
 EVIDENCE.

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

COURT HOUSE, WELLINGTON, March 14th, 1891.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. Q.—You say that the procession left Jones' place in Wellington?
A.—Yes, sir
16. Q.—Which way did they go?
A.—We went straight down the Comox road.
17. Q.—Where is the Cemetery?
A.—It is about a mile this side of Nanaimo.
18. Q.—Did you go through a place called Northfield then?
A.—Yes, sir.
19. Q.—How large a place is Northfield?
A.—Well, sir, I never saw it, before that day, not for the last six months, for I had no reason to go there.
20. Q.—But you can tell us about the size?
A.—Well, I should think there would be about 300 or 400 buildings on both sides of the road from a rough calculation.
21. Q.—What are these places.
A.—Well, they are cottages, houses, boarding-houses and stores.
22. Q.—Who live in them principally?
A.—I know several. Mr. Hill——
23. Q.—But what do the people do there?
A.—Oh, the object of the people was to work in those mines.
24. Q.—You say that the procession passed through Northfield?
A.—Yes, sir.
25. Q.—On its way down?
A.—Yes, sir.
26. Q.—Did anything occur when the procession was going through Northfield?
A.—Yes, sir.
27. Q.—Tell the Committee what happened, as fully as you can, going through Northfield on its way down?
A.—When we were about half-ways through Northfield, on the Comox road, I saw some ladies in small parties together, but one particular person that I ask to mention was a lady by the name of Mrs. Thomas Webley.
28. Q.—What do you say you saw before you reached there?
A.—I saw nothing sir; had every civility until I got there; about half-way through Northfield we had every civility.
29. Q.—But you saw lots of persons standing there?
A.—Several groups of women and children, but we was not insulted.
30. Q.—When you got there, what happened?
A.—Well, the lady came out, and she yelled just like a wild cat, as near as I can get to it. All I could understand her to say was "blacklegs;" and her and her brother, and another lady and some children,—who they were I don't know, they were all standing together.
31. Q.—Col. Baker: Was there any man with them?
A.—There was no men with them.
32. Q.—You said that her brother was there?
A.—Her brother; one man.
33. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: How did she act—can you tell us that?
A.—Well, it is not very nice to show how ladies does perform such a wild career. She came out and yelled, and screeched, and up with her hands—and I don't know whether she was dancing a jig. I was surprised. I thought we would have went through there peaceably. That is all I could see going down.
34. Q.—Col. Baker: When you were going to the funeral?
A.—Yes, sir, going down.
35. Q.—Was the body there?
A.—Yes, sir; I think there was three sleighs ahead of us, to the best of my knowledge.
36. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: Between the body and the sleigh?
A.—Yes, sir; I would not be positive. There might have been four.
37. Q.—What kind of a conveyance were you riding in?
A.—In a sleigh, sir.

38. Q.—Was it covered ?
A.—Yes ; I could only see out at the back.
39. Q.—Did you hear anything else ?
A.—No, sir ; that is all I heard in Northfield, going down.
40. Q.—You mean to say that is all the language you heard ?
A.—That is all.
41. Q.—Did you hear anything besides words ?
A.—Oh, the women was groaning and yelling fearful. There was two ladies doing the same, but there was one I knew there well.
42. Q.—Col. Baker : Did the men take any part in it ?
A.—There was only one man I saw, sir.
43. Q.—Did he take any part in it ?
A.—He was talking ; I don't know what he was saying ; he was groaning.
44. Q.—Mr. Bodwell : That is all you heard, then ?
A.—That is all I heard in Northfield in going down.
45. Q.—Then you proceeded to the Cemetery ?
A.—Yes, sir.
46. Q.—Tell us what, if anything, occurred at the Cemetery ?
A.—Well, we got to the Cemetery ; there was some unearthly sounds ; I didn't know —I thought they was rooks—I was looking for them, and could not find them. I looked around, and at the time that Mr. Green was reading the burial service I heard some unearthly sounds, to me it was groans, or something. I first thought it was birds. One of the men said to me : “Do you hear that noise in that bush ?” I said : “I hear something ; I don't know what it is. It is something unreasonable.” What it was I could not say, but it was not birds. It must have been somebody groaning fearful.
47. Q.—Was it a human voice ?
A.—That is what I thought they were.
48. Q.—Could this loud noise be distinguished plainly ?
A.—Oh yes ; I think the men that was in hearing could not help hearing.
49. Q.—Where did it appear to be proceeding from ?
A.—Right outside the burial ground. I heard it on the upper side, and also voices below. What those voices were below I don't know.
50. Q.—Col. Baker : Did it sound to be coming from many people ?
A.—Yes, it might.
51. Q.—Mr. McKenzie : What made you think it was birds ?
A.—Well, sir, I don't know. I thought it was impossible for a man, woman or child to go to a place like that and groan. That was the reason I thought so, and I looked around.
52. Q.—Mr. Bodwell : How long did this continue ?
A.—Well, I could not say, sir. Just all the time he was reading the burial service.
53. Q.—Col. Baker : You did not see anybody ?
A.—No, sir, I didn't ; the only parties I see was Dr. Davis passing up in a buggy—that is all—and another gentleman, and the only parties that was there to see.
54. Q.—Mr. Bodwell : I suppose you left the Cemetery after the burial service ?
A.—Yes, sir.
55. Q.—Did you see anybody when you were leaving ?
A.—No, sir ; I never seen a person.
56. Q.—Then the body of the procession started home, did it ?
A.—Yes, sir.
57. Q.—By the same road ?
A.—The same road.
58. Q.—Did they pass through Northfield on the way back ?
A.—Yes, sir.
59. Q.—Col. Baker : That is all that happened at the grave ?
A.—That is all that happened at the grave. When we reached the Half-way House there was some pretty heavy groans.
60. Q.—Where is the Half-way House with reference to the rest ?
A.—They call it the Half-way House from here to Nanaimo.

61. Q.—I am speaking of Northfield?
A.—About 400 or 500 yards from Northfield on the Nanaimo side.
62. Q.—What happened there?
A.—Well, we was groaned at, and hawked at (illustrating), and “bury him up—bury him up—bury him up!” I said to the boys, “That is very nice to—”
63. Q.—Who was doing this?
A.—Well, I don’t know; strangers to me.
64. Q.—Men or women?
A.—Men.
65. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: Who lived at the Half-way House?
A.—Mr. Parrott.
66. Q.—Col. Baker: Did you see them?
A.—Oh, they was outside the door, sir.
67. Q.—How many?
A.—About a dozen, I should think. I would not say it was a dozen, but about that outside.
68. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: Go on?
A.—When we got to Northfield, we was in the heat of battle.
69. Q.—What did you see?
A.—Well, it is more than I can tell you; because it was snowballs, I was afraid to look out.
70. Q.—Col. Baker: Did they throw snowballs at the Half-way House?
A.—No, sir.
71. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: Were there many people at Northfield?
A.—Well, I don’t know, sir; not more than that lived there; they was out.
72. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: Who threw these snowballs?
A.—I didn’t see men throw snowballs; I saw lads about 15 or 16; I saw that myself.
73. Q.—Col. Baker: Roughly speaking, what number was there—men, women and children? Were there men there?
A.—Oh, yes, sir; scores of men.
74. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: And women?
A.—And women.
75. Q.—And lads?
A.—And lads, and children with tin pans all the way up, and groaned.
76. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: And snowballs?
A.—Oh, the snowballs was numerous.
77. Q.—Did you see anything else besides snowballs?
A.—Yes, sir.
78. Q.—What?
A.—A rock struck the runner of the sleigh. I saw that myself. That was the time I began to feel a little bit wild. It got me feeling as if it was something rough.
79. Q.—Did you distinguish any words at all?
A.—Oh, “blackleg,” but that was pretty familiar; but then I have got used to that; that didn’t trouble me nothing.
80. Q.—Did you hear that?
A.—Oh, that was frequent, sir.
81. Q.—Shouted by these people who were throwing snowballs?
A.—Shouted by these people who were throwing snowballs.
82. Q.—Did you see anything?
A.—I saw some kind of an image, or something fixed up there, in the shape of a man; in fact, he had got a white leg and a black leg, and a hat on his head, and he had a black arm and a white arm.
83. Q.—Where was this?
A.—About the centre of Northfield.
84. Q.—In what position was it?
A.—Standing up, sir.
85. Q.—Fastened, or held up?
A.—Fastened by a stick; there was no one near it.

86. Q.—You did not see that, going down?
A.—No, sir; I did not.
87. Q.—Col. Baker: Did you see anybody hurt at all?
A.—Oh, yes; there was several had a pretty bad blow. There was Alec, the blacksmith down here, he had a pretty bad blow on his cheek.
88. Q.—What were they hit with? by a snowball?
A.—By a snowball.
89. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: How long did this continue?
A.—Till we got right through Northfield there were yells and checking and snowballs right and left till we got out of Northfield altogether.
90. Q.—Have you told us all about the circumstances that you can remember about the circumstances?
A.—I think I have told all. Everybody that lived in Northfield was out, and they didn't forget to open their mouths well. Not that that hurt me; that didn't hurt me whatever.
91. Q.—Did you hear any man's voice?
A.—Oh, yes; the men yelled, as well as the women, but I never saw a man lift nothing.
92. Q.—Col. Baker: And these snowballs were thrown by women?
A.—Thrown by women and lads, what I saw, sir, but I could not see the whole.
93. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: The lads were from 15 to 16 years of age?
A.—Yes, sir; what I seen.
94. Q.—Chairman: Did you see any woman put herself into an unseemly position?
A.—Yes, sir; I did.
95. Q.—In what way?
A.—Lifting her clothes up and jumping; whether she was going to show her black legs, or show her white ones, I don't know, but it was very ridiculous, the one, sir, I saw. There was three ladies together.
96. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: I don't quite understand. What unseemly thing did she do?
A.—Lifted her petticoats as high as that (illustrating), and shouted "blacklegs!"
97. Q.—As high as the knee?
A.—Yes.
98. Q.—Do you know her name?
A.—I don't know her name, sir.
99. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: When was that?
A.—When we were returning; I don't know her name, sir.

ALFRED E. GREEN, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

100. Q.—What is your name?
A.—Alfred Eli Green.
101. Q.—Where do you live, Mr. Green?
A.—I live at Wellington.
102. Q.—You are a minister?
A.—Yes, sir.
103. Q.—Of the English Church?
A.—No, sir; the Methodist Church.
104. Q.—Did you conduct the services at the funeral of the late Ellis Roberts?
A.—I did, sir.
105. Q.—Did you go with the procession?
A.—I did, sir.
106. Q.—What part of the procession were you riding in?
A.—I was riding, I think, in the same van as the former witness. I think I sat right next to Mr. Dan. Kilpatrick,—was driving with me in the sleigh I was in.
107. Q.—You have heard the evidence that Mr. Richards has given?
A.—Yes.
108. Q.—Have you anything to add to what he said?

- A.—Well, on going, when we got to Northfield I saw Mrs. Thomas Webley outside the door with her baby in her arms, and a man, I think her brother, or brother-in-law, or something, standing at the other side of the door, and I saw her laugh “haw-haw.” I saw Mrs. Webley laugh, and I heard her laugh. That was all I saw and heard when we went through.
109. Q.—Were you riding in a close carriage?
A.—I was riding in a sleigh with the former witness.
110. Col. Baker: That was in going?
A.—Yes, sir; that was in going.
111. Mr. McKenzie: Did you hear her say “blackleg?”
A.—No, sir.
112. Q.—Did you hear her groan?
A.—No, sir; she laughed “ha-ha, ha-ha.” I could hear her laugh, and saw her, also.
113. Q.—Did you hear the man that was with her talking and groaning?
A.—No, I did not.
114. Q.—Did you conduct the services at the grave?
A.—I did, sir.
115. Q.—Did you come back with the procession?
A.—I came back with the procession.
116. Q.—With Richards?
A.—Yes, sir; in the same conveyance.
117. Mr. McKenzie: Did you hear the sounds at the grave spoken of by the former witness?
A.—No, sir; I heard nothing. I looked around the graveyard, and no one was round there, only the grave digger, because I especially wanted to see Gough. I had been sick two or three weeks, and that is why I wanted to see him, and looked round the graveyard, but of course, I was reading and attending to the service.
118. Q.—Would you have been likely to have heard if there was anybody making a groaning sound, who stood outside?
A.—If there had been much noise, I certainly should.
119. Mr. Bodwell: But you were reading the service?
A.—Yes.
120. Mr. McKenzie: There was no interruption?
A.—No interruption.
121. Col. Baker: Did you hear any unseemly sound, at all?
A.—Not the least.
122. Mr. Bodwell: I suppose there was quite a crowd at the grave?
A.—There was ourselves that went; there was no one else.
123. Q.—You saw the snowballing on your way back?
A.—Well, I would say on our way back, when we got to the saloon, the Half-way House, about three-quarters of a mile; it is on the other side of Northfield. I saw five men come out of the saloon, and stand at the door, and the first one that came out commenced imitating a person retching, and another one over his shoulder said: “Cover them up, cover them up,” and then when we got a little further, I heard them groan.
124. Q.—Did you hear the word “blacklegs?”
A.—No, sir; I didn’t hear that. Then we came on till we got to Northfield. There is a hill going down before we get to Northfield, and then the houses commence. As we got in the hollow, I could see quite a number of children on both sides of the road.
125. Mr. McKenzie: Of what age?
A.—Well, I should say from about 6 to 12 years of age. There was not one of them as large as the boy that is there, not near, not up to his shoulder; and just as soon as we got near, these boys and girls on both sides commenced to snowball the drivers, and then in at both ends of the sleigh, and just as they were at it, at first, I saw some women standing at the doors—there were four or five doors—and these women watched, and clapped their hands. I heard them say “Give it them,” and they commenced laughing, and commenced to throw snowballs.

126. Mr. McKenzie : You mean, the procession were laughing, too ?
A.—No, the women.
127. Q.—What ? the men ?
A.—The men in the sleigh were laughing.
128. Q.—Were there any men amongst them ?
A.—There was no man there. I saw one, and another one a little further. When we got near Mr. Bickle's (?) store, I saw one, and I saw two or three on Mr. Bickle's verandah, and two or three at Mr. Hill's stood on each side of the store.
129. Q.—What were they doing ?
A.—They were just standing there.
130. Q.—Taking no part ?
A.—No, sir ; I never heard a man speak as we came through.
131. Q.—None of them said "blacklegs ?"
A.—I never heard them ; I heard a woman call out two or three times : "Give it them," crying to the children that were snowballing.
132. Q.—You were looking out for snowballs, yourself ?
A.—Yes, sir.
133. Q.—You had your head down ?
A.—No, sir.
134. Mr. McKenzie : Were there any rocks or stones thrown ? Did you see any ?
A.—No, sir ; I didn't. There was a boy standing outside our sleigh, and when we got through Northfield, he said, "They threw stones." One of them said, "Did they ? Oh, no ; I guess not," and they shewed behind the bar, behind the sitter, and there was the mark of the snowball on the sleigh, and the boy said they threw stones, but the man said : "Did they ? I never saw them." There was a boy standing outside on the step, or something, riding.
135. Col. Baker : Were the people in the sleighs alarmed in any way ?
A.—Oh, no, sir ; the only thing they said was : "We shall have the railroad track where it is light, and the children will snow us bad, if our horses only get stuck there," and they said, "We thought if we had got stuck there, we would have snowballs pretty lively."
136. Mr. McKenzie : The fact was, the processional crowd was in good humour while the snowballing occurred ?
A.—Oh, yes, sir ; I could only see two or three sleighs. I could not see the sleighs ahead. I could not see the sleighs ahead.
137. Mr. Croft : Did you consider such behaviour proper conduct at a funeral procession like that ?
A.—No, sir ; I did not.
138. Mr. Bodwell : You said you thought it was a disgraceful affair ?
A.—Yes, sir ; I did.
139. Q.—Did you see the effigies ?
A.—No, sir ; I did not see it. It was on the side my back was turned to. They talked about it as we passed it.
140. Q.—But you didn't see it yourself ?
A.—No, sir ; but they spoke of it as we were passing. I was seated in the middle of the sleigh.
141. Mr. Croft : Do you consider the action that was taken in snowballing a funeral procession like that was liable to cause a breach of the peace in the present strained relations between the union and the non-union men, relatively, of Wellington and Northfield ?
A.—No, sir ; I don't think it would cause a breach of the peace, but, at the same time, I don't think it was a proper thing to do. Both parties seemed in good humour, and were laughing.
142. Mr. McKenzie : Were these union men, at Parrott's place ?
A.—They were strangers to me, sir. I saw them going out from the bar to the door, and I heard what they said.
143. Q.—What place would they be likely to belong to ?
A.—Well, in my opinion, I think they were East Wellington men ; I don't know.

144. Mr. Bodwell: You know from your relations here, pretty well who are union and non-union men, don't you?
A.—Well, I know a good many by sight, but I know very few by name.
145. Q.—What class are those who reside at Northfield, principally?
A.—Oh, I think, principally union men.
146. Q.—And those in the procession, what class were they?
A.—I think principally non-union men.
147. Q.—What class did the late Ellis Roberts belong to?
A.—I think he belonged to the non-union men.
148. Mr. McKenzie: The witness has spoken of Mr. Hill; is he a well-known man at Northfield?
A.—No, nor Mr. Bickle, but then I am speaking of the principal part of them. I know there was Mr. Walker and others.
149. Q.—What kind of people live at Northfield?—business men?—miners?
A.—Oh, principally miners.
150. Q.—How many stores are there?
A.—There are two stores, two large ones, and then there is Mr. Blakeley's little store, where they sell fruits, and cigars, and tobacco, and such things as that.
151. Mr. Anderson: About how many sleighs were there in the procession?
A.—I should think, sir, there were about 6 or 7, or 7 or 8. I think there were six or seven sleighs, and two or three buggies.
152. Mr. McKenzie: Were the horses frightened by the snowballing?
A.—No, sir.
153. Col. Baker: What was it that principally led you to think it was a disgraceful affair? the general behaviour?
A.—I don't think it is proper to throw snowballs or to laugh as a funeral procession passes, anyway.
154. Mr. McKenzie: Not even coming back?
A.—No, sir; not even coming back.
155. Q.—Nothing whatever took place while the corpse was—
A.—No, sir.
156. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: But this laughing took place while the body was being carried in the procession?
A.—He was asking me in the graveyard. The laughing took place at Northfield, before we got there (graveyard).
157. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: Might not the laughing have been about something else?
A.—I don't know what it was. It appeared to me as if it was so we should hear it. Of course, her house is about 200 or 300 yards from the road. She was standing at the door of the house, with her baby in her arms. I think she was laughing at the procession; I think so.
158. Q.—You are not sure of that?
A.—I am not sure of that.
159. Mr. Bodwell: But her manner indicated it?
A.—She laughed loudly.
160. Q.—In a disrespectful way—her attitude and manner?
A.—Well, I should take it to be disrespectful.
161. Mr. McKenzie: You are not sure it was meant for that?
A.—Oh, no.
162. Q.—Did you see any of that jumping that was spoken of? of a woman lifting up her dress as high as her knee?
A.—No, sir.
163. Q.—Would you have been likely to see it?
A.—Well, I don't know, sir.
164. Q.—Was it mentioned?
A.—No, sir.
165. Q.—And Mr. Richards was in the sleigh?
A.—Yes, sir; and it was not mentioned.
166. Q.—You had as good an opportunity of seeing?
A.—I had as good as he. He sat right beside me.

167. Mr. Bodwell : You were on one side, and he on the other ?
A.—Yes, sir.
168. Q.—You did not see the effigy ?
A.—No, sir.
169. Q.—And the other members spoke of it ?
A.—Yes, sir ; they spoke of it, there.
170. Mr. Smith : Was it a covered sleigh ?
A.—Yes, sir ; with both ends open.
171. Mr. Bodwell : There was no opening at the sides ?
A.—No, sir.
172. Q.—Was it covered in the same way coming back ?
A.—Just the same, sir.
173. Q.—Then all you would see would be what you would see in front ?
A.—And behind.
174. Q.—Of course, a great deal might have occurred that you did not see ?
A.—Well, not very much, because I kept a clear look-out.
175. Chairman : Was there any sleigh or other vehicle in front of yours ?
A.—Yes, sir ; Kilpatrick in another covered sleigh, ahead of us.
176. Q.—And some behind ?
A.—No, sir ; we were the last, bringing up the end of the procession.
177. Mr. McKenzie : Who conducted the funeral ?
A.—I did, sir.
178. Q.—But I mean the undertaker ?
A.—Mr. McAdie.
179. Q.—Do you know the name of the grave digger ?
A.—No, sir ; well, I think it is Chambers. I know him well by sight. I heard his name was Chambers.
180. Q.—What was the name of the man who drove your sleigh ?
A.—Dan Kilpatrick.
181. Mr. Croft : Were you struck by the snowballs ?
A.—No, sir ; but there was one passed by me, and hit the bar at the back of the driver.
182. Mr. McKenzie : It was not a stone ?
A.—No, sir.
183. Col. Baker : Was the procession stopped at all by the proceedings ?
A.—Oh, no, sir.
184. Q.—Thos. Richards : Didn't you cover up your head and ears to prevent the snow coming on you ?
A.—No, sir ; I didn't ; but I have been sick for three weeks, and it was the first time I went out. I had a large muffler round my neck, and I had rolled one bit of it round my mouth, like that (illustrating). I did just the same all the time. Just the same on going, when I was here, on my way, it was just the same way, to keep the cold from going to where I was sick at my lungs.
185. Q.—I am deceived in my own eyes, then ?
A.—I cannot help what you are deceived in, sir. I know what I am saying.

JAMES CANE. Called and sworn. Examined by Mr. Bodwell.

186. Q.—What is your first name ?
A.—James Cane.
187. Q.—Where do you live ?
A.—I live in Wellington.
188. Q.—What is your occupation ?
A.—I was at digging coal, but I worked in the shute for the last two years, I guess.
189. Q.—You are a miner ?
A.—Yes, sir ; I have been a miner for the last 50 years, I guess.
190. Q.—Are you a union man ?
A.—No, sir. I never took no interest in it at all.
191. Q.—Were you at the funeral of the late Ellis Roberts ?

- A.—Yes, sir.
192. Q.—Were you in the procession going down?
A.—Yes, sir; I was in the same sleigh as Mr. Green, here, going and coming.
193. Q.—Did you hear any noise or anything of that kind, in Northfield?
A.—Well, yes; when we went pretty near to the last house, there was some woman at one, standing at the door half-way out, and some on the porch, and I heard some holloaing—I think it was “blacklegs”—by these women, going down, that is all I heard.
194. Q.—Did you see the woman?
A.—Yes, sir; I see the women, but I don't know who they are.
195. Q.—Did you notice their actions at all?
A.—Well, I didn't see anything going down, only holloaing. I think they were holloaing “blacklegs,” these women.
196. Q.—While the service was going on at the grave, did you hear anything?
A.—Well, I was close to Mr. Green here, when he was performing the ceremony. I didn't hear a word of anything. Everything seemed to be very still. I was standing close to the grave. Of course, in the crowd, I didn't hear no noise of no kind. It might be, but I didn't hear it.
197. Q.—But when you were coming back?
A.—When we were coming back I could see on both sides of the road; I could see a few women.
198. Col. Baker: Was that near Northfield?
A.—Yes, sir; the first house when we come into Northfield. There was a few women on both sides of the road, and some “stripped” (?) snowballs, and I couldn't say whether they were throwing them or not, there was so many little ones throwing them, and little ones following us up. I heard these ladies holloaing “Give it to them!” and the little ones was peppering us. I was sitting up right in the front of Mr. Green, and they was passing pretty close, but they could not get at me; I was in the corner where they could not strike at me.
199. Q.—Did any men take part in it at all?
A.—No, sir; I didn't see no men. There was one, I believe, on that porch, along with the women, going down—the only one I see, all the way.
200. Mr. McKenzie: What would you judge the age of those children to be?
A.—Well, sir, I think the oldest was a girl—I would take her to be 11 or 12 years of age—and the rest was little fellows. There was two little ones followed us up with cans, and this largest girl followed us up a very long ways. I seen one girl throw one, and it lit on Mr. Green's lap right in front of me, on the robe he had on his knees; it lit on that; and one come and lit on the front of me; and that was the oldest that I seen, the girl at the lower house; she followed us up, and I should say she was 11 or 12 years old. The rest was all little fellows, but I heard the women call “Let them have it!” Of course, they were driving the little ones ahead.
201. Q.—Did you see any effigy?
A.—No, sir; it was on a different side to where I was; I could not see it.
202. Q.—Did you hear anything about it—I mean, at the time?
A.—Well, there was several ones—Mr. Batton (?) and those gentlemen over there—they seed it, and said it was over on the other side of the road, but I didn't see it.

ROBT. ORR—Called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

203. Q.—What is your name?
A.—Robert Orr.
204. Q.—Were you at the funeral of the late Robert Ellis?
A.—Yes, sir.
205. Q.—Where do you live?
A.—In Wellington, for the last four or five months.
206. Q.—What is your occupation?
A.—I follow after the farm labourer.
207. Col. Baker: You are not a miner?

- A.—No, sir.
208. Mr. Bodwell: Tell us what you know about this matter.
A.—I started here away from the house, and up the Government Road, and on to Nanaimo, and we got through Northfield. We got called “scabs” and “blacklegs.”
209. Col. Baker: Was that going to the grave?
A.—No, sir; coming home.
210. Q.—Nothing happened going to the grave?
A.—No, sir.
211. Q.—Or at the grave?
A.—No, sir; nothing at the grave.
212. Mr. Croft: At Northfield, on your return?
A.—Home to Wellington, there was. I don't know what they call it, but it seemed like a black leg and a white leg stuck up in the middle of the road, with a piece of black crape.
213. Col. Baker: Stuck up in the road?
A.—Yes.
214. Q.—On one side?
A.—Yes, sir.
215. Mr. McKenzie: How large was it?
A.—Oh, it was not a very large thing.
216. Q.—As high as this table?
A.—Oh, yes, sir; a little bit higher.
217. Q.—Did you see it?
A.—Yes, sir.
218. Mr. Bodwell: And you heard them call “blackleg” and “scabs?”
A.—Yes, sir; call us “blacklegs” and “scabs?”
219. Mr. McKenzie: Who did that?
A.—The men at Northfield.
220. Q.—The men?
A.—The men, and women, and children.
221. Mr. Bodwell: Were there men there?
A.—Yes, sir; at the doors.
222. Q.—At all the doors?
A.—Yes, sir.
223. Q.—You heard them shouting?
A.—Yes, sir; the men were helping the boys and the girls and the women.
224. Q.—Could you see any snowballs?
A.—Yes, sir; I seen lots of them.
225. Q.—Who were throwing the snowballs?
A.—It was the little ones.
226. Q.—The men and women were shouting, you say?
A.—Yes, sir.
227. Col. Baker: Did any of the women throw snowballs?
A.—No, sir.
228. Chairman: You did not see any?
A.—No, sir; I never seen none of the women throw snowballs.
229. Mr. McKenzie: How old were the children who were throwing snowballs?
A.—I think the eldest one would be between 13 and 14, and from that downwards.
230. Col. Baker: Was anything else thrown besides snowballs?
A.—No, sir.
231. Mr. Bodwell: Were there many people out at Northfield?
A.—Yes; there was quite a number of them out.
232. Q.—How long did this last?
A.—It just lasted till we got through Northfield; that was all, this side of Northfield, and there was two or three little ones with coal oil cans following us behind the sleighs.
233. Q.—Beating the cans?
A.—Yes, sir.
234. Mr. McKenzie: Two or three of them?

- A.—Yes, sir.
235. Col. Baker: Did the people who were shouting and holloaing seem to be angry?
Were they vicious at all?
A.—Well, no; they was not so very vicious.
236. Mr. Bodwell: Were they respectful?
A.—No; not what I would call respectful—not coming home from the funeral.
237. Q.—It was not the kind of thing you expected at a funeral?
A.—No; it was not. It was like a lot of heathens, I think it would be.
238. Mr. McKenzie: Did you see anything at the Half-way House?
A.—Yes, sir; there was some men at the Half-way House as we were coming past, and there was one man asked the driver, “Why are you driving such a crowd of miners as that? Why don’t you drive a lot of white men—not drive a lot of blacklegs and scabs?”
- 238A. Q.—Who said that?
A.—Some of the men at the Half-way House.
239. Mr. Bodwell: Said that to your driver?
A.—Yes.
240. Mr. McKenzie: Who is your driver?
A.—He is a young man here who is working for—I forget his name. He does a little teaming round town, with coal.
241. Mr. Croft: Were you at the head of the procession?
A.—No, sir; I was about the middle of it.

Jos. Wm. Lewis—Called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

242. Q.—Where do you live, Mr. Lewis?
A.—Wellington.
243. Q.—What is your occupation?
A.—Pit-headman.
244. Q.—Were you at the funeral of the late Ellis Roberts?
A.—I was.
245. Q.—On the 4th March last?
A.—Yes.
246. Q.—Do you remember anything happening at the Cemetery during the reading of the burial service?
A.—I heard somebody sing “Put the son-of-a-bitch in the hole.”
247. Col. Baker: You were not in the procession?
A.—No; in the Cemetery.
248. Q.—But did you go in the procession to the Cemetery?
A.—Yes.
249. Q.—You were in a sleigh?
A.—Yes.
250. Q.—Did you hear anything in going there?
A.—No.
251. Mr. Bodwell: And at the grave you heard this expression?
A.—Yes.
252. Q.—Did you hear any groaning, or noise?
A.—Yes; we were going in, and some fellow—I don’t know who it was, or where the voice came from—I thought it was a kind of a “baa-a-a.”
253. Col. Baker: It was what?
A.—“Put the son-of-a-bitch in the hole.”
254. Mr. Bodwell: As you were going, you say, you heard this?
A.—Going into the cemetery.
255. Q.—Did you come back with the procession?
A.—No; we were ahead of it.
256. Col. Baker: Was that outside of the Cemetery that you heard that?
A.—Just at the gate.
257. Mr. McKenzie: Did you see the man who said it?
A.—No; I seen nobody.

258. Q.—Did you look round to see the man?
A.—No, I didn't; I think he was somewhere behind the house.
259. Col. Baker: Was it said in a loud tone of voice?
A.—Not very loud.
260. Q.—Or was it just a muttering?
A.—Just kind of muttering.
261. Mr. McKenzie: How far is the house from the road?
A.—I didn't measure, but you know where it is yourself.
262. Mr. Bodwell: But the Committee do not know.
A.—Well, I don't know.
263. Q.—Would it be as far as that house there (indicating)?
A.—Not quite.
264. Q.—That would be about 20 yards, and you heard it in your conveyance. Do you think the noise came from behind that?
A.—Yes.
265. Q.—So it was loud enough to be heard that distance?
A.—Yes.
266. Q.—You say that you were ahead of the procession, going home?
A.—Yes.
267. Q.—About a mile ahead of it?
A.—About a mile ahead.
268. Col. Baker: Did you hear anything at the grave at all, when the service was going on?
A.—No, I didn't hear anything while the service was going on.
269. Mr. Bodwell: But what you heard was just as you were going in?
A.—Yes.
270. Mr. McKenzie: Whereabouts were you in the procession?
A.—I was one of the pall-bearers—in the next sleigh to the hearse.
271. Q.—The other pall-bearers would hear the same voice, wouldn't they?
A.—It is possible.
272. Col. Baker: Was there any shouting besides that at all?
A.—No, sir.
273. Q.—That is all you heard—just that one expression?
A.—That is all.
274. Q.—And you heard nothing coming back; you were not with the procession coming back.
A.—No, sir.
275. Mr. Croft: Were the men at Wellington angry about the attack, and about the language used to the procession, when they heard about it?
A.—Yes, sir.
276. Q.—Was such an attack on the funeral procession—snowballing, and language like that—likely to widen the breach between the union and non-union men at all?
A.—Yes, sir, it did; there was some of the men in the place said, that evening, they had a very good mind to get up a crowd, and clean the procession as it was passing.
277. Q.—Clean the procession out; that is, the funeral procession?
A.—No, no; the union men.
278. Mr. Smith: Were you in the sleigh when you heard this noise?
A.—Yes, sir.
279. Q.—A covered sleigh?
A.—No; an open sleigh.

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

280. Q.—Where do you live, Mr. Harris?
A.—Wellington.
281. Q.—What is your occupation?
A.—Coal-miner.
282. Q.—Were you at this funeral procession?
A.—Yes, sir.
283. Q.—Will you just state to the Committee what you know about it?

- A.—Well, the first thing I seen when we entered Northfield—
284. Col. Baker : Was this going, or coming back ?
A.—No ; going down—was Mrs. Webley and her brother, George Phillips. They were talking and sneering. Well, they done everything they could, I guess, except snowballing, that time. I heard Mrs. Webley's voice, but I didn't understand what she said.
285. Mr. Croft : How far from the road was she ?
A.—Well, I cannot tell you, exactly ; it was about 20 yards, I guess : something like that.
286. Mr. Bodwell : What were her action and manner ?
A.—Oh, her action was common enough.
287. Q.—Disrespectful, do you mean ?
A.—Yes, disrespectful for a funeral.
288. Col. Baker : Did the man take any part at all ?
A.— Yes, Geo. Phillips ; they were there, talking together and sneering, and so forth, but I didn't understand any word they said ; and when we went down, there was men, and women, and children alongside the road, but they didn't say anything, and I didn't see anything wrong with them. That was going.
289. Q.—They followed you ?
A.—No, they didn't follow us going down ; and then, while coming back—
290. Q.—Just let us get to the grave, first ; was there anything there ?
A.—Well, I didn't hear or see anything out of order.
291. Mr. Bodwell : And then, coming back ?
A.—Oh, I seen crowds of men, but they didn't say anything.
292. Q.—They were with the men ?
A.—Well, they were among the crowd ; the women and children were shouting and yelling, but the men were silent.
293. Q.—Did you hear anything said ?
A.—By the men, do you mean ?
294. Q.—No ; the women ?
A.—Well, I understand—but I don't know the women.
295. Q.—Did you hear any of the words used ?
A.—Yes ; I heard them using “sons of bitches,” and “blacklegs,” and so on, but I didn't know them ; I don't know who they were.
296. Q.—But you heard that language used ?
A.—Oh, I heard that language used.
297. Q.—Did you see any effigy ?
A.—No, I didn't, sir
298. Q.—You are a miner, are you ?
A.—
299. Q.—
A.—
300. Q.— non-union men here ?
A.—Well, I ought to.
301. Q.—What was the effect of this conduct on them ; I mean, what did they think of it ?
A.—What ; the non-union men ?
(Question objected to by Col. Baker and Mr. McKenzie.)
302. Mr. Bodwell : I will not press that question, but I think this will be a proper one :—
Is there a good feeling at present between the union and the non-union men ?
A.—Well, I should think not, or else they would not come around parading the streets. Well, I should think they are intimidating us.
303. Mr. McKenzie : They are intimidating you ?
A.—I should think so ; I am among the crowd
- Mr. Bodwell : All I asked that question for was this : that what under some circumstances is a very harmless proceeding, becomes, very often, if there be strained relations between people, a serious matter ; and it would be well for this Committee, if they are to enquire into the matter at all, to know what the relations between the non-union and the union men are—if they wish to know whether these matters would be taken to be insults. Snowballing between friends is nothing, but snowballing between enemies is often the cause of war.

304. Mr. McKenzie : Snowballing between enemies is a cause of quarrelling, too. I have known it many instances. (To witness): What were the ages of these children who were snowballing?
A.—Well, they were from 12, 15, 16, something like that, and under that some of them.
305. Col. Baker : Did the women take part in the snowballing, themselves?
A.—Oh, yes, yes.
306. Chairman : Was there anything else besides snowballs thrown?
A.—I didn't see anything.

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

307. Q.—Do you live at Wellington?
A.—Yes, sir.
308. Q.—You are a miner, are you?
A.—Yes, sir.
309. Q.—Were you at the funeral of the late Ellis Roberts?
A.—Yes.
310. Col. Baker : Were you in the procession?
A.—Yes, sir.
311. Mr. Bodwell : Were you with it going, and with it coming back?
A.—Yes, sir.
312. Q.—Tell us what you know about it, Mr. Belton?
A.—The first thing I saw when I was going down was Mrs. Webley, and her brother, and another lady with her, standing by a house about 40 yards from the road, I think.
313. Q.—You have heard what the other witnesses have said about that—you have been here all the time?
A.—Yes, I have heard one or two.
314. Q.—Do you agree to their story?
A.—I agree with it. I seen it.
315. Q.—The same thing?
A.—Yes, sir.
316. Q.—Is there anything which you remember that they have not told us?
A.—No, I don't think there is.
317. Q.—You came back with the procession?
A.—Yes, sir.
318. Q.—You have heard what these other witnesses have said about what happened on the way back?
A.—Yes.
319. Q.—You heard what the last witness said (Mr. Harris)?
A.—Yes, sir.
320. Q.—Have you anything to tell us with reference to that?
A.—No ; I have got nothing, because I am in the same state as Mr. Harris, and Mr. Gray, (Cane?) and all of these.
321. Q.—You saw all this, did you?
A.—Yes, sir.
322. Q.—Did you see the snowballing?
A.—I see the balls coming in, but I didn't see who was throwing them.
323. Q.—Did you see any women?
A.—No, sir ; only when I was going down.
324. Col. Baker : On going into the Cemetery, did you hear anybody make any remarks?
325. Mr. McKenzie : You say you were in the same stage as Mr. Green?
A.—And Cane, and Harris, and Richards.
326. Q.—But Mr. Green differs very materially from the others, which do you agree with?
A.—Well, from what I saw myself, if Mr. Green could see, he was covering up his face ; I don't know whether he didn't want to see.
327. Col. Baker : Did you hear anything at the grave?
A.—I heard some noise outside, I don't know whether it was birds, or what.

328. Mr. Bodwell: You heard groaning?
A.—Yes, something like a bird, outside. I didn't take much notice of it.
329. Mr. Croft: Do you consider such action as this on the funeral procession as likely to cause trouble between Wellington miners and Northfield miners?
A.—I don't know, I am sure. It doesn't seem to be very nice, at any rate. It cannot be very nice; when I worked from here, I was working in Northfield, before I worked here, and they set my house on fire.
330. Q.—Mr. Smith: Do I understand you to say that Mr. Green's head was covered up?
A.—Yes, sir; he was covering up his face, I know. He was sitting opposite me.
331. Q.—Were you one of the pall-bearers?
A.—No, sir.
332. Q.—Did you hear what these women said?
A.—No, I didn't hear nothing.

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

333. Q.—Your name is George W. Kennedy?
A.—Yes, sir.
334. Q.—You remember the occasion of the funeral of the late Ellis Roberts?
A.—Yes, sir.
335. Col. Baker: You live at Wellington?
A.—Yes, sir.
336. Q.—And are the proprietor of the hotel?
A.—Yes, sir.
337. Mr. Bodwell: You came home right behind the procession? and you saw what occurred at Northfield?
A.—That is, in the buggy with Thomas—a man that keeps a boarding house—he was in the buggy with two others.
338. Mr. McKenzie: It was one of the buggies in the procession?
A.—This was coming back. I went to town previous to the funeral going in, about half-an-hour.
339. Q.—Is this the same procession that they were talking about?
340. Col. Baker: You did not go with the procession?
A.—No, sir.
341. Mr. Bodwell: No, he says he was coming back from town, and was right behind the procession, and saw what occurred. State who was doing this snowballing?
A.—Well, when I got to Northfield was the only time I seen it. I was behind Thomas' buggy just as we was going up the hill, and there was quite a number of women and children throwing snowballs.
342. Col. Baker: You joined the procession at the graveyard?
A.—No, sir.
343. Mr. Bodwell: Did you see the women?
A.—Yes, sir; I was within 10 yards of Thomas' rig.
344. Q.—Did you see any men?
A.—I saw some men back in the yard, from the roadway; there was none throwing snowballs.
345. Q.—What was the attitude of these people?
A.—Well, it started to go up the hill, and they came out, half-a-dozen of them, in a bunch from the different places round the houses, and began throwing snowballs. The children, some of them, had tin pans, and some women had tin pans, and just on the side of the road there was an effigy.
346. Q.—You are not a miner, or connected with the mines?
A.—No, sir—in business.
347. Q.—As an outsider, how did this strike you? What would you say—was the proceeding respectful, or otherwise?
A.—Well, I should think anything else but a respectful way to deal with a man going to a funeral; all right at a picnic, or anything like that.
348. Q.—You thought it was quite out of place?

- A.—Yes, I should think so the way they was conducting themselves. In fact, from the conduct of those throwing snowballs, it appeared to me that they might be men in women's clothes. There was one or two looked to me—of course, I don't like to say positive—but it looked to me in that way.
349. Q.—Could you tell anything from the way in which the snowballs were thrown?
A.—Well, that is the only thing I took it from. They would make good female baseball players.
350. Q.—They threw snowballs very differently to the way women do?
A.—Yes. I know it was hot for me. I wanted to get out of it, and I left them behind. I was in a cutter, and they was in a buggy.
351. Q.—They were getting too pleasant for you?
A.—Oh, I got out of it, and I got home. Once home, there was no snowballs thrown at me.
352. Q.—From what was going on, you thought it was no place for you to stay there?
A.—Well, I knew I had no business there, and I got away as fast as I could go.
353. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: How many sleighs were there?
A.—Well, there was one sleigh ahead of me, and the others had gone over the hill.
354. Q.—How long?
A.—The only sleigh was the one I was in myself, in a cutter, alone. Thomas and two other gentlemen were in a buggy with one horse; they were in the funeral, and, coming back, they were behind, and Mr. Jones was behind me.
355. Q.—Col Baker: You saw the funeral procession coming back?
A.—No, sir; I didn't see the funeral procession at all.
356. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: He came back behind the funeral procession.
A.—I came back behind, from what was told me, the funeral procession; and from the way they treated me I thought it was.
357. Q.—But you passed the funeral procession?
A.—No, sir; not till I got back to my hotel, and then I passed it.
358. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: In fact, now, you are speaking of one single buggy?
A.—Yes, sir.
359. Q.—That had been to the funeral?
A.—Yes, sir; so they told me.
360. I don't think that is part of the funeral procession. They might have snowballed Mr. Kennedy here. Would that be called snowballing the procession?
Mr. Bodwell: Well, that is a matter of comment afterwards.
Mr. McKenzie: I don't think this has anything to do with the funeral procession at all. I object to that part of the evidence.
361. Q.—Chairman: You did not intend to follow up the funeral, I suppose?
A.—No, sir; I had been to town.
362. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: This buggy got separated from the other buggies?
A.—Well, the rest of them was in sleighs, and it was heavy wheeling. I believe there is one of the young men there (indicating) who was in the buggy, and another one—Mr. Thomas; I don't know Mr. Thomas.

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

363. Q.—What is your name?
A.—David J. Thomas.
364. Q.—Where do you live?
A.—At Wellington.
365. Q.—What is your occupation?
A.—Fireman.
366. Q.—Were you at the funeral of the late Ellis Roberts?
A.—Yes, sir.
367. Q.—Did you come home with the procession?
A.—I was in front of them, sir.
368. Q.—Col. Baker: In a sleigh, were you?
A.—Yes; in a sleigh.
369. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: In an open sleigh?
A.—Yes, sir.

370. Q.—Did you go with the procession to the grave?
A.—Yes; all the way. I was one of the pall-bearers.
371. Q.—You have heard the evidence of the witnesses as to what occurred, have you anything to add to that?
A.—Well, when we went down past Northfield, they were all coming out-doors, but they were laughing, ever so, going down, at the procession.
372. Q.—Respectfully, or otherwise?
A.—Just making fun of us.
373. A.—Was there more than one person doing that?
Q.—Oh, yes; scores of them.
374. Q.—Col. Baker: Was that in going to the grave?
A.—That was in going to the graveyard.
375. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: Where?
A.—In going through Northfield.
376. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: Did you distinguish any words that were said?
A.—No, sir.
377. Q.—Do you know of anything that occurred at the Cemetery?
A.—No; I do not.
378. Q.—Col. Baker: In going into the Cemetery, did you hear any remark made?
A.—When we went to the Half-way House there was a crowd there drinking.
379. Q.—But as you were entering the Cemetery did you hear any remark made?
A.—No; I didn't pay any attention.
380. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: What happened at the Half-way House when you were going down?
A.—Well, those men that were there drinking they got up and came to the window, and got their hands up this way (illustrating), making motions at us.
381. Q.—Did they make any remark?
A.—No; no remarks at all.
382. Q.—You saw these motions?
A.—I saw them.
383. Q.—And on the way back?
A.—When we came back through Northfield there were women coming out in crowds, shouting after us, and one, especially, called out to us that was in the sleigh to throw us over, throw us out; "throw them Aberdare men out!" and that is the very place I come from—South Wales. And there were women there. I don't like to say anything, as I am ashamed of it.
384. Q.—Well, you had better tell the Committee?
A.—There was two women there came out from the house—I think it was about the third house from the corner, that is the right-hand side coming out to Wellington; they came out there and shouted; I don't know what they were shouting, because the two were shouting together, and I could not understand what they were saying, but they showed their legs to us, and they went rather too far, I should think. They raised their clothes rather too high.
385. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: How high?
386. Q.—Col. Baker: Did they lift their clothes above their knees?
A.—Yes, sir; above their knees. I had no snowballing at all; I was in front of the others.
387. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: You were not in the procession?
A.—Yes; I was in front of the others, coming back.
388. Q.—How far ahead?
A.—Well, I dare say about 300 yards in front of the others, coming back. We was the first of all coming back from the graveyard.
389. Q.—Col. Baker: Had the women black stockings on?
A.—Yes; they were black.
390. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: Was it you whom Mr. Kennedy passed?
A.—No, sir; perhaps Mr. Thomas he passed. He had the only buggy; I was in the sleigh.
391. Q.—Mr. Smith: Was yours a covered sleigh?
A.—Yes; the sides and the back; it was only the front that was open.

392. Q.—Col. Baker: Were you one of the pall-bearers?
A.—Yes, sir.
393. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: Did you see any men, coming back, at Northfield?
A.—Yes; I saw men, but they didn't talk to us; only women and children.
394. Q.—Did you see anything thrown besides snowballs?
A.—No, sir; I did not.
395. Q.—Mr. Croft: At the present time, do you think that this attack was likely to cause a breach of the peace between the Wellington and the Northfield miners?
A.—Yes; I do.
396. Q.—As an insult to the Wellington miner who was buried?
A.—Yes, sir; I do.

ALFRED HAMMOND, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell)

397. Q.—Your name is Alfred Hammond?
A.—Yes, sir.
398. Q.—You live at Wellington?
A.—Wellington.
399. Q.—What is your business?
A.—Miner.
400. Q.—You were at this funeral?
A.—Yes, sir.
401. Q.—You went with the procession?
A.—Went with the procession.
402. Q.—And did you come back with the procession?
A.—A little way behind the procession, sir, in a buggy.
403. Q.—Tell us what happened, as far as you remember?
A.—Well, as far as I can remember, going down through, there was some women on the left-hand side of the road, bawling out, and singing about. I didn't take very particular notice of that, or anything like that, because I was young myself once, and passed that off; and, coming back, nothing ever happened, to my knowledge. Coming back, there was a chap in the boarding-house, named Bowden, turned round and (illustrating) told us to kiss that.
404. Q.—Who was Thomas?
A.—Thomas Thomas; he keeps the boarding-house.
405. Q.—He was there?
A.—Yes, of course.
406. Q.—This man came out of a house at Northfield, and did that?
A.—Yes, sir; his name is Bowden.
407. Q.—You were a little behind the rest of the procession?
A.—We was a little behind the rest of the procession; we stopped to pick up a chap.
408. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: How far behind?
A.—We could not go so fast as a sleigh did, because we was in a buggy, and the horse could not travel so fast; it was a bad road.
409. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: Was there any snowballing with you?
A.—Yes, sir.
410. Q.—Who threw the snowballs?
A.—Women and children.
411. Q.—Did you see any men?
A.—I never saw any men throw snowballs.
412. Q.—Did you see any men there?
A.—Yes, sir; there was a few in the saloons, on the verandah.
413. Q.—Did the women do any shouting?
A.—Yes, sir; there was women on the left-hand side done some shouting.
414. Q.—Coming back?
A.—Not to my knowledge.
415. Q.—Col. Baker: When you were coming back, how far behind were you?
A.—Well, the procession was still going ahead of us all the time.
416. Q.—Were you in a sleigh?
A.—No, sir; in a buggy; and Mr. Kennedy passed us on the road.

417. Q.—You were not taking part in the procession?
A.—Yes, sir; we was one of the first ones going down—next to the hearse going down.
418. Q.—And coming back, you got behind?
A.—Yes, sir.
419. Q.—Did you hear anything at the graveyard?
A.—No, sir; not at all.
420. Mr. McKenzie: Did you go into Nanaimo after the funeral?
A.—No, sir.
421. Q.—You came straight back?
A.—We came straight back.
422. Q.—Could you see the procession ahead of you?
A.—Yes, sir; not all the way, sir.
423. Q.—When you passed through Northfield, you were all alone in that one buggy; I mean, your buggy was by itself?
A.—We could see the others at Northfield.
424. Q.—Where?
A.—When they started, they was not 10 yards ahead of us, but still gaining ground.
425. Q.—Were they half a mile ahead of you at Northfield?
A.—No, sir.
426. Mr. Smith: What was the cause of your being behind?
A.—We stopped to pick up a man what was going into town, and we told him there was no train to go out that night.
427. Mr. Croft: Can you tell me whether, at present, you think this attack was likely to cause a breach of the peace between the Wellington and Northfield miners?
A.—Yes, I think it was likely to kick up a great disturbance between the two parties.
428. Q.—It was considered an insult, you think?
A.—Yes, I think it was a great insult to act to people like that, going to a funeral—a disgrace to humanity.

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

429. Q.—Where do you live?
A.—Wellington.
430. Q.—What is your occupation?
A.—Fireman of No. 5 shaft.
431. Q.—You were at this funeral?
A.—Yes, sir.
432. Q.—At the Cemetery, did you hear anything?
A.—Yes, sir; I heard some shouting, but I could not tell what it was. I heard it twice while we were at the grave, putting down the corpse.
433. Col. Baker: Were you in the procession going to the grave?
A.—Yes, sir; I was in the first sleigh.
434. Q.—And as you were entering, did you hear nothing?
A.—No, sir; I heard the shouting when we were putting down the corpse.
435. Mr. Bodwell: What was it like?
A.—I could not tell you the words it expressed.
436. Q.—But what was the character of it?
A.—Just shouting—yelling out loud,
437. Q.—Where did it appear to come from?
A.—From the road, sir.
438. Mr. McKenzie: Are you sure that the shouting was at you?
A.—I believe they were shouting at all of us.
439. Q.—What made you think so; you could not hear what was said?
A.—Any man of common sense would not shout the way they did, especially at the funeral time.
440. Col. Baker: Was this right at the grave?
A.—Yes, sir; we were right at the grave.
441. Mr. McKenzie: But, if it was so loud, how is it that some of the others did not hear it?

- Mr. Croft: He cannot tell. What other people did has nothing to do with this witness.
- Witness: It was loud enough for me to hear it.
442. Mr. Bodwell: You have no doubt that you heard it?
A.—Yes, sir; I heard it
443. Q.—Is there anything that happened on the way, going or coming back, that has not been told us by these other witnesses?
A.—No, sir.
444. Q.—But you can remember the snowballing?
A.—I didn't see any snowballing; I was in the front sleigh coming back.
445. Q.—Col. Baker: Did the shouting first commence when you were going in the Cemetery, or when they were putting down the body?
A.—When they were putting the body down, I heard it.
446. Q.—Was it in the Cemetery, or outside?
A.—Outside, sir.
447. Mr. McKenzie: How far would the road be from where you were then?
A.—Oh, I never measured it.
448. Col. Baker: As far as from here to that house?
A.—Oh, yes; more than that.
449. Mr. Bodwell: Fifty yards?
A.—Oh, yes; I guess more, from the summit.
Mr. McKenzie: More than a quarter of a mile, I should think, from the summit, from the public road.
Mr. Croft: Oh, no.
450. Mr. McKenzie (to witness): You did not see anybody?
A.—No, sir; I did not.
451. Q.—A person could shout in the road, I suppose, without meaning any offence to anybody inside the Cemetery? Without meaning to insult the funeral?
A.—Oh, I don't know.
452. Mr. Bodwell: How did it strike you at the time?
A.—Well, I felt pretty bad.
453. Q.—But did it strike you as being intended for the procession?
A.—Yes, it did; of course, I didn't see anybody.
454. Q.—But that is the effect it had upon you?
A.—Yes, sir.
455. Mr. McKenzie: What was the character of the sound made?
A.—Hoo-o, hoo-o (imitating), that was the sound they made, but I could not catch the words.
456. Col. Baker: Was there more than one person yelling, do you think?
A.—I should think so, by the sound.
457. Mr. McKenzie: Was that all you heard?
A.—Yes, sir.
458. Mr. Bodwell: You heard that repeated?
A.—Yes, twice, that is all.
459. Mr. McKenzie: Don't you think that sounds as if some person were signalling to some other person, further on?
A.—Oh, no, sir; it was too far apart.
460. Mr. Bodwell: You were at the head of the procession, coming back?
A.—Yes, sir; I was in the first sleigh.
461. Q.—The snowballing had not commenced?
A.—No, sir.
462. Q.—Was there anything said to you by any man at the Half-way House?
A.—No, sir; I never saw those men at the Half-way House at all.
463. Mr. McKenzie: So that the only thing which struck you as wrong was that shouting, or "coo-ee" in the Cemetery?
A.—That was the first I heard.
464. Q.—That was the only thing?
A.—Yes, that is all. Of course, I see the women outside, coming back, but I never saw them snowballing.

465. Q.—How did this affect the people who were at the procession?
Objected to by Mr. McKenzie, as incompetent.
466. Mr. Croft: Have you been in mining districts before?
A.—Yes, sir; all my life.
467. Q.—Amongst large bodies of men?
A.—Yes, sir; in South Wales.
468. Q.—In South Wales, for instance, if there were two parties there, union and non-union, and there had been trouble between them for some time, do you think an attack on a funeral procession by one of the parties, would that be likely to cause the other party to make reprisals?
A.—Yes, sir; I think so.
469. Mr. McKenzie: Do you consider that coo-ee-ing an attack on the funeral procession? That is all you complain of?
A.—Yes, sir.
470. Q.—But you are not sure that that was meant for you?
A.—No, but I heard it at the time in the graveyard. I never heard nothing before we went in, nor after we came out.

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

471. Q.—Your name is James Richardson, and you live at Wellington?
A.—Yes, sir.
472. Q.—Were you at this funeral?
A.—Yes, sir.
473. Q.—And with the procession on its way back?
A.—Yes, sir.
474. Mr. McKenzie: How old are you?
A.—Seventeen, sir.
475. Mr. Bodwell: Did you see what was being thrown at the procession?
A.—Yes, sir.
476. Q.—What did you see?
A.—I saw snowballs, and saw a rock strike the runner.
477. Q.—How large was the rock?
A.—Bigger than that chunk of coal (referring to a portion weighing about 3 oz.).
478. Q.—That is while the procession was going through?
A.—Yes, sir.
479. Mr. McKenzie: How deep was the snow at the time?
A.—I could not tell, sir.
480. Q.—Was it a foot deep?
A.—About that.
481. Q.—And did these children actually dig down underneath the snow to pick up a stone?
A.—There was some places where there was no snow.
482. Q.—It had all melted off?
A.—Yes.
483. Col. Baker: Were you at the graveyard?
A.—Yes, sir.
484. Q.—Did you hear any noises there?
A.—No, sir; I didn't take any notice.
485. Q.—Did you pick up the stone that you saw?
A.—No, I didn't get it.
486. Q.—Were you inside the sleigh?
A.—Yes; I had been riding on the runner, but I got inside.
487. Mr. Bodwell: You got inside, then?
A.—Yes, sir.
488. Chairman: Did you see the effigy on the side of the road?
A.—No, sir; I didn't notice, I wasn't looking.

AFTER ADJOURNMENT. 7.30 P.M.

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

489. Q.—What is your name?
A.—John Haigh.
490. Q.—Where do you live?
A.—At Wellington.
491. Q.—Are you a miner?
A.—Yes.
492. Q.—You were at this funeral in question?
A.—Yes.
493. Q.—You went with the procession, and came back with it?
A.—I went with it, and came back with it.
494. Q.—Can you tell us of anything that you heard at the Cemetery?
A.—Well, during the reading of the service, while the coffin was being brought from the hearse to be deposited in the grave, I heard a noise from outside the fence some distance, but what that noise was meant for I could not swear to, but there was considerable noise during the reading of the ceremony.
495. Q.—What kind of noise?
A.—It was a kind of loud talking—a boisterous noise.
496. Q.—What impression did it create on your mind?
A.—Oh, I don't know; I didn't pay much attention; I was listening to the ceremony, but I thought it was either to annoy the interment, or else it was some person hooting for something. Of course, I could not see no person; I only heard the noise.
497. Q.—You say that you came back with the procession?
A.—Yes.
498. Q.—Just explain the position you were in. What occurred when you came back?
How you were seated, and where?
A.—Well, I was seated in the inside of the sled, towards the front end.
499. Q.—About what part of the procession, I mean to say?
A.—We was the last sled in the procession, and everything that occurred behind the sled of course I could see plainly, and when we was going through Northfield, there was some women by the roadside, and they was whooping and yelling, and all at once one of the women stoops down, and picks up a snowball, and throws it at the sled, and these youngsters, boys and girls, two of them with tin cans and the others with snowballs, runs after us, and throws snowballs. The first I noticed of the men was when we got to the Half-way House. The porch in front of the house was entirely full of men, or nearly so, and as soon as we was coming past, they commenced groaning, and “cover him up, cover him up,” “bury him,” and such language as that was used until we got right through.
500. Q.—Passing through Northfield, did you see any men?
A.—These first men I noticed particularly, I think it was Blakeley's house, it was a boarding house on the left hand side coming this way to Wellington, and there was a great number of men at that porch in front of the door, and they was yelling as we was coming past them. Who the men were, I cannot say. I think it was Blakeley's house, on the left-hand side.
501. Q.—That was in Northfield, on the way back?
A.—In Northfield.
502. Q.—Did you hear any words that were used?
A.—No, I didn't hear any of the words them men was using, at all.
503. Q.—I mean, of any person?
A.—Nothing but that “cover him up.”
504. Q.—And jeering?
A.—Oh, yes.
505. Col. Baker: When you were at the burial ground during the service, did this noise that you heard interrupt the service at all?

- A.—No, it didn't interrupt Mr. Green that was reading the funeral service. I don't suppose he scarcely heard it. Mr. Green, when he is engaged in funeral reading, I judge from his appearance that all his attention is centred on the service, and I don't think it attracted his attention, in any way, shape or form; but any person on the outside would have been annoyed under the circumstances with the noise made on the outside.
506. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: What was the nature of the noise?
A.—Well, it was a kind of "holloaing" and yelling.
507. Q.—In which direction?
A.—As we stood in the graveyard, it was across the fence from the graveyard.
508. Q.—Across the road?
A.—Well, I could not say which part of the graveyard the road was. It was full of snow. Where we went in it was right opposite where we buried the man. Whether it was facing the road or not, I don't know. As I got out of the sled I stood in front of the grave, and it was right in front of me, whichever way I stood.
509. Q.—Did you face the gate?
A.—No; I don't think we did face the gate. I think we went in at the gate and right to the back of the graveyard. I don't know much about that graveyard.
510. Q.—Col. Baker: Did the noise appear like shouting to the people at the service?
A.—Well, I could not swear, of course, whether it was to annoy the people or not what was the intention of the noise.
511. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: Then you cannot say it was done to annoy the people?
A.—I could not swear it was done to annoy the people, but the noise was there.
512. Q.—Was it a long way off?
A.—No; it was not very far away.
513. Q.—And yet you could not see who did it?
A.—No; I could not see.
514. Q.—Col. Baker: Is there a fence there?
A.—Yes; a fence all round, and then there is the timber.
515. Q.—Mr. Croft: I would like to ask this witness whether he considers that this so-called attack on the funeral procession is likely to create more ill-feeling between the non-union and the union men—more likely to lead to a rupture between the two? Whether you consider this an attack on the non-union men?
A.—Well, the attack from the graveyard to Wellington was an entire attack on the non-union men on account of their working at Wellington. There is no doubt in my mind that that is what it was for—to insult and annoy the men as they was returning from the grave.
516. Q.—Do you consider that the men were responsible for the children?
A.—Whether they were or not I can't say; I don't know, but undoubtedly the women were, because they knew they intended to return.

HENRY WHITE, called and sworn (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

517. Q.—Do you live at Wellington?
A.—Yes, sir; my name is Henry White
518. Q.—What is your occupation?
A.—Miner.
519. Q.—You were at the funeral that has been spoken of here?
A.—Yes, sir.
520. Q.—Did anything occur at the Cemetery?
A.—Yes, sir; when we drove in the Cemetery and got to the grave, and as the parson was reading the ceremony from the waggon or hearse up to the grave, why there was a noise out in the woods, right facing where we was; some kind of loud noise, holloaing and shouting.
521. Q.—What did it sound like to you?
A.—It sounded like some one was trying to make a noise to disturb the ceremony, to me.

522. Q.—Was it loud enough to do that?
A.—Yes, sir; it was quite loud.
523. Q.—You came back with the procession?
A.—Yes, sir; we came back in the second sleigh; we was in an open sleigh.
524. Q.—Now, tell the Committee what you saw?
A.—Well, the pall-bearers was away ahead of us, and we came next, and when we come through Northfield the first place we noticed was the Half-way House. Just before we got there there was no one on the porch, but as we got there a lot of them rushed out, and one of them—I think it was to a man called Bob or Tom—he said: “Bob, I am surprised at you driving such people; I wonder you don’t drive respectable people.” Then they shouted and called us “black-legs” and “scabs,” and we met crowds of women and boys with armsful of snowballs like that (illustrating), and then boys with coal oil cans and with sticks, holloaing and calling “blacklegs” and one thing and another. Mr. Sharp was there and heard it; and I saw one woman rush up and throw a snowball at Mr. Sharp in the buggy.
525. Q.—Did you hear what she called him?
A.—She called him a red-headed son of a gun.
526. Q.—And threw a snowball at him?
A.—Yes, sir.
527. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: Were you in the procession?
A.—Yes, sir; I was in the second sleigh coming home. We was in the last sleigh going, but we passed some coming back that was loaded a little heavier.
528. Q.—Was there any man there?
A.—Yes, sir; that was the first part, but as we came back, and got further, there was other women met them, holloaing and shouting, and the men were encouraging them, standing in the doorway with pit caps on. They holloaed and shouted, but we didn’t pay any attention to them, but drove on as fast as we could to get out of it.
529. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: At what o’clock would that be?
A.—Well, I should judge it was between half-past 4 and 5 o’clock; I think it was about a quarter-past 5 when we got to the Wellington Hotel. That was when we got out of the sleigh. I could not say for sure.
530. Q.—The men were just going to their work?
A.—Oh, no; I guess they had been home some time; they were washed.
531. Q.—But you say they had pit caps on?
A.—Well, so have I, sometimes here in the evening. There was one that done the shouting, that I noticed particularly, had a pit cap on; his wife was there with a baby in her arms.
532. Q.—Do you know his name?
A.—No, sir; I never was in Northfield before in my life.

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

533. Q.—You live at Wellington?
A.—Yes, sir.
534. Q.—What position do you hold?
A.—Assistant manager of mines.
535. Q.—Of the Wellington mines?
A.—Yes.
536. Q.—Were you at the funeral which has been spoken of in evidence here to-day?
A.—Yes, sir.
537. Q.—Will you state to the Committee what happened in connection with that funeral, as far as you know?
A.—Well, while the funeral was leaving Wellington sort of disrespectable sounds and remarks was shown towards us while passing through the miners that had gathered beyond the Wellington hotel for the purpose of marching in their ordinary procession. I may explain to you that Mr. Hugo and I was in the rear of the funeral procession, and we occupied the last buggy. At that

particular time there would be, I would say, nearly 100 men gathered in going to the Cemetery—gathered for the purpose of the procession. Quite a number of them passed “disrespectable” remarks concerning Mr. Hugo and myself.

538. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: What were those remarks?

A.—Well, it was just in this way: “Oh, what is this?” “Oh, it is just a blackleg,” one would remark to the other, and several remarks of that kind was passed amongst the men. Nothing more occurred until we entered the village of Northfield.

539. Q.—Col. Baker: Did these men gather when you were starting on the procession?

540. Mr. Bodwell: These were the men gathered for the miners’ procession, who (to witness) made these remarks while you were passing?

A.—While I was passing? I was the last buggy in the funeral procession.

542. Q.—Did anything further happen until you arrived at the village of Northfield?

A.—Yes; there would be some boys,—six or seven of them,—whose ages ranged from 7 to 11. They walked behind our buggy, or round about the buggy, and made something of the same kind of remarks with reference to blacklegs.

543. Mr. McKenzie: These children did?

A.—These children. However, there were no other remarks until we came to the far end of Northfield, and there were two or three women gathered here and there who seemed to me to be most disrespectful. They made quite frequent remarks to one another with reference to the funeral procession being of blacklegs.

544. Mr. Bodwell: Well?

A.—Well, they said: “There is a lot of blacklegs,” and two or three of them struck up a cheer. Well, it was not so much from the voices as from the waving of hands, you know—just in this way (illustrating), so they was giving us a cheer. When we were in the Cemetery, I could not say that I heard anything spoken. I may say that a funeral service at the grave-yard is a thing that is entirely new to me, and I was giving Mr. Green’s service considerable attention; but, once or twice, I thought I heard sounds which indicated disrespect coming from someone—from some people outside—but of that I would not be so positive. Naturally, of course, the men were talking about it as we came away. I would not have mentioned it.

545. Q.—When you were coming away from the Cemetery, you heard it remarked by others?

A.—While we were getting into the sleigh. There is one incident I omitted to mention, going down. While we came to the Half-way House, there was a number of men came up from the Half-way House, and stood in the doorway, and they made a remark: “There is Hugo—take the bugger’s nose off,” or “the bugger’s nose ought to be taken off,” I would not be sure which of the two statements it was. That expression was used by one man standing, I would say, with 5 or 6.

546. Q.—Then you left the Cemetery after the service, and started on your way back?

A.—Yes.

547. Q.—You were with the body of the people returning?

A.—There was one sleigh immediately in front of us, and all the others was to my rear. While we were just entering the village of Northfield, I could see that there had been quite a lot of preparation made for our return. The women were running from one door to another, somewhat excitedly, and I could see several effigies standing by the roadside.

548. Mr. McKenzie: Several?

A.—There was one distinct effigy of a woman—at least, I took it to be—on a pole about this high, and it had a woman’s dress on, and there was nothing shewing the head, but just on top of the dress there was a deep mourning veil. That was standing on the right-hand side of the road, I think opposite about the second house in Northfield, coming to Wellington.

549. Q.—Do you think that had any significance with reference to the funeral procession?

A.—Well, I took the thing just to be a complete insult, and felt very much aggrieved to think that people was so ignorant and stupid to do that while we were

returning home from such a solemn ceremony. I want to explain what I mentioned about several effigies. There was two. My attention this time was somewhat taken up with the snowballing, which was being commenced; but there was a second one there. I think it was just the trousers of a man that was put on a pole, and a pit cap on the top of it; and in the rear was another sort of a thing, indicating a rig of a miner, and some sort of mourning cloth hanging on it. Then the women began snowballing on each side of the road at a lot of men that was immediately in front of me in the sleigh, containing, I would say, a dozen of men. They would pelt at that sleigh, I would say, not less than 30 or 40 snowballs.

550. Mr. McKenzie: Who would do this?

A.—There were three women particularly engaged, standing each side of the other, and then there would be about a dozen boys and girls, of ages ranging from 9 to 11 years. The boys and girls that was snowballing at this end of the town they did look to me a year or so older than the ones that we met coming in, but there was quite a number, because they were throwing these snowballs; they were shouting every conceivable insult: "blacklegs," "sons-of-bitches," and so on, and hooting and bowing; and two or three girls and boys on this side had oil-cans, rattling them with pieces of sticks. Every man in this part of Northfield was standing in the doorways, shouting to the women as if encouraging them, and every woman stood in the doorways waving something in their hands, and bowing in this sort of way (illustrating).

551. Chairman: What was that something they were waving?

A.—Well, at least one woman, I would know her if I saw her. She was standing in the door, and she had a piece of cloth or something just in her hand. I think there would be, perhaps, 4 or 5 women standing in the door as we passed at Northfield. Then, the snowballing was evidently going to be directed towards me, and it was at this particular time that this remark was made we formerly spoke about. I think I would be about 5 or 6 feet, then, from these women. I had turned the buggy a little, so that I could call, in order so as to speak to the women that I thought I should hear from, and I could see their hands—we were not 5 or 6 feet away—and I laid the reins down, and spoke to the woman, and said, "If you throw that snowball here, I will come out of it," just through the bars in the covered buggy. They dropped their hands, and just as I was moving a little further, a snowball came and struck the arm of the buggy, just where my cheek was.

552. Q.—Was any remark made?

A.—Oh, yes; all these women made several nasty remarks.

553. Mr. Croft: What remark did they make?

A.—Oh, the old story over again: "Give it to the blacklegs," "let the blacklegs have it." In coming further up towards Blakeley & Rogers' boarding-house, several men were standing there shouting "blackleg," and coming to Young & Bickle's store, I would say there was no less than 20 men standing on the verandah, with 8 or 9 boys standing in front of them, all having snowballs prepared.

554. Mr. McKenzie: The men, too?

A.—No, sir; no, they hadn't the courage to do that.

555. Q.—Go on, Mr. Sharp?

A.—The boys then commenced to throw the snowballs at the people in the sleigh in front of me, and quite a number of the men called out—I took it to be to the boys—to "give it to Hugo and Sharp." They cried "There was Hugo," and "there was that red-headed son-of-a-bitch—give it to him."

556. Q.—That is what the men said?

A.—Yes; so I saw and heard no more.

557. Q.—Were the snowballs thrown at you by these boys after these remarks were uttered?

A.—Oh, yes.

558. Q.—You are over the men in the mine, here; you are next to the manager, are you not?

A.—Yes.

559. Q.—As a result of what has occurred, has anything happened with the men?
A.—Well, I must say, with very considerable regret, that it caused quite a feeling to arise amongst our workmen. On going down one of the shafts the next morning there were two or three standing talking, and I made an approach to enquire.
560. Q.—I think you can hardly tell what they said, but I think you might state whether there has been any result?
A.—Well, the result has been this—that there was a likelihood that something was going to be done—that they would resent the insult.
561. Chairman: Did you think that, yourself?
A.—Yes, sir; I told these men I thought they should bear it, that we had done a good thing in consigning our deceased fellow workman as we had done, and what these people at Northfield had done would recoil upon themselves. Of course, they said to me they could not always stand to be insulted, and had got all the insults they intended to get.
562. Q.—That was the feeling engendered among the men?
A.—Yes.
563. Q.—Is there any doubt in your mind of the intentions of these actions of the people?
A.—Oh, well—
Objected to by Mr. McKenzie.
- Witness: There is no doubt in my mind that these actions have created a feeling with the people that I wish it was removed, that one would almost wish the day had come when it would be removed.
564. Mr. McKenzie: Where in the procession were you?
A.—Coming back?
565. Q.—Yes.
A.—I was in the second buggy—there was a sleigh containing 8 or 9 men just above the one I was in, and the other sleighs were in the rear of us.
566. Mr. Bodwell: The second buggy from the front?
A.—Yes.
567. Q.—Mr. McKenzie: Could everybody hear what was said to you in the neighbourhood, that time?
A.—Well, there is this much, you know: The buggy in front of me was quite close, and so was the buggy just in rear of me, and I had no doubt whatever that the people just in front of me, and in rear could hear what was said to me, because it was shouted vehemently.
568. Q.—Because from what we have heard the other people tell, your story is stronger than theirs, and if you heard it you must be able to hear better than they, if your story is correct?
A.—Well, on that particular occasion, I drove my buggy slow, coming from Northfield; it had been raining, and I knew the people would do a great wrong, I kept by them, my eyes and ears open, and I have no doubt whatever that there was more of them directed to Mr. Hugo and I than any other.
569. Q.—How far were you from the buggy in front, and from that behind?
A.—Well, there was two boys sitting right just on the back of the sleigh, and just near Northfield the boys were amusing themselves with the horsewhip, touching the horse as it was approaching and receding. I should say about eight or nine yards. At this time, I looked round to see how the other people were “spearing.”
570. Col. Baker: What distance would there be from the front of the procession to the end of it?
A.—I could not say that. I only saw the sleigh in rear of me.
571. Q.—There were six or seven?
A.—Yes, I was in the second, coming over.
572. Mr. McKenzie: Had your buggy a cover on?
A.—On the back end.
573. Mr. Bodwell: The cover was down, I suppose?
A.—No; I had drawn the cover up, before that. And of course I was anxious to see that the other people were getting through a little better than I was, and

I looked round to see, and I was just hoping, you know my anxiety was that none of our men would get out of the buggy.

574. Q.—How far were you from Mr. Green's sleigh?

A.—Oh, I don't know; I never saw Mr. Green except in the Cemetery.

JOSEPH B. HUGO, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. Bodwell.)

575. Chairman: What is your name?

A.—Joseph B. Hugo.

576. Mr. Bodwell: Where do you live?

A.—Wellington.

577. Q.—What is your occupation?

A.—Miner.

578. Q.—You were with Mr. Sharp in the buggy? at the procession, were you?

A.—Yes.

579. Q.—You have heard the evidence which Mr. Sharp has given?

A.—I heard some of it; a great deal of it.

580. Q.—Is there anything with reference to this which Mr. Sharp has omitted, that you remember?

A.—I don't know what he said in the former part of the testimony.

581. Q.—Perhaps you had better state what you saw?

A.—When we were going up the road, that is just above the hotel, the union men were assembling for the procession, and they seemed to open on each side of the road to allow the funeral procession to pass through, but when Mr. Sharp and myself came up, there was quite a deal of short groans and barks, considerably, through the crowd, more particularly at this end than any other portion of it, and most of the men were standing to. I told Mr. Sharp, says I, "that is for my benefit." He said, "I expect that it is." We went by through them, and that is all I saw of them. Then we come up to Northfield—you must please to understand that we occupied the last buggy in the procession, and consequently I think we were in a position to see more than anybody else saw—going, anyway. When we were going through Northfield there was quite a good deal of snowballs being thrown at the carriages in front of us, that was going to the Cemetery. Furthermore, it must be understood that we, riding in a buggy, had our faces towards those that were ahead of us, but quite a number of those riding in sleighs had their sides, and consequently could not see but very little of what was transpiring.

582. Q.—You saw snowballs thrown towards the procession, and it was done going towards Northfield?

A.—I saw them pass, but who threw them I don't know; but I think the people on the roadside, but I think principally by good rough-sized boys.

583. Q.—Did you hear noises being made?

A.—Yes, there were noises, but nothing like it was when we were coming back. When we got in at the Cemetery and the minister was reading the service, or after, rather, I went to Mr. Jones and Mr. Sharp, and I told them that we were going to have a difficulty in going back.

584. Q.—That is scarcely evidence; but did you hear any noises at the Cemetery?

A.—I did not; my attention was not called to that at all.

585. Q.—Then, coming back, tell us what you saw?

A.—I saw the effigy of a man on the left-hand side; he had something wrapped around one leg that was black, and something wrapped round the other that was white, and there was something on the top of it; I believe it was a miner's cap.

586. Q.—Had that effigy any significance, to your mind?

A.—Why, certainly it had. It represented what those people have been in the habit of calling those men that are at work.

587. Q.—What is that?

A.—A "blackleg."

588. Q.—You have heard what Mr. Sharp said about the snowballing—you have heard that part of his evidence, do you corroborate that?

- A.—I corroborate pretty near every word ; but I think that Mr. Sharp was mistaken in the position that we occupied, for the simple reason that there was a sleigh away ahead of us from the town that got away without any trouble at all, I think : but he is correct in the statement as to the position we occupied in the one immediately following us. We were second to that, and there was nothing within probably 200 or 300 yards ahead of that—the one immediately in front of that.
589. Q.—The sleigh that had got away ?
A.—Was hurrying to return to town.
590. Q.—Col. Baker : Did you occupy a different position in returning to the position you occupied in going ?
A.—Yes, sir ; in going we were in the last carriage, and in coming back we were the third.
591. Q.—Mr. McKenzie : Did the miner's procession lower their flags when you passed ?
A.—I don't know that ; I can't say they didn't do it. I heard some stories about their uncovering their heads ; I saw it in the Free Press.
592. Q.—Why do you call it stories ?
A.—Because I didn't see them do it.
593. Q.—You saw the snowballs thrown at Northfield as the procession was going to the Cemetery : why could you not see the persons who threw them—you say you had a good point of observation ?
A.—Well, I will tell you why. You know, I think, there were eight carriages. The hearse, you know, all the time took the lead, of course, and the end carriages has got to be governed in their pace by the pace of the hearse. It happens sometimes that when the hearse goes over good ground it moves pretty quick, especially in the country places, and the hinder carriages has got to get a start ; and in some places along the road they are stretched out nearly a quarter of a mile, and in other places they snug up to each other, when the hearse takes a rise. You understand that ?

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

594. Q.—Chairman : Your name is Thomas Thomas ?
A.—Yes, sir.
595. Q.—Mr. Bodwell : Where do you live ?
A.—Wellington.
596. Q.—What is your occupation ?
A.—Miner.
597. Q.—Did you hear any noises at the Cemetery ?
A.—I cannot say.
598. Q.—You were at this funeral procession ?
A.—Yes, sir.
599. Q.—What position were you in in the procession coming back ?
A.—I was next to the hearse going down.
600. Q.—Coming home, I am speaking of ?
A.—I was about the last one, I believe.
601. Q.—Tell us what you saw ?
A.—When we come to Northfield the first thing we saw was people rushing out in the street to the roadside, women first, three of them jeering, laughing, shouting "blacklegs," "scabs," and everything. On the other side, a little further on again, some coming down and standing at the bottom, and a few kids with tin cans and clubs beating the cans.
602. Q.—Anything more ?
A.—And then, a little further on again, we come to a boarding-house ; a big crowd there came rushing out from the door. One man especially, he said : "You damned blackleg and son of a bitch," and turned and smacked his behind.
603. Q.—That was at one of the miners' boarding-houses in Northfield ?
A.—Yes, sir.
604. Q.—Were there more men there besides him ?
A.—Oh, yes ; about a dozen, sir. I knew this man particularly.

605. Q.—Do you know the name?

A.—Yes, sir.

606. Q.—What is the name?

A.—William D. Bowen.

607. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: You have heard what the other witnesses said about snowballing?

A.—Yes, sir; we got lots of that.

608. Q.—You corroborate that, do you?

A.—Yes, sir.

609. Q.—Mr. Smith: Were you riding in a covered carriage or sleigh?

A.—A covered buggy.

Mr. Bodwell:—There are a great many more men here prepared to give the same evidence, but as they will go over the same ground, unless the Committee consider it necessary, I will not call them. There is one witness, however, that I should like to call, but it is only fair to state to the Committee what the evidence would be, as it might not come quite within the scope of the enquiry, though I think that it does. One of the officers of the Wellington Mines, who was in the procession, and whose evidence would corroborate everything that has happened on the way out, was unfortunately detained in Nanaimo for some little time, and did not come back until after the procession had come through, but he was one of the procession, and there were some insults offered to him quite different in character, but it strikes me that it is all part of one transaction. He had been detained, and was later than the rest.

Col. Baker:—When were the insults offered to him?

Mr. Bodwell:—On his way home. He was driving with another man, but he was one of the funeral party, and was known to be, and there is no doubt as to the intention with which the insults were directed to him.

Ruled out.

THOS. WEBLEY, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. McKenzie.)

610. Q.—Were you at Northfield when the procession passed?

A.—No, sir.

611. Q.—Oh, well you are of no use then?

A.—I was in the mines.

612. Q.—It was Mrs. Webley that we want?

A.—I must tell you, gentlemen, my baby, six months old, is very sick, and the doctor was there this evening at my house, and informed my missis to keep within the doors while the baby would be sick until such time as it would get better.

613. Q.—Is your brother-in-law here?

A.—No, sir.

HY. McADIE, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. McKenzie.)

614. Q.—Col. Baker:—Where do you live?

A.—At Nanaimo.

615. Mr. McKenzie:—What is your business?

A.—Undertaker.

616. Q.—Were you the party that buried the late Ellis Roberts?

A.—Yes, sir.

617. Q.—Will you tell us about the funeral—where it started from?

A.—The funeral started from his cabin, that is down this end of town.

618. Q.—Where did you go then?

A.—We assembled there at the funeral, as usual on an occasion of that kind. There were more people attended the funeral than we had carriages for. The men attended the funeral in procession from the town, and when we came opposite the hotel up here the union men was forming a procession or standing there, I suppose to have their procession; but I stopped the funeral there, and asked the pall-bearers to get on and ride—those that could ride,—and the non-union men could go one side and pass by quietly.

619. Q.—Did you hear any groaning?
A.—No, I did not hear any groaning.
620. Q.—Did you hear the word “blackleg” spoken?
A.—No.
621. Q.—No word spoken?
A.—No.
622. Q.—Did the miners’ procession lower their flags when they passed?
A.—There was no flags up that I could see at that time.
623. Q.—Did they take off their hats or caps?
A.—Some of them did— one or two ; not altogether, one or two.
624. Q.—Did the miners’ procession insult the funeral procession, or not?
A.—Not to my knowledge. I did not see it. I was in the front all the way.
625. Chairman:—Were you on the hearse?
A.—I was on the hearse riding. I didn’t see anything that happened behind.
626. Q.—What next took place in your presence?
A.—Nothing that I seen unbecoming.
627. Q.—And you went on where?
A.—To the graveyard.
628. Q.—You went to Northfield?
A.—Yes.
629. Q.—Did anything happen there?
A.—Nothing. There is a hill going down on the road that is slippy, and I drove fast to keep out of the way of the other stages, and if anything did take place I could not see it. The road was bad, and the horses were slipping.
630. Q.—You did not hear any shouting?
A.—No.
631. Q.—Or snowballing?
A.—No.
632. Q.—Then, at the Half-way House, did anything take place?
A.—No.
633. Q.—At the cemetery what took place?
A.—We buried the man—the corpse—as usual, that is all I see ; the same as at a funeral. There was considerable confusion, the snow being deep ; a little commotion, but I didn’t hear anything unseemly-like.
634. Q.—You did not hear any hooting or shouting?
A.—No ; the teamsters might be making a little noise with the horses, the snow being deep.
635. Q.—Nothing beyond that?
A.—No.
636. Q.—You did not hear any shouting outside, beyond the fence?
A.—No.
637. Q.—Would you be likely to have heard if there had been?
A.—Well, I don’t think I would. I had to look after what you might call “everything.” I did not look to anything but my business.
638. Q.—You heard nothing that you could notice?
A.—No, I didn’t hear anything outside.
639. Q.—You did not go back, of course, with the funeral?
A.—No, I came back right to Nanaimo.
640. Col. Baker : Then you were not in Northfield coming back?
A.—No, sir.

HUGH CHAMBERS, called and sworn. (Examined by Mr. McKenzie.)

641. Q.—You are a grave-digger, are you not?
A.—Yes, sir.
642. Q.—Where?
A.—At Nanaimo Cemetery.
643. Q.—You live at —?
A.—Fraser street, Nanaimo.

644. Q.—You dug the grave of the late Ellis Roberts?
A.—Yes, sir.
645. Q.—You attended at the grave, did you?
A.—Yes, sir.
- 646.—Q.—Tell us what took place there?
A.—I didn't see anything unusual. Everything was just the same as any other grave. I didn't see anything unusual.
647. Col. Baker : Did you hear any noises?
A.—No, nothing. I am not very good at hearing, anyway, but I didn't hear anything in particular, more than at any other place.
- 648.—Mr. McKenzie : There was no hooting?
A.—Not that I heard.
649. Q.—Or yelling?
A.—Not that I heard.
650. Q.—Or anything to cause a disturbance?
A.—Nothing that I could see.
651. Q.—Are there people living in the neighbourhood of the Cemetery?
A.—I don't think any one nearer than Gibson, or Mr. Rosewall the other way.
652. Q.—Could you hear anybody from Gibson's or Rosewall's place?
A.—No, I could not.

JOHN McNURDO, volunteered and sworn.

653. Col. Baker : Where do you live?
A.—I have been stopping at Nanaimo here for three months. I live in Nanaimo.
654. Q.—You are a miner?
A.—Yes, sir.
655. Mr. McKenzie:—Are you a union man?
A.—No, sir.
656. Chairman : Do you wish to make a statement with regard to the funeral in any way, as to what you saw or heard?
A.—I have but little statement to make. I was there in the funeral procession. In going down I didn't see anything out of the way. Everything all went smoothly enough.
657. Q.—Did you go from Wellington down in the funeral procession?
A.—Yes, sir.
658. Q.—In a buggy?
A.—Is this Nanaimo or Wellington? Wellington, I get things mixed up. Excuse me, Wellington, instead of Nanaimo.
659. Q.—Did you go from Wellington down instead of Nanaimo?
A.—From Wellington down.
660. Col. Baker : You did not see anything unusual?
A.—No; sir.
661. Q.—Coming back, did you?
A.—Well, coming back, there was nothing out of the way much, only a little snow balling, and a little noise.
662. Chairman : Did you hear any names called?
A.—I heard none that I could distinguish.
663. Q.—“Blacklegs,” or “scabs,” or anything of that kind?
A.—I didn't distinguish any.
664. Col. Baker : There was snowballing?
A.—Yes, sir.
665. Q.—Who by?
A.—Well, by women and children.
666. Chairman : Can you hear pretty good?
A.—Tolerably fair.
667. Q.—You would be apt to hear if anybody called out any names?
A.—Yes, sir.
668. Q.—Were you at the front, at the end, or in the centre?
A.—I was in the second rig coming back.

669. Mr. McKenzie : Is that the one that Mr. Sharp was in, coming back ?
A.—No, sir ; he was right behind.
670. Q.—Were you in a covered buggy ?
A.—No, sir, in a sleigh.
671. Q.—The sleigh was covered ?
A.—No, sir, it was an open sleigh.
672. Q.—Could you see all that was going on ?
A.—I could.
673. Mr. Croft : Who was in the sleigh with you ?
A.—I don't know who was in the sleigh. I was not acquainted with but one man, Pat Rooney.
674. Q.—Did you see any snowballs thrown ?
A.—Well, I felt some.
675. Q.—They were thrown at you ?
A.—They struck me in the back with one.
676. Q.—Did you see who threw them ?
A.—They was boys that threw them.
677. Mr. McKenzie : Did you feel hurt and injured by it ?
A.—None.
678. Q.—Not a bit ?
A.—No, sir.
679. Q.—Not a bit injured by it ?
A.—Not hurt.
680. Col Baker : Did you see any women throw snowballs ?
A.—Yes, sir ; I saw a woman throw snowballs.
681. Q.—Did you think it was an insult to you ?
A.—Well, I took it as an insult.
682. Q.—You did ?
A.—I did, under the circumstances.
683. Mr. Bodwell : Didn't you throw your coat over your head to protect yourself from this snowballing ?
A.—No, sir ; I threw my hand up to catch my hat, when it knocked my hat off. The other snowball passed over me, and knocked the other fellow in the face. That is Jones, right across, sitting in front of me.

JOHN B. GREENWELL, volunteered and sworn.

684. Col. Baker : Where do you live ?
A.—I am living in a tent.
685. Q.—At Wellington ?
A.—Yes, sir.
686. Q.—You are a miner ?
A.—That is my business, sir. The union men formed at a tent I live in, assembled there alongside the road, and the hearse passed while we were assembling. We was gathering to form a procession, and we got orders to stand there till the funeral passed, I suppose about ten minutes. I lowered the flag twice ; they told me to lower the flag. I lowered the flag, and some stood one side and some on the other.
687. Q.—Who gave you orders ?
A.—The head man, John Suggett.
688. Mr. McKenzie : Did they insult the funeral procession in any way ? Did you make any remarks to them ?
A. There was no remarks made while the funeral was passing.
689. Mr. Bodwell : Do you mean to say you did not make use of any insulting expression yourself ?
A.—No insulting expression.
690. Q.—Didn't you do that, and say something to one of the drivers ?
A.—No, sir ; I did not.
691. Q.—You swear to that ?
A.—Solemnly.

692. Q.—You are one of the leaders of the strike?
A.—No, sir.
693. Q.—Are you not one of the men who were brought to trial, and waiting now for sentence?
A.—I am one of those waiting for sentence.
694. Q.—And liable to be called any day for sentence?
A.—Called for on Monday.
Mr. McKenzie: I hope it won't hurt you your coming here to-day, anyway.
695. Col. Baker: What did you say afterwards about the funeral procession?
A.—As soon as ever they passed, we formed ourselves, and carried on our regular march.
696. Q.—You did not see any of them again, did you?
A.—No, sir.
697. Q.—Did you hear any other remarks made at the time?
A.—No; the order was given to be as civil as possible.
698. Mr. McKenzie: Did any of your men take off their hats?
A.—Well, I could not say that, sir. I don't know, sir.

CHAS. MCGALLAGHER, volunteered and sworn.

699. Col. Baker: Where do you live?
A.—In Wellington.
700. Q.—You are a miner?
A.—Yes, sir.
701. Mr. McKenzie: Are you a union or a non-union man?
A.—Union.
702. Q.—Tell us what you know of this case.
A.—Well, I don't know much about it, more than I helped to form the procession, and I think we waited from 10 to 15 minutes to allow the funeral to pass before we formed; and then, after the funeral had passed, we formed into procession, and did the usual marching.
703. Q.—Was the funeral procession insulted in any way?
A.—Not that I heard.
704. Q.—Or was anybody in it called any names?
A.—Not that I heard.
705. Q.—Were the flags lowered?
A.—Yes.
706. Q.—Did you see any of the miners of your crowd take off their hats while the procession passed?
A.—Well, I could not say that I did.
707. Q.—No disrespect was shown?
A.—No; not that I saw.
708. Q.—Did you hear anyone make any remarks that they were not to do it?
A.—Yes, "Let everyone pass peaceably."
709. Q.—Mr. Bodwell: Did you have any special orders with reference to this procession?
A.—No, not more than that.
710. Q.—What part of the procession were you in?
A.—Well, I was in the crowd; the procession was not formed at the time.
711. Q.—I am speaking of the miner's procession; what part of the crowd were you in?
A.—I think I may have been somewhere about the middle.
712. Q.—And how far were you from the funeral procession?
A.—Only a few feet of it; it passed while we were standing by the side of the road?
713. Q.—But the crowd extended along a considerable distance?
A.—Yes, sir, extended along the road, and on each side of the road.
714. Q.—And things might have been said that you did not hear?
A.—Quite possible, at the other end, in a low tone; anything that had been said loud, I might have heard it.
715. Q.—But low mutterings you would not hear?
A.—No, not at a distance.

716. Q.—Col. Baker : After the funeral procession marched past, where did you go to ?
A.—Marched to Wellington.
717. Q.—Away from the funeral procession ?
A.—Yes, sir.
718. Q.—So that you saw nothing more of them ?
A.—No, sir.

FRED. FRITZ, volunteered and sworn.

719. Q.—Col. Baker : Do you live at Wellington ?
A.—Yes, sir.
720. Q.—And are a miner ?
A.—Yes, sir.
721. Q.—Are you a union man ?
A.—No, sir.
722. Q.—You were in the procession ?
A.—Yes, sir.
723. Q.—Did you hear the evidence that was given before ?
A.—Well, in regards to snowballing, it is about the same. As I was coming back from the funeral there was quite a number snowballing. The first I seen was three women standing on the roadside, waving with their aprons and shouting and holloaing “scabs” and “blacklegs,” and so forth ; and, further on, driving on slowly, Mr. Sharp was in front with his buggy, so we could not go very fast. I noticed in particular that after the snowballing commenced there was more snowballing flying into his buggy than in any other part of the procession ; and after passing a short distance along on the roadside I seen something imitating a person supposed, with one black leg colour sticking out a distance from the other, and the other was white, and with something on the top of it that seemed to be a miner’s cap. Then, after a distance of about 100 yards or so, on the right-hand side of the road, I noticed a figure which was imitating mourning, in deep mourning crape. And there was one snowball I noticed thrown with very heavy speed at the driver that was driving the sleigh that I was sitting in ; it went in and hit him right alongside of the face, and I spoke to the party that was sitting next to me and said : “This is a very awful reception we are getting coming from a funeral,” and he said to me, “Well,” he says, “we cannot expect nothing more ; it only shows their ignorance.” And I took it as a grand insult for one. I thought it was one of the greatest insults that I have ever taken in all my experience ; and that, furthermore, it was one of the most outrageous affairs I have ever witnessed in all my life to disturb people that are going to a funeral to bury the dead, and then, coming home, to be insulted in such a manner. It is to me almost impossible to think of human beings to insult a funeral procession in such a manner as they did at that time.
724. Q.—Col. Baker : When at the graveyard did you hear anything ?
A.—I didn’t hear anything at the graveyard. I was paying close attention to the ceremony.
725. Q.—Mr. Smith—Did you hear anything when you went down from the graveyard ?
A.—Well, after I went down, I was seated in the sleigh ; I was sitting in the fourth bench of the sleigh, and coming back I could see what was going on behind and in front of me, but on the sides I could not see, because the blinds was down, so I suppose other parties witnessed more than I did in that regards.
726. Q.—Did you see any snowballs thrown as you went down ?
A.—No, sir ; I seen quite a number of people standing looking out, gazing, laughing, and so on ; whether they had any bad intentions or not I cannot say, but I know it was a grand insult coming back.

PETITION.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia.

The petition of the Vancouver Water Works Company humbly sheweth:—

(1.) That your petitioners are desirous of having the Act passed in the 49th Victoria, and known as the "Vancouver Water Works Act, 1886," amended by the repeal of section 35 (thirty-five) of the said Act.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your honourable body will be pleased to sanction an Act to repeal the said section thirty-five.

And your petitioners, in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[SEAL.]

JNO. IRVING,
President.