edmund Richards told them. Quite a large number of the men told me that they believed that the report was got up for the purpose of keeping the mines idle that day so as to get the men to the meeting. That was the first time that I heard that there was any discontent or agitation existing in these collieries.
1154. Q.—That was in reference to a false report which was circulated among the men?

- A.—Yes.
1155. Q.—Without the authority of any of the managers ?  
A.—Yes.
1156. Q.—How long have you had experience in coal mining ?  
A.—I have been in mines in British Columbia 18 months. Previous to that, I was a mine manager in Scotland for 12 years. Previous to taking charge of mines, I was a coal miner for 12 years.
1157. Q.—On the 17th of May, or prior to that time, how did the condition of the Wellington miners compare with that of those in other places ?  
A.—I think that they compared very favourably with any place that I had seen, or any place that I had heard of. Coming as a stranger, not only to the district but to the country, you may naturally suppose that I took quite an interest in talking to the men, and in trying to learn the ways and habits of the people, and I never yet found a man in Wellington who told me that this was not the best place—the best colliery—that ever they had struck, and the most favourable conditions for men working in them.
1158. Q.—Now, do you know of anything which a grievance committee could have remedied among the Wellington miners ?  
A.—No, sir ; I don't.
1159. Q.—Were you present at the office of the company on the 17th of May ?  
A.—Yes.
1160. Q.—Can you tell us what occurred on that day ?  
A.—On the afternoon of that day three gentlemen came to the office—Messrs. Keith, Salmon and Richards. Richards was the only one known to me, but he had been working in other mines for some time previous to that. They interviewed Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden in my presence, and they said, as far as my memory serves me, that they had been sent from a meeting at the Bluffs, and asked Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden if they would recognize grievance committees being established in each of the mines. Mr. Dunsmuir asked them who they were—were they miners in the employ of the Wellington Collieries? They said no. Then he said that if there were any grievances existing in the works it would be right and proper that a deputation of his own men should come. However, after some talk back and forward, it was agreed to hear these gentlemen, and they wanted, as I have already stated, to see if the company would allow a grievance committee to be established in each of their mines. Mr. Bryden and Mr. Dunsmuir asked what those grievance committees were. Then they explained that it was so that they might arbitrate with the boss in regard to a deficiency in this or that man's place. The result of it all was, that after Mr. Keith and Mr. Salmon had brought forward the case of one or two men, they were not able to throw very much enlightenment on the subject. They spoke of some man working for \$2 a day, but they couldn't tell who he was—they spoke of some shaft man working for \$2 a day, but they couldn't say who he was. They spoke of some miner being underpaid, but they couldn't tell who it was. So it was agreed that the best possible way would be to send a deputation of Wellington men, who would be able to explain things more fully than they could do, and that when Mr. Alex. Dunsmuir was home from Europe would be the most acceptable time. Mr. Keith, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Salmon left the office with the understanding that on the 26th day of May a deputation of men in the employ of Dunsmuir & Sons was to come and discuss the grievances they alleged existed in the works with the company and with the manager.
1161. Q.—They went away with that understanding ?  
A.—Yes.
1162. Q.—What was the next thing that happened ?  
A.—The men refused to go down at the usual time on the Monday. It had been the custom that the miners should be under-ground at seven o'clock in the morning, and they were drawn up at 3:30, and the result was that they were not there to go down before seven o'clock, and were turned back, the bosses adhering to the regulations of the colliery.

1163. Q.—That was the regulation of the mine?

A.—Yes.

1164. Q.—Did the men know that was the regulation?

A.—Yes.

1165. Q.—In consequence of that did anything occur?

A.—Yes.

1166. Q.—What?

A.—The miners came home, and Mr. Suggett here—and I am not sure whether there was another with him or not—came and asked Mr. Bryden if it would be agreeable to him to receive a deputation of the men later in the day. Mr. Bryden said he would be quite pleased to see them, and when they came in the afternoon they stated that they had struck work rather suddenly. They admitted that they had given the company no notice, but they said that they had found out that they were working half an hour longer in the day in the Wellington mines than in any other mines in the district. This, I believe, was news to Mr. Bryden; at all events it was news to me. I was not aware that the miners of Wellington were underground any longer than other miners in the district. They then explained that the difference was in this half-hour for meals; that the miners of East Wellington, Northfield, and Nanaimo went down at seven and were drawn up at three, but they could claim no time as their own. They worked on continuously, taking their food between drives or between blasts. Then Mr. Bryden said that that seemed to him to be a very slight difference, and that seeing that arrangements had been made the Saturday previous with Mr. Keith, and Mr. Salmon, and Mr. Richards for a deputation of the Wellington men to meet the Dunsmuirs on the 26th, he thought it would be the best plan for the men to continue working in their usual way, and then this eight-hour question could be brought up along with any other grievances that were to be discussed that day. Then, of course, I may state that on the afternoon of the 26th of May the Messrs. Dunsmuir and Mr. Bryden met in the office a deputation of their own men, and this eight-hour question being a new one, inasmuch as it had not been talked about by the others on the previous Saturday when here, became the first point of discussion, and it was talked over, and the result of the conversation was that Mr. Dunsmuir said to them that, seeing that the half-hour belonged to the men, and not to the company, it was for the men to do with the half-hour what they liked—it was for the men to do with the half-hour what they liked. The deputation, of course after some little talk, left with that statement.

1167. Q.—What was meant by them “to do with the half-hour as they liked?”

A.—It was this, that if they were agreeable to do away with the half-hour for meals as they were doing in other mines, Mr. Dunsmuir said he would be quite agreeable to draw the men up at three o'clock.

1168. Q.—Were any other grievances mentioned?

A.—Mr. Dunsmuir said that there were other things to be talked over; that Mr. Keith, and Mr. Salmon, and Mr. Richards had come here, not about the eight hours, but about miners not being paid for deficiency, or rather to show the necessity for a grievance committee, and why it should be established. I think it was Mr. Carter that said that he understood that they, as a deputation, had no authority from the body of the men to speak about any other grievance except this question of hours, and they positively refused to speak about anything that Messrs. Keith, Salmon, and Richards were there that Saturday afternoon to discuss, and for which a deputation was agreed upon to meet the Dunsmuirs.

1169. Q.—Was that question of eight hours from bank to bank the only question upon which they said they had authority to speak?

A.—Yes.

1170. Q.—Did the strike close at that time?

A.—There has not been another man in the office, nor any offer of settlement made to the company, from that day to this, to my knowledge.

1171. Q.—No attempts at conciliation?  
A.—No.
1172. Q.—Have you been about among the men a good deal since this strike?  
A.—Yes.
1173. Q.—Have you heard what they had to say about it?  
A.—Yes, I have heard quite a lot.
1174. Q.—From what you have heard, and from that you know, what is your opinion of the matters which led to the Wellington strike?  
A.—My impression is this: that if it had not been for the pressure brought to bear upon the Wellington men by the leaders of the union in Nanaimo, there would have been no strike.
1175. Q.—What was that pressure?  
A.—It was pointed out to the men that they ought to be in a union; that there was a need for a union, and that any man who didn't join the union, and didn't come out on strike, was going to be stigmatized as a blackleg.
1176. Q.—You think that there was pressure brought to bear on these men to get them into the union?  
A.—Yes.
1177. Q.—Once in the union, they were subject to the laws of the union?  
A.—Yes.
1178. Q.—And the vote of the union was for a strike?  
A.—I believe that on the 17th day of May there would not be over 45 per cent. of the miners of Wellington in the union.
1179. Q.—And after that day?  
A.—Of course after that the men didn't go to work and were discontented, and the leaders of the union promised them all possible support. As an instance in point, take Mr. Garrigle. That man told me repeatedly, in No. 3 shaft, and during the first weeks of the strike, that he was not in favour of the strike and that he didn't want to strike; and just about three or four months ago I met that man in the street and reminded him of some of those sayings, and I said to him "You made good money here, just as good as you made in Nanaimo, and you know several miners who left here and are doing much worse in Nanaimo," and the reason that he gave was that it was no loss to him, that he was getting good support from the union as well as while he was working.
1180. Q.—Do you know anything about the influence that was brought to bear upon the Belgian miners, to induce them to strike?  
A.—About the months of March and April, I heard quite a murmur amongst the Belgians that they were not being treated as the Englishmen were. I was rather astonished to hear it.
1181. Q.—As a matter of fact, were they treated differently from the English?  
A.—No difference at all; it was an absurdity. I made it quite a little point to investigate that. The first statement I heard about it was from a Belgian miner one morning while with Mr. Jones. The Belgian said "How much are these yards, boss?" He said "No yard this place." The Belgian said "He tell me you pay \$3.00 a yard, this place, to Englishman." Mr. Jones said that was nonsense, no Englishman had any yardage for that place. I thought it really a point worth investigating, and I said to the Belgian "What Englishman told you that?" He said "Me no tell Englishman's name." Well, I took the Belgian's name, and I took the man's number and the number of the place, and I found the thing to be an absurdity; and from what I could learn from the Belgians, they told me that quite a number of English-speaking people were telling them those stories. There is a man here now—right here—I don't know his name, but he told me that himself. His partner could speak English, and I spoke to him about it, and he said that several had spoken to him about it also, but he didn't believe it. I told him to tell all the Belgians that there was no truth in it, and for the Belgians not to believe it, and that if they would come to me that I would satisfy them that it was an absurdity—if not a lie.



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