
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER,—Your Select Committee appointed to enquire into the attack made on the funeral procession of the late Ellis Roberts, of Wellington, on the 4th inst., beg respectfully to report as follows:—

That we proceeded to Wellington on the 14th instant, and held an enquiry at the Court House at Wellington on the same day, and examined witnesses, and we consider that the question of the conduct of the people at Northfield towards the funeral procession which carried to the grave the body of Ellis Roberts, may be divided into three parts:—

- 1st. The procession to the grave.
- 2nd. The service at the grave.
- 3rd. The return of the funeral procession.

The Union men had assembled for a procession at the starting point of the funeral procession of non-union men, and waited for them. They parted to let the funeral procession through, and lowered their flags to the corpse.

With regard to procession to the grave there is little or no evidence to show that any very hostile expression of opinion was exhibited. During the service at the grave there was nothing to call for comment, and the minister who conducted the service testifies that he heard no unseemly interruption. The return of the procession from the grave was evidently seized upon by the inhabitants of Northfield at the Half-way House (who were Union men) as an opportunity for an exhibition of their hostile feelings towards the non-union men who formed the funeral procession, but care was evidently taken that there should be no violence. That the demonstration was premeditated is shown by one or two effigies which had been previously constructed, and were placed on the side of the road, and these effigies from their character were intended to indicate blacklegs. As the procession passed the Half-way House it was assailed by insulting cries and jeers from several men there. As it approached and passed through Northfield large bodies of women and children lined the road and flung snowballs at the procession, and by their jeers and insulting expressions showed plainly that the intention was to indicate their hostility to the non-union men, but the men of Northfield took no part in the snowballing, and confined themselves to encouraging the women and children. In fact it appeared as though care had been taken that no act of violence should accompany the hostile expression of feeling.

Having considered all the evidence available, your Select Committee is of opinion that the conduct of the people of Northfield to the non-union men returning in procession from the funeral was unseemly and insulting.

All of which together with further evidence is

Respectfully submitted.

GEO. W. ANDERSON,

Chairman.

18th March, 1891.

MINORITY REPORT

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

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MR. SPEAKER,

I find as follows:—

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

C. C. McKENZIE.

18th March, 1891.