In 1919, the coal industry in Alberta was in a state of hardship. World War One had just ended, and veterans were returning to their old jobs. The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia had wreaked havoc and unemployment throughout the world, and Americans were taking over the western Canadian markets.

In an effort to determine the state of the coal mining business, the Alberta government established a Coal Commission in that year to hear evidence on all aspects of the industry. In the months that followed, the Commission heard miners complaining about the unbelievable working conditions, poor sanitation, and inadequate schools. Mine owners pointed to strikes, recent battles with the One Big Union, and of overproduction. Government representatives gave evidence on the lack of the Manitoba markets, the extant quality of Alberta coal, and methods of increasing sales.

The verbatim testimony of the witnesses is printed in this volume. Edited by Labor historian David J. Berenson, it provides a valuable social and economic view of Alberta's coal industry in the post-World War One era.

The book is the second in a series published by the Historical Society of Alberta in its program to make significant archival and manuscript material readily available to the public. The first volume was The Hinda Journals, 1869-1918, published in 1977.
INTRODUCTION

This volume is an edited transcript of the hearings of the Alberta Coal Mining Industry Commission of 1919. The government-appointed Commission was established in the late spring of 1919 to study all important aspects of the mining, distribution, marketing and uses of Alberta's coal resources. It held hearings in each of the coal producing areas of Alberta and witnesses—mine owners and managers, miners, government officials and consumers—were invited to give their opinion on the state of the industry. Their verbatim evidence was transcribed from stenographers' notes and was used by the Commission to arrive at a series of recommendations to the provincial government (see Appendix I). The Commission was formed because the post-World War One period was a time of labour unrest and business uncertainty; the government and the coal industry wanted to know the industry's state of health and what could be done to improve it. Because of this, the Commission's evidence presents a good picture of the Alberta coal industry in 1919 and the main concerns of the people connected with it.

Coal mining in Alberta began in the 1880s when mines
Introduction

were opened in the Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Canmore areas. These were small operations designed to produce coal for the Canadian Pacific Railway or home heating fuel for the handful of newly-arrived white settlers. In the 1890s larger collieries were opened in the Crowsnest Pass while small mines, sometimes operated by two or three men, were dug in the vicinity of Edmonton. After 1909 the Coal Branch was opened in the foothills west of Edmonton. The last major coal region was opened two years later in Drumheller, northeast of Calgary. By the outbreak of World War One in August, 1914, coal mining was a major industry. Alberta collieries contributed more than 27 percent of total Canadian production; more than 3.5 million tons in 1914. Over 8,000 persons were directly employed by the industry, the bulk working as underground miners.

Alberta coal was roughly divided into two categories. "Steam" coal was primarily mined in the Coal Branch and Crowsnest Pass areas. It was good bituminous with low ash and moisture content suitable for fuelling steam engines and providing power for the smelters of British Columbia. Steam coal collieries tended to be large operations with multiple shafts employing several hundred men in each. Until the end of World War One they generally sold all they could produce and had few marketing problems. "Domestic" coal was intended for heating buildings. It was poorer bituminous or lignite coal with a relatively high ash and moisture content. Most came from the smaller mines in the Edmonton, Drumheller and Lethbridge fields, though some collieries in these areas also produced steam coal. The market for domestic coal was always less secure than for steam coal. Producers had little trouble selling in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but beyond that their reach was limited. The west coast was serviced by mines on Vancouver Island while consumers in the American Pacific Northwest purchased coal mined in the state of Washington. Alberta producers could not compete against high quality Pennsylvania anthracite allowed into the central Canadian market by Canadian tariff policy designed to keep fuel costs as low as possible. They could usually not even compete in Winnipeg. Alberta coal went east by rail, an expensive operation, while Pennsylvania coal was shipped to the Canadian lakehead by lake steamer and unloaded at the huge coal dock facilities owned by the major Canadian railroads. By the time it arrived in Winnipeg shipping costs had pushed the price
higher than for Alberta coal, but the difference—rarely more than two dollars a ton, was not great enough to discourage consumers who preferred the cleaner burning, easier to handle American product. 2

Coal mining was a highly complex business. It started at the coal face where men, usually in pairs, worked rooms in the coal seam. This was the "room and pillar" method. Tunnels were driven into the coal seam and widened into rooms separated by pillars of coal. The pillars supported the roof while the coal was being removed from the rooms by picking, if it was a soft variety, or blasting. The men who dug coal, loaded it into mine cars, laid track to the coal face and shored and bucked the rooms, were contract miners. They were paid by the amount of coal dug, graded and weighed, or by the yard. If they drove tunnel, or set up timbers and did other preparatory jobs, they were paid a set rate for each job. The contract miners were the elite of the mine labour force. They had to be highly proficient to earn a decent living and to preserve life and limb.

Once the coal was loaded into cars it was taken to the surface. The men responsible for the general maintenance of the mine, driving the mules that pulled the mine cars (most collieries in Alberta were too small for electric mine engines) bringing the rail and timbers to the contract miners, or cleaning up the grounds, were "company" men (sometimes also "day" men). They earned a daily wage based on the number of hours worked. They were also responsible for inspecting, running and repairing the huge fans that ran constantly to pull dust and gas out of the mines and force clean air in, and the pumps that kept some shafts from flooding.

At the surface the coal was weighed, watched over by a check weighmen elected and paid for by the men. The mine car was then dumped, the coal cleaned of bone (rock) at a large picking table and, at most mines, passed over a screen. The screening separated the coal into lump coal (usually pieces more than eight inches in diameter), nut coal (from one to eight inches), pea coal (usually smaller than two inches), and slack (powder and tiny pieces). Miners were docked for bone or slack. And if their cars contained bone more than twice, they were fired. Once graded, the coal was loaded into railroad cars and shipped directly to wholesalers in the city. Alberta coal was soft and therefore perishable. Shipping in closed box cars or gon-
dolas and storage in closed sheds was necessary. If the coal was handled too often—by the miner, the pickers, the bar men or the railroad—it deteriorated. The railroad had to be very careful when handling cars.

One problem that careful handling could not solve was over-production. There were simply too many coal mines in Alberta even though it was rare for any of these mines to work at full capacity. The coal business was seasonal. Demand for home heating fuel was almost non-existent in the spring and summer. Since it was difficult to store Alberta coal for long periods, there was little hope consumers could be educated to buy coal in the off-season when it was cheaper. But steam coal mines were also tied to seasonal rhythms. Rail traffic was slack on the prairies in the spring and summer and only became heavy in the fall and early winter when tons of grain had to be shipped. There were thus hundreds of mines in the province, from small operations to major collieries, which served a market that almost disappeared for about six months of the year. Some operators opened mines on speculation, ran them for two or three seasons and then abandoned them. Coal fields were honeycombed with unworked shafts. There were too many under-utilized mines which tied up capital and ate into profit margins while standing idle. In the off-season these mines still had to be maintained, cleaned, pumped out and kept free of gasses. The miners too suffered under these conditions, and rarely worked throughout the year. They were forced to hire on as farmhands, section hands or spare labourers in the country around the mines.

World War One temporarily solved some of these problems and gave a great boost to the Alberta coal industry. Coal was in demand to fuel troop and freight trains carrying war materials and to power the smelters. Production almost doubled and thousands of men were added to the mine labour force. But the industry also had problems. A coal strike in 1917, launched by District 18, United Mine Workers of America, which represented almost all western Canadian coal miners, brought production to a halt. The strike was for higher wages to enable miners to keep up with the rapidly rising cost of living. But it was in violation of a contract with the Western Coal Operators Association which represented most coal operators in Alberta. It was also against the orders of the union's headquarters in the United States. The federal government intervened to end
the dispute and appointed W.H. Armstrong, a Vancouver contractor, coal commissioner with power to set coal prices, regulate production, determine wages, and settle disputes. Armstrong became czar of the western coal mining industry and under his reign, peace was restored and production continued. The end of the war in the fall of 1918 did not bring an immediate drop in demand for coal—production actually increased over the next 18 months—but it re-established more normal market conditions and brought renewed uncertainty to the industry. One result was the establishment, by Alberta cabinet order-in-council of June 4, 1919, of the Commission to inquire into and make recommendations on all aspects of the production, transportation and marketing of Alberta’s coal.

The Coal Commission began hearings in Edmonton on October 6, 1919 and in the next two and a half months, sat in Calgary, Drumheller, Lethbridge, Wayne, Edson and Blairmore to hear evidence. Operators, miners, wholesalers, retailers, mine engineers, government officials and consumer representatives testified on almost every aspect of the industry. The Commission was chaired by John T. Stirling, a Scottish immigrant with much mining experience under his belt before his arrival in Canada in 1908. In 1910 he was appointed Chief Inspector of Mines for Alberta and thereafter filled a variety of government posts including chairman of the Workmen’s Compensation Board and, from 1915 to 1919, provincial fuel controller. Stirling had an excellent reputation amongst workers and operators for his thorough knowledge of mining and his devotion to mine safety.

The miners’ representative on the Commission was John Loughran. He was an Irish immigrant with underground experience as a contract miner. In 1919 he was a widower living in Bellevue and was employed as a mine machinist by Western Canada Collieries. For many years he had been a faithful member of the United Mine Workers of America. Loughran believed that nationalization was the only real remedy to the problems of the coal industry and he outlined this view to the Calgary Trades and Labor Council shortly after the Commission hearings began. He believed that unrest in the coal fields was due to miner dissatisfaction with working conditions. “Miners are not a revolutionary body . . . they are the most moderate class of workers in the community,” he claimed.
The employers' representative was Walter F. McNeill. He was an American born mine manager who came to Alberta in 1895 to manage McNeill Brothers Coal Mines in Canmore. In 1912 he was appointed commissioner (executive secretary) for the Western Coal Operators Association. He too was thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the mining industry and well versed in the political, economic and technical problems of western Canadian coal mining.

Two consumers representatives, Walter Smitten and Harvey Shaw, also sat on the commission. Smitten was an English born bricklayer who arrived in Calgary in 1908. He was a member of the conservative Bricklayers and Stonemasons International Union and secretary of the Alberta Federation of Labor. Shaw came to Edmonton from the United States in 1913 to establish the North West Biscuit Company. He was active in business circles and was a member of the Board of Trade.

The Coal Commission worked during difficult times. Workers throughout the industrialized world became increasingly restless during World War One. Government leaders on both sides urged greater sacrifice in the factory and on the battlefield and promised a better day once victory was achieved. But victory was slow in coming and the cost of the war, in blood and incomes eroded by inflation, was high.

In 1917 workers in Russia were instrumental in toppling the Czarist regime and then in supporting the Bolshevik Party of V.I. Lenin in its coup against the moderately leftist government that had replaced the czar. In 1918 the workers of Germany overthrew the Kaiser, bringing a republican Social Democratic government to power and forcing an end to the war. Unrest was soon the rule of the day in the months following the cease fire of November 11, 1918. Bolsheviks launched an abortive coup in Germany and took power briefly in Hungary. Unions in Britain, Italy and Argentina launched massive strikes that tied up large sectors of society.

North America was by no means immune to the unrest. In the United States, anarchists sent bombs through the mails and authorities tried to suppress the activities of a syndicalist union, known as the Industrial Workers of the World. The city of Seattle was completely tied up by a four day general strike in February, 1919, while Boston experienced a serious police strike seven months later. The
Seattle affair was peaceful, but the Boston strike was accompanied by riots, massive destruction of property and several killings until order was restored. In September, 1919, more than a quarter of a million steelworkers in the United States launched a massive strike in a vain attempt to win union recognition and collective bargaining while the soft coal miners, organized into the United Mine Workers of America, walked off their jobs November 1, 1919. The strike lasted more than a month, depriving millions of Americans of fuel supplies and creating acute coal shortages in Canada, until United States government intervention brought an end to the walkout December 3.

Meanwhile, worker discontent in western Canada also exploded into radicalism. The January, 1919, convention of the Alberta Federation of Labor to which the coal miners were affiliated through the UMWA, and the February convention of District 18 of the United Mine Workers, went on record in favour of worker control of industry, the use of general strikes to force political and industrial change, and the amalgamation of craft unions into larger, more powerful industrial unions. In addition, they expressed sympathy for the new Bolshevik regime in Russia. Then in March, representatives of western trade unions from Winnipeg to Vancouver Island gathered in Calgary for the Western Labor Conference which re-affirmed the new radicalism and resolved to conduct a referendum of all Canadian workers to see if they favoured breaking away from the established unions and setting up a Marxist oriented, all-inclusive organization known as the One Big Union. Most coal miners favoured the OBU. They voted heavily in favour of it and contributed money to its organizing campaign.

On May 25, 1919, before the One Big Union was officially launched, the miners of District 18 went on strike. The alleged issues were complicated and involved wages and hours of work for a small number of company men. But in fact, the leaders of District 18, P.M. Christopers and Ed Browne, supported the OBU and were about to lead a break-away of the district into OBU ranks. They were trying to manoeuvre the operators into concluding an agreement directly with them, completely bypassing UMWA headquarters in the United States. The operators, supported by the UMWA and the federal government, refused to give in. There was a surplus of coal on the market and
little spring demand for fuel in any case. The strike dragged on. At the end of July the UMWA revoked the district charter and sent in a triumvirate of special organizers to fight the OBU and win the miners back.9 Christopersons and Browne reacted by forming themselves into District #1 Mining Department, One Big Union.10 The loyalties of the rank and file miners were initially with the OBU and they continued to strike, but the OBU battle was hopeless and, in mid-August, the strike collapsed. But this was not the end of industrial unrest in the area. Two more major OBU-inspired strikes and many smaller ones plagued the industry well into the '20s.11 Much of the unrest was caused by poor living conditions in the small mining camps and company towns of Alberta. This was the major concern of most miners appearing before the Coal Commission.

Some of Alberta's coal towns were as bad as any in the world. Housing was generally poor, with families living in small frame shacks. Single men were often forced to pack their own blankets from camp to camp and live in overcrowded, unventilated bunkhouses. Indoor plumbing was unknown. Outhouses were allowed to overflow and foul drinking water. Water was sometimes supplied by cart or taken from dirty wells or directly from the nearest creek or river. Typhoid, cholera and other diseases related to poor hygiene were common. Miners complained of contaminated food served by uncaring cooks in unhealthy kitchens. Company stores were accused of selling at outrageously high prices. School facilities for miners' children were poor and overcrowded at best, non-existent at worst. Shower and bath facilities for men coming up from underground were often inadequate and lockers rare. One miner told the Commission: "I know for a fact, . . . it's not exactly the money that counts so much, but if a man gets bad food and lodging, there's trouble going to follow."

The operators generally denied responsibility for the sorry living conditions revealed to the Commission. They claimed they were concerned about the welfare of their employees and were doing everything their budgets would allow to make living conditions bearable. They blamed unrest on radicals and alien agitators and asserted that the long strike just ended had delayed reconstruction and improvement projects. Most told the Commission that strikes made consumers wary of buying Alberta coal and if peace
could be made to prevail, profits would flow and improvements would be made.

The operators were mostly concerned about coal marketing and production. There was general sentiment that there were too many collieries and too much competition. Some form of government regulation, short of outright ownership, was necessary. Most suggested a government-appointed coal board with wide powers to regulate marketing. They also complained about American competition and claimed that U.S. coal producers were dumping excess fuel on the Canadian market at unreasonably low prices. But they also admitted that the public was wary of their product because of the special care needed to handle and burn it. Some witnesses suggested an educational and advertisement campaign, others the creation of central storage facilities. Others complained about freight rates charged by the railroads to haul coal to the eastern markets. Producers were upset about coal dealers who substituted poorer quality coal for the better grades actually ordered by consumers. This scared customers away from the Alberta product which they then considered undependable. Many pleaded for a province-wide uniform system of grading as to size, moisture and ash content. Some suggested a zoning system: when a consumer purchased Lethbridge or Red Deer or Drumheller coal he would be aware of the differences between zones and would always receive the same quality.

Few consumers' representatives took the trouble to appear before the Commission. Those who did generally complained about short weights and poor quality in their delivered coal. One representative scorned coal dealers' suggestions that consumers would be better off spreading their coal purchases through the warm months when coal was cheaper and more plentiful. Workers could just not afford to buy coal during this period, she maintained. The system of distribution in urban districts was also criticized and some consumer representatives complained about excessive profits and the opulence of coal selling facilities. The lack of an effective consumer organization probably prevented the presentation of a set of strong and consistent consumer-oriented views.

The Alberta press occasionally reported testimony presented to the Commission, especially if the Commission
was in the general area served by each of the major daily newspapers. The papers concentrated on the operators' testimony and seemed most worried about car shortages and coal famines, excessive competition, proposals for government ownership or regulation, and the incidence of radicalism among the miners. They were very concerned that an ample supply of coal be maintained and sought to make their readers aware of any of the possible reasons why this might not happen. On the other hand, the papers gave almost no coverage to the evidence and testimony concerning the working and living conditions of the miners and their families. Almost none of the miners' major complaints concerning housing, sanitation, schooling or prices were reported. Indeed, at one point, the Calgary Daily Herald sent a reporter to investigate allegations that conditions in Drumheller were poor and reported that they were not. The town was described as having "no sign of slums," a "large and commodious" school, and good sanitary facilities. The reporter admitted that there were a large number of "temporary" buildings but claimed this was because the town had "developed in a remarkably short space of time." It is probable that those people who were following the proceedings of the Coal Commission learned almost nothing of the major cause of unrest in the coal industry at that time—unrest that brought about the strikes which stopped production and prompted miners to turn to the One Big Union—bad housing, poor sanitation, and little opportunity for miners' children to receive a good education. The press could not have been overly concerned about the state of the Alberta coal industry; none of the major dailies reported the Commission's final submission to the Alberta Government in late December, and none published even a brief summary of the Commission's findings.

Loughran and McNeill were the Commission's star performers. Each brought the prejudices of his position and station to the cross examination of witnesses. McNeill bore in on allegations of poor living conditions to force witnesses to be as specific as possible. Time after time he revealed his basic belief that most of the problem was caused by workers who didn't care about their environment and were sloppy and slovenly in their habits. He tried to show that strikes and irresponsible agitators had made the coal fields a place of uncertainty for owners and workers alike and he displayed a cynical attitude to miners who professed to be as
interested in maintaining production as he was. But Loughran was up to this challenge. He showed no mercy to owners or mine managers accused by their workers of allowing poor sanitation, bad housing or high priced, contaminated food. He challenged McNeill directly on several occasions. Throughout the hearings he backed the United Mine Workers and attacked the One Big Union, but continued to maintain that strikes and the rise of the OBU were directly caused by the poor state of the towns and camps in the coal fields. Loughran was often supported by Smitten who revealed his class sympathy in his own questions. He knew little about the mining business but was appalled at the living conditions described in the miners' testimony. He was particularly concerned about the lack of schools and trained teachers for the miners' children and attacked the mine managers for shirking their responsibility in this area. Shaw was more concerned about shoddy marketing practices that misled consumers and made them wary of buying Alberta coal while Stirling often acted as referee, making peace amongst the Commissioners and closely questioning witnesses about the details of their testimony. He knew almost every shack, tipple and cookhouse in the coal fields and was generally well aware of the living and working conditions in and around the mines.

The Coal Commission sat until November 26 and handed its report to the government on December 23, 1919. It recommended the establishment of a permanent commission with representatives of labour, the owners, consumers and the provincial government to regulate the industry, oversee marketing, initiate conservation policies and settle industrial disputes. Other suggestions called for improvement in living conditions and better educational facilities in the mining towns. It recommended a systematic effort by operators and the government to improve the quality of Alberta coal and create a more effective marketing system. But almost none of its recommendations were acted upon. In the 1920 session of the legislature only one small amendment to the Mines Act was made dealing with miners' pay periods. Part of the problem was political: the federal government controlled the resources of the province according to Alberta's terms of entry into Confederation. The Coal Commission recognized this difficulty and urged the provincial government to launch a major campaign to gain control over the resource as soon as possible. But part
of the trouble was also due to the economic reality that Alberta coal was too far from its potential markets and not good enough in quality to compete with the superior Pennsylvania product. The federal government was never willing to drive the price of fuel in central Canada up, for heating or for industrial production, simply to sustain the Alberta coal industry.\(^{14}\)

Though its use to government and operators of the day was limited, the evidence of the Coal Mining Industry Commission of 1919 is invaluable to those interested in the social history of western Canada. The unedited evidence amounts to more than 900 typed, legal size, pages. Almost every aspect of mining as a business, occupation and lifestyle were examined, though curiously little attention was paid to conditions underground. Perhaps this was because those conditions were generally as safe as could be made given the knowledge and technology of the day. The Alberta government passed its first Mines Regulations Act, aimed at establishing safety rules, in 1906.\(^{15}\) Thereafter the Act was regularly amended and a system of province-wide inspection usually kept unsafe practices under control. Sometimes those procedures became lax and disaster resulted as at Bellevue in 1910 when 31 miners were killed.\(^{16}\) But generally accidents were due to the inherent hazards of mining in the Canadian West where gas content in the collieries was unusually high—a fact not discovered until World War One.

Because of this lack of information on underground conditions, two additional documents have been added for this volume: a portion of testimony given to an inquiry into mining conditions in the Crowsnest Pass before World War One dealing with the contract system; and an extract from the proceedings of the District 18 Special Convention of 1921 at which the District charter was returned by UMWA headquarters in the United States. This discussion deals with miners’ attempts to control the composition of the underground work force. The unedited versions of both documents can be found in the Glenbow-Alberta Institute Archives in Calgary.

The full Coal Commission submission, from which this edited volume has been prepared, is also in the Glenbow Archives in the papers of the United Mine Workers of America, District 18 (file BL/U58G, Box 2). It was donated to Glenbow, together with a large collection of United Mine
Workers papers, by M. P. Susnar of the UMWA in the fall of 1969. The submission contains 941 typed, legal size pages and an additional 13-page final report of the Commission to the Alberta government. The document includes all the verbatim evidence collected during the hearings, a list of participants, a list of exhibits and 69 pages of exhibits, mostly laboratory analysis of coals from different parts of Alberta. An additional copy of the submission is in the Provincial Archives of Alberta (Acc.76.256). It was donated by the Alberta Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

There is much repetition in the raw, unedited Commission evidence. Operators in one district shared views with those in other areas despite differences in scale of operations quality of product. Miners also encountered similar problems whether in the Coal Branch or the Crowsnest Pass. Most of the editing of the original manuscript was aimed at eliminating duplication while preserving the essence of the testimony. The evidence records several instances of long arguments between members of the Commission which was also removed. The main story to be told by this evidence is that of the operators, miners and other concerned individuals with information to impart, not that of the Commissioners who, naturally enough, had their own views and reactions to the testimony. Those views and reactions emerge clearly enough in the give and take between Commissioners and witnesses. The testimonies of 26 witnesses have been deleted from this edited version as have 69 pages of exhibits. A complete list of all witnesses and a list of the more important exhibits presented to the Commission has been included in Appendices II and III.

What is published is a summary view of the Alberta coal mining industry in the period immediately after World War One. Here are the ambitions and fears of entrepreneurs risking capital to bring profits to themselves and development to the community. Here are the typical complaints of western businessmen about a system which they claimed discriminated against them to the benefit of Central Canada. Here also are the grievances of the miners, most of whom sought only fair compensation for their labour and living conditions fit for humans. The evidence clearly shows the squalor and misery of the coal towns, and the struggles of the miners and their families in those communities for a decent life style and for educational opportunities for their children. The evidence presented to
the Coal Mining Industry Commission of 1919 gives us the story of an important western industry, told by the people who lived it.
NOTES


2. This problem is discussed at length in A.A. den Otter, "Railways and Alberta's Coal Problem, 1880-1960" in A.W. Rasporich (ed.), *Western Canada Past and Present* (Calgary, 1975), pp. 84-98.


9. Glenbow-Alberta Institute, Coal Operators Papers, Box 14, File 84, Ballantyne, Cady and Dalrymple to Lewis, July 26, 1919.


11. See Karas, "Labour and Coal in the Crowsnest Pass" for an account of these strikes.


14. See den Otter, especially pp. 94-96.


16. The story of this disaster is revealed in Alberta, Sessional Papers for 1911-1912, "Copies of Telegrams Respecting the Coal Mine Disaster at "Bellevue.""
CHAPTER ONE

EDMONTON HEARINGS
Oct. 6, 7 and 30, and Nov. 26, 1919

The Commissioners met at The Qu’Appelle Block, Edmonton, on Monday, 6th Oct. 1919, for the purpose of organization, the full board and secretary being present. J.T. Stirling read the Commission, as follows:

"WHEREAS in and by an Order of Our Lieutenant Governor in Council, bearing date of the fourth day of June, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nineteen, provision has been made for our commissioners therein and hereinafter named to make inquiry into and upon all matters pertaining to or concerning the Coal Mining Industry of the Province of Alberta, and more especially upon matters, conditions and circumstances relating to the production, cost price, transportation and marketing of coal.

"NOW KNOW YE THEN by and with the advice of Our Lieutenant-Governor in Council, we do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint John Thomson Stirling of Edmonton, Chief Inspector of Mines, Walter Smitten of Calgary, Harvey Shaw of Edmonton, Alexander McRoberts
of Taber and Walter Floyd McNeill of Calgary in the said province, to be our commissioners to conduct such inquiry:

"TO HAVE, HOLD, exercise and enjoy the said office, place and trust unto the said John Thomson Stirling of Edmonton, Chief Inspector of Mines, Walter Smitten of Calgary, Harvey Shaw of Edmonton, Alexander McRoberts of Taber and Walter Floyd McNeill of Calgary, together with the rights, powers and privileges and emoluments, unto the said office, place and trust, of right and by law appertaining, during pleasure:

"AND WE DO HEREBY under the authority of the Act respecting Inquiries concerning Public Matters, being Chapter Two of the Statutes of Alberta 1908, confer upon our said Commissioners the power of summoning before them any witnesses, and of requiring such witnesses to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing or on solemn affirmation (if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters) and to produce such documents and things as our said Commissioners shall deem requisite to the full investigation of the matter into which they are hereby appointed to examine; and to have the same power to enforce the attendance of witnesses and to compel them to give evidence as is vested in any court of record in civil cases.

"AND WE DO HEREBY require and direct our said Commissioners to report to our Lieutenant-Governor in Council the result of their investigation, together with the evidence taken before them.

"IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF WE have caused these our letters to be made patent and the Great Seal of our province to be hereunto affixed.

"WITNESS: His Honour Robert George Brett, Lieutenant-Governor of our said Province at our Government House, in our City of Edmonton, this fourth day of June, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nineteen and in the tenth year of our reign.

"BY COMMAND.

"J.S. COTE,
"Provincial Secretary."
By Order in Council No. 1504/19 dated 8th Sept. 1919, John Loughran, of Bellevue, was appointed a Commissioner in the place and stead of Alexander McRoberts who had resigned.

By Order in Council No. 1651/19 dated 3rd October, 1919. Ernest James Sharp, of Edmonton, a returned soldier, was temporarily appointed Secretary to the Commissioners.

On the motion of W.F. McNeill, seconded by J. Loughran, and carried, J.T. Stirling was appointed Chairman of the Commission.

Evidence of W.S. Cupples, Managing Director, Great West Coal Co. Ltd., Edmonton*

By Chairman J.T. Stirling:

What is your opinion about the mining industry, speaking generally for the last year, say, previous to this, about the condition? Do you think the mining industry is in a satisfactory condition?

I think we have very serious over-production. This is my ninth year here now, and our whole position turns upon getting a steady run. We have never been able to get it yet for any length of time. We have always over-produced and have had to shut down. We have idle days. The profits are eaten up by the idle time, and we find it very hard to get a reasonable margin on that account. I do not think there is any doubt about that.

You think it is the over-production?

You can put it the other way. It is the lack of market. If we could get a bigger market. I imagine we are getting pretty near all the market that is available. Of course, Manitoba is the thorn in the flesh.

Do you think we ought to get more coal into Manitoba?

Our agent in Winnipeg tells us that if the Manitoba government and the City of Winnipeg and the official bodies would give the Alberta coal a fair chance, we would

*Afternoon session, Oct. 6, 1919.
have a better chance. He says the government absolutely discriminates against Alberta coal.

*I suppose the Manitoba government gets its coal by tender?*

*Yes.*

*Do they advertise for any particular coal?*

They apparently advertise for American coal. Except in one case this year, they stipulated American coal in every other instance.

*Do you know anything about the respective qualities of the different coals in the province?*

Well, we come up against mostly Drumheller and Lethbridge in our selling end, and I don't think there is any doubt but we are at a disadvantage in competing against those two coals, because Lethbridge in particular is a good storage coal and higher in heat units. Drumheller is slightly higher in heating units, and it is also a better coal, so that Edmonton to that extent is at a disadvantage.

*You send a considerable amount of your coal to Winnipeg?*

Yes, and right at present we are getting a lot of business there. I believe that is exceptional to some extent. They seem to have taken a sudden scare down there. I think they are scared about this American strike.

*By W. F. McNeill:*

*How far is your mine from Edmonton?*

About fully five miles.

*Any of your employees living in town?*

There are one or two. They cannot get up and down very easily except in the winter time when the river is frozen. We are on the south side of the river.

*You speak of your houses. How many rooms are there?*

They are mostly three-roomed shacks.

*That you own yourself?*

No, the ones we own ourselves are a little better: we only have about four altogether.
How large are those?
We have one a fair size, and three called four-room houses.

What rent do you charge for four-roomed houses?
Oh, its a very nominal rent. In fact, three men are not paying any rent at all. They have been getting the houses as part of their allowances.

Who lives in those?
One of them is a watchman, right down at the mine: we built it for him. The pitboss has one—two to bosses, one each. The other, I think it's the stableman, to be near the barn. Except in one case; the man is paying just a few dollars a month.

As a matter of fact, your company for all practical purposes have no houses to rent.
For all practical purposes, yes.

By J. Loughran:

About what wage do your mines average, Mr. Cupples?
Well, really, I would not commit myself to a figure, but the position is this now, that with us we have the coal cut with this Sullivan chain machine; and then the shooting is done by shooters, and the timbering by timbering-men, and what we call the miners now are really the loaders. The machine men and the shooters make very good wages. I think they average $220. a month, take the whole bunch of them. They run about $110 a pay: two pays a month. Then the loaders, again, I could not tell you.

Do you recollect what they pay per ton to the cutters?
They pay workage on place.

By the cubic yard?
Well, I think it is just the place.

What width is your room?
16 feet.
Do you work a long wall?*
No stooping room.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling
Are you having any trouble now with dirty coal being loaded?
No, I don't think we are, Mr. Stirling. We are pretty fortunate in having no dirt in the seam, and it is not very easy to spoil a clean seam like that.

But you will cut underneath the seam, don't you?
They cut as near as they can to the floor.

Do you scrap the dirt to one side before they load?
Yes.

Do you get any complaints about any of the coal that you ship out?
Very seldom.

By J. Loughran:
Then I would take it your greatest trouble is the fact that you are not able to run continuously all the year to get coal out where you are running expenses.
That's right.

You are not able to suggest anything that would help you to run continuously?
Really, the only suggestion I can make is, if it is possible in any way, to discourage this indiscriminate opening of new mines. There must be dozens opened every fall. They simply jump in and get out a few thousand tons and close down; very often before they are able to pay their last pay, and the miners are out of money.

Yes, I think that is the great curse to the coal industry.
A few men short of capital will speculate and work the coal that is easiest got, just around the pit mouth or end of the tunnel and pit shaft, and they will rob that mine and prevent anyone else ever operating it afterwards, and by the

*Long wall is a method of mining, different from the room and pillar method. It was rarely used in western Canada.
time that they get the coal out, they generally finish up, I think it is not fair to the country. It is robbing the coal resources of the country. My opinion is that the government should protect the coal reserve from being handled in that way.

By W.F. McNeill:

What does your labour do, the months you are not operating?
I could not answer off-hand.

Generally speaking, you run about six months in the year?
Yes.

There must be six months when these men are doing something?
A great many of our men have got farms: go away in the spring and come back in the fall: a great many are homesteaders and farmers.

By H. Shaw

They don't suffer personally from being out of work during the summer season, being engaged in other work?
Not to a great extent. They go off to the farms. There are a few that do suffer in that respect. Of course, any odd jobs we have we leave for the summer.

If he could increase his mine 100% that would reduce the price of coal to the consumer.
There is no doubt about that. Last winter was an illustration of that point, for then we had the same price as we have now— which is a very high price—and still it was the poorest season we ever had; showing that the output is the basis for the profit. A steady output.

Evidence of C.G. Sheldon, General Manager, Humberstone Coal Co. Ltd., Edmonton

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Your principal trouble is scarcity of men?
That is our immediate trouble.
When did that take place?
Our men went on strike along with other union men on the 24th May. Our mine remained idle until the 11th August. We then started operating as an open shop, and I think on the 11th and 12th August we loaded one car of coal. We had a few orders on hand—only a few—but the orders that continued to come since that date faster than our output has increased, so that we now have orders on hand for shipment down the line approximately 375 cars.

Then if you are not able to supply those cars for a day or two or a week or two, is there a chance that they will be cut off?
Well, I am leaving tomorrow morning to try and see that they are not cut off. In my experience I have found that in the fall of the year many of the men whom we employ, whom we are able to get later, are still working in the fields; and they prefer working in the fields. They would rather stay there than go down the mine; but just as soon as harvesting is over they come in large numbers, and along about the later part of September, being holiday season, there is usually a shortage of men, but by January again we are able to go our usual capacity. I find that when we have a volume of business that will permit it, January is always our biggest output.

Do you ship any coal into Manitoba?
Yes, we are shipping more each year. We have an opportunity at the present time to ship our entire output, and more than our entire output, if we could supply it. I think that is due to the scare of the possible coal strike in the States.

What do you think the effect will be if that strike does not materialize on the 1st November?
I am of the opinion that we will have a nice volume of business from Manitoba, particularly Winnipeg, this winter right through to the end of January.

When do you begin to ship coal to Manitoba?
Begin in August.

Do you think we are getting all the market in Manitoba for Alberta coal, that we can reasonably expect?
I do not think.
Can you give any reason for it?
I think the reason is in the minds of the people, who have not had the experience, and in the advertising campaign of the mines in the Western States. We find some peculiar things in Winnipeg. Some places they have not got a coal hole big enough to let our lump coal go through it. But our coal is giving good satisfaction in Spencer heaters, the small coal is. I just answered a wire before I left the office, wanting 16 cars of nut for the balance of the month, to Winnipeg, and in addition a lump shipment of a thousand tons of spring coal.

By J. Loughran:

Is there any organization amongst your men?
No.

Don't you think that may to some extent affect men from applying for work at your mine? Or do you think there is a general shortage of men in the country?
I am convinced beyond question that there is a general shortage of men in this field owing to crop conditions. This part of the country has got a good crop, and a great many of our men are harvesting that crop—threshing. I am of opinion that working with an open shop has been the cause of bringing quite a number of men to work in our mine. One man told me at the mine the other day that he figured it cost him $1,000 in the last year to be affiliated with the labour organization. So long as we worked without a labour organization, he wanted to stay with us, but if a labour organization came in he didn't want to stay with us.

I am afraid he was a jester.
He worked very faithfully and energetically for the Union last winter—so faithfully that I think he peddled his services up and down the Grand Trunk to try and get a job.

Don't you think if your men were organized you would have a most steady supply? There are always more men applying for jobs than there are jobs for, at the places where they are well organized, and the fact that you find it difficult to get sufficient men must show that there is a reason somewhere. The temptation is not to go to the place where there is no organization, or else you would be overwhelmed with
applications for work. I know where I work there are more men than jobs. Right now?

Yes.
I must say my experience was somewhat different. I was a union man myself at one time, and I am yet in a great many ways; but I know from information which we received from the dealers in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba that they are not getting the coal as fast as they require it or as fast as they have the opportunity to sell it. I don't think there is any shortage of coal at the present time, notwithstanding the fact that we are behind our orders, and every other mine is behind its orders supplying domestic coal. Our output will increase and increase enormously. We are producing 400 tons: we can produce 1,000 tons. We could put on another shift and produce considerably more than 1,000 tons a day. But we are short of men now, as all other mines are short of men now—that is, all the other mines supplying domestic coal. I am satisfied that this is going to be remedied, and I don't think Western Canada has anything to worry about as far as this winter is concerned.

Are your miners paid tonnage or days wage?
We pay various systems in the mine, dependant upon the kind of work. We have some pick miners who are paid by the car. The car is supposed to contain 1,400 lbs. Actual check makes it on the average 1,360 lbs., although we always call it a 1,400 lb. car. They're paid by the car. The machine loaders, another class of work, are also paid by the car. The machine runners are paid by the shift; and all haulage and timbering is done by the shift, with the exception that if a machine loader or a hand-pick miner is required to set a three piece set timber, he is paid extra for it. I mean entry work.

What class of man do you find the greatest difficulty in obtaining—loaders, machine men or hand-pick miners?
Well, hand-pick miners I would say are the biggest need; after that comes machine loaders and machine runners.

Of course, hand-pick miner is the more skilled man: he will
drive your entries where the machine cannot get. The machine can only work in a room.

By H. Shaw:

Last year was the first year you were unionized? First July last year for the first time.

Your first experience was not satisfactory? One of the most disastrous years we have had, outside the year the mine was flooded.

However, that might not be due to the fact that the mine was unionized? It was due to a combination of events, of which labour conditions was one. The Humberstones have been mining in this field since 1881, and have never had a strike or rumor of strike until after they were unionized last July, and we have had weeks and weeks of it since that time. I visited mines in the States where they said they would not like to operate a mine without a union. They keep their agreements—and the better class of labor wants to keep their agreements. But an irresponsible class have got leading those men, and they have been wrongly led. They want to be left alone for a while, and it may be they will be good men.

By J. Loughran:

I agree with you there. It happens that one of the mines that I visited in Illinois, where they told me they have had an awful lot of trouble this year with that same union, and I understand the International has threatened to revoke their charter.

By W. F. McNeill:

You could, generally speaking, give us a great deal more coal per year than you are now producing? Yes.

Why are you not producing it? Ours is a seasonable business. For one thing, people are
inclined to wait to order their coal until they really need it. That is one point. Another point is the over-development of the coal mining industry in Western Canada, which is the great point. The other one, I think, people could be educated out of. They are learning better every year.

Does the whole thing then, boil down to being over-production in coal in this country; or an over-development of coal, we will put it? I think that is by far the biggest factor of all our troubles.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Can you suggest any remedy for the over-production? There are promoters promoting mines, and get them to the point of operating for a year or two, and then the companies go broke. It seems to me that if a careful supervision of the opening up of new mines was made, it would gradually overcome the over-production. As the country fills up, some mines go out of business and only those which are in the interests of the general public are open. It is rather drastic legislation, perhaps, but at the same time it seems to be sensible.

By W. F. McNeill:

Do you think the mine operator would take advantage of that in regard to selling price of coal? I say some would if they could. I think that for the protection of the honest operator and of the public, that it should be regulated.

By some government authority of some kind? Some government authority, preferably provincial.

By J. Loughran:

Don't you think that a regulation where the government would have the tendency to lead up to the nationalization of the mines? I think it would lead up just far enough.
By W. F. McNeill:

You think that sort of regulation would protect the public in every way in which they could reasonably expect protection, inasmuch as they were not paying any more for the product that was absolutely necessary to pay for it and let an industry live?

Yes.

By W. Smitten:

In other words, you mean to say government protection is better than government ownership?

Yes, I am not in favor of government ownership at all.

Evidence of H.C. Anderson, Managing Director, Twin City Coal Co., Edmonton, and Marcus Collieries Ltd., Clover Bar.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

We want to know what your opinion is about the coal industry. Is it in a satisfactory condition, or is it not, speaking generally?

I would say, as far as I can judge, that the coal mining industry is not in altogether a satisfactory condition, viewed both from the standpoint of labor and the standpoint of the operator. Coal seems to be so easily available in so many places that it resulted in a great number of mines being opened and there is not market enough to keep them busy the year round, with the result that labor cannot be promised steady employment at all the mines. The small mines have quite an effect upon the output of the big mines and for the short season the small mines around, I think, handicap the big mines.

The principal cause is, you think, over-production or over-development?

I think over-development, yes, in both big and little mines, and principally as far as I can judge, in all the lignite mines, in the poorer grades of coal.
Can you suggest any remedy for that situation?
Well, I think this, that it would be well for the government to take some steps along the line of keeping in their hands the authority as to whether new mines could be opened or not; that if that was done they could place before the prospective investor the situation, and possibly keep the prospective investor informed as to what his problems were going to be, and if he really understood the situation, the capital might not be forthcoming for new mines, and the cure might be effected in that way. If, however, he said, after understanding all those conditions, "I am prepared to open up," then I think possibly you might have to let him open up. But again, I think where coal is owned by the Dominion Government, or as is likely to be shortly owned by the provincial government that they will have in their own hands the controlling of the letting of leases.

By H. Shaw:
Are you unionized?
We were unionized, but of course at the present time things are sort of in the air for the OBU and the UMWA.

You are hiring miners regardless of their union?
It is an open shop. We recognized the union, but they never insisted upon the closed shop.

By W.F. McNeill:
They don't in any of the mines in Alberta. No discrimination on the part of the company against union men and no discrimination on the part of the union man against the men employed.

By J. Loughran:
About what percentage of the men would you take the check off?
I would say the majority were union men.

You don't question?
I think we put a man down as union until he tells us he is not union. As far as the union is concerned, they never bothered
us saying "This man should be union, or he should not be union." They simply took our figures. We brought our books in and made out lists of dues collected, and that is the last we ever heard of it.

_T hey supply you with a book?_
Yes.

_By W. F. McNeill:_

_H ow long have you been unionized?_
July 1918.

_What has been your experience during that time?_

It has not been very satisfactory. You know the recent developments, so it is very hard for us to say whether it is UMWA we were contending with or OBU. We had the former President of the UMWA, Mr. Christopher; he has been deposed on account of his OBU inclinations, so that I suppose the UMWA would naturally blame some of the trouble to OBU inclinations. But we never had any difficulty with the union in which the International was consulted for headquarters.

_By H. Shaw:_

_W ere you closed down during the strike?_
Yes.

_E ntirely?_
Yes.

_V oluntarily, or why?_
Both. We closed down at Twin City before the strike. We felt the fight was coming, and we published a reduction in wages, owing largely to the attitude of Mr. Christopher; and the next thing we heard there was a strike on in the whole province.

_Then your other mine ceased too?_
The other mine ceased too.
By J. Loughran:

Have you any suggestions to make how strikes could be avoided in future, beyond giving the men all they ask for? No, I have no suggestions to make at all.

You could not give us a suggestion that would enable us, perhaps, to form a plan of some sort that would prevent strikes in future?

Well, of course, I think in the first place the operators should be absolutely frank with the union representatives in letting them know the conditions under which they are working, and the difficulties. I think if broad-gauge men are appointed by the union to go into the difficulties and to meet them halfway, I think a great deal of trouble could be avoided. Also I think that at some of the mines there are men appointed to positions of president and secretary who are not familiar with union principles, and that they are of the opinion that union means an opportunity to ask for anything and to compel the enforcement of the demands. I think that is one big difficulty.

I think that is the best explanation I have heard. Now, how to overcome that in a mine where you have no outstanding men, I don't know. For instance, we will say that a man is appointed president, he may be a very shrewd fellow, but not very familiar with the English language. You have (I don't mean to say a German or an Austrian) an Italian or a Spaniard. You have difficulty. There is lack of understanding English to get him to understand what you wanted him to understand. A great many men imagine that when there is a big output, there is lots of money being made. They forget it altogether that there are dull months in which there is a heavy loss that has got to be carried out of the profitable months.

By W. F. McNeill:

Do you think the idea of the local unions having paid secretaries instead of a working secretary has anything to do with stirring up trouble? Well now, Mr. McNeill, I have not had a great experience with unions; it just dates back to July.
Did you have a paid secretary at your mine?
He was a working miner.

Did you have any trouble when they were working, before they went on strike?
No.

By J. Loughran:
My experience of it has been that there has never been any trouble where the management meet the officials openly and discuss the matter with them. It is when the management refuses to meet the officials and refers them to a lawyer or somebody, that the friction generally comes in. I may say I have no sympathy with any operator who will not meet his men or a delegation appointed by the men to discuss their difficulties.

By W. F. McNeill:
In conditions?
In conditions. But I have no sympathy with any man who is now working, while working for himself, who is not working for the interests of the company. He must be prepared to give his best to the company, the same as management must give their best to the company in order that the company may be a success. It is as vital to the man if the industry is to [be] a permanent one, as it is to those whose capital is in it. There is a man called the "Agitator", who sprang up probably to greater prominence in the last year or two, who has been a very difficult man to handle. He has socialistic ideas. They are not very well defined and at the present time it is impossible for any one mine to put his ideas into operation—and still he is a source of unsettlement towards all the men.

By J. Loughran:
Yes, I have met that chap.
You know then what I want to get at.
On the other hand, I have met men—for instance, I have in my mind a local strike that took place. Had the manager
the same opinions that you are expressing, it would never have occurred. It was in a lignite mine in the Lethbridge district and say they were running a 15 or 16 foot room and the coal was cut with a machine and had to be loaded with a shovel. The rails where they brought their cars up were 20 feet away. The men asked that the rails be cut in two and each room provided with a 10 foot rail so that they could get the car within 10 feet instead of running back with their shovels. By bringing two cars closer, they would load two easier than one. The manager absolutely refused, and the result was a strike. That was 3 years ago. A sensible man would say, "I pay the district price for loading coal; if you don't like that, there's other men who will do it."

I think at the present time, that men are very anxious to get away with doing as little work as they possibly can.

That is not while they are on tonnage. I am referring to places where they are paid by the ton.
I mean anywhere: it may not be confined to the mining. There seems to be a disposition to give as little value as possible for the wage.

I think that would be confined to a very small percentage of the men.
Of course, that may be the individual.

By H. Shaw:

You seem to say that in other industries there is little inclination to doing your best?
At the present time. So many jobs.

I don't know, it seems to be the temper of the day to get away with all you can, and get as much as you can, but I think that will adjust itself as the years go by.
I think probably the healthiest situation for a country is a normal amount of work and plenty of men offering for the job, and . . .

And good pay when they get it?
And good pay when they get it.
Evidence of L.E. Drummond, General Manager, Mountain Park Coal Co., Ltd., Mountain Park (offices in Edmonton).*

By W.F. McNeill:

Do you believe that there should be someone in authority to say that a particular coal could be shipped say, to Winnipeg and another coal could not be shipped to Winnipeg?
I think it would certainly be of advantage to the West if that were done. If you try to sell in Winnipeg, coal which is very much inferior, that coal will not be able to compete for any length of time and it is only going to give a bad name to the West. If every coal was graded and the people in Winnipeg knew that there was a better grade coal or if that was the West's best grade coal, they would be better able to judge as to whether we were in a position to supply it.

Would you go so far as to say that that would have to do with respect to screening and cleaning the coals?
Absolutely. You have got to have a standardizing of the screen of the grade coal. I submitted to Mr. Chairman a short time ago a rough method of the grading of coals. The grading of any coal has to be on the basis of the evaporative test: it is not on the calorific value of any coal. It has to be on the same principle—not necessarily the same principle, but the same ratio as the pounds of water evaporated per pound of fuel, and if you get them in that ratio you get the true value of any fuel; for it takes into effect the moisture contents of any fuel if you have a ratio of that kind worked out for all fuel.

By J. Loughran:

Does that apply equally to steam coal and domestic coal, or would it apply more particularly to steam coal?
It would apply to all coals. Absolutely all coals. Because we want to get into the Eastern market, we have to compete with Eastern coal and in order to place the business on a fair

footing, we ought to know what we are going to ship to compete with that Eastern coal.

Would you favour the sample, much after the style of sampling wheat?
It's the same on principle. We should have all our coal, as it goes through, checked over to see if it is going to compete. The principle is this: If Alberta is to develop legitimately and produce the natural resources of the province in competition with Eastern coal, we have got to have a product that will compete to the satisfaction of the consumer. And the only way to do that is to know in advance that when a car goes through, it is a certain grade coal.

Wouldn't that have the effect of crushing out the mines that produced an inferior quality of coal, seeing, as a rule, the inferior coal is more expensive to win?
I think you are going to overcome that before very long through the efforts of the government. That is, in Saskatchewan you have a good deal of money set aside by the Dominion Government and the provincial government to develop the briquetting industry. The reason the briquetting industry has been a failure is because of the cost of the tar. We have within a very short time the development of the tar sands of the North which will ultimately produce a binder and we will be in a position to get that cheaper than any person else. Therefore it means that the coals through here will be able to produce a cheap binder and just as the government is able. For example in the Souris coals practically 50% of the bulk is lost in reducing that in shape to use in a briquetting plant. You have about 35% moisture, and eliminating 15% of your volatile in your coal too means you are only getting 50% of your coal in fine form ready for the briquetting plant. The point I mean—at the present time our tar is costing, say for instance, in this country, about $2.00 per ton. That means for our tar alone the cost on briquettes runs too high, but if we get a cheap binder here, we are going to get a fuel which will bring in poorer grade coals, and bring them up to the standard of better grade coals. These coals all through the prairie provinces on the whole should be more cheaply mined than the coals further West. But cost of briquetting then would probably equalize the situation.
By W.F. McNeill:

In connection with the cost of tar, you say about $2.00 a ton. You mean that the tar would cost about $2.00 to bind a ton of coal? You don’t mean the tar itself is $2.00 a ton? The tar itself runs about $1.80. It costs about $9.00 a ton, your freight on it runs it about $10.00 a ton, and so cost of that is about almost $10.00 a ton.

I didn’t want the Commission to get an erroneous idea as to the cost of the amount of tar that it took to make a ton of briquettes. About 10% for all practical purposes. I mean laid down there. The only place we have an example for it is in Bankhead.

By J. Loughran:

What is your opinion on the by-product process of coking? Would it not give a cheap tar? The cost of by-product work in this country has been absolutely prohibitive. We have had a good many people come West and look over the situation. None of them have been induced to put money in it. The cost of a by-product plant goes into millions and none of the concerns in the West have had the money to consider a by-product plant. It means an outside firm that might be induced to look upon a by-product work. Such a by-product work would be looked upon by those who want chemicals. Take the Dominion Steel Company, where they were right beside the tide water. They had great difficulty of disposing of their ammonia sulphate and their tar. It was only after some years that they persuaded the Dominion Government to take that off their hands; although they were first sending it to Boston. I don’t think the time is ripe yet for a by-product plant in the West, because we have not got a sufficient number of industries which would be able to take off those by-products. Any chemical plant started here would have to ship them East.

Don’t you think if the farmers knew the proper value of ammonia as a fertilizer, that a good market would be established in Canada? I don’t see how they can go on very much longer without manure.
By W. F. McNeill:

*It is quite necessary in connection with by-product ovens in the first instance, to have a market for your coke after you make it?*

Yes.

*And the consumption of coke in Western Canada today would hardly warrant any man to put up a coke product? I have not the slightest doubt that if there had been a possibility for the development of by-product industry, the West Canada Collieries would have done something with their plant at Lille. They allowed all that gas to go into the air for years. They put in Belgian ovens at Lille, and never utilised them at all.*

By W. F. McNeill:

*Do you have any complaints from your property with respect to housing?*

None at all.

*You own your own houses, do you? and rent them to the men?*

Yes.

*What size houses?*

28 by 28, four rooms downstairs and one big room upstairs: that is, that room is not utilized in certain houses; but every alternate house use that room above.

*What rent do you charge the men for houses?*

The smallest house is $9.00, and the next is $10.00. I think the other is $12.00. If I remember right, the four-roomed house is $9.00, one with the room upstairs is $10.00, and the larger house $12.00.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

*Per month?*

Yes.
By H. Shaw:

Heated by stove?
Yes. Fuel supplied to miners on a pre-war rate.

By W. F. McNeill:

The fuel which you sell to your miners is greater or less than you sell to large consumers?
About half the price—less than half the price.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Do they get inferior coal?
No, the regulation coal.

By J. Loughran:

You sell screen coal to customers; you don’t screen your coal?
We screen all our coal, every bit of it, but it is mine run coal.

What I was going to ask, do you screen the coal that goes to your workman?
No. It’s all the same.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

It is the coal that is sold to the ordinary consumer?
Yes.

By J. Loughran:

What number of men do you employ?
About 189 men just now, if I remember right.

Are they organized?
Yes.

The United Mine Workers?
Yes, there are some who are not, but most of them are United Mine Workers.
By W. F. McNeill:

How are those houses lighted?
By electric light.

By H. Shaw:

And the water supply?
No, we have no water supply. We had the intention of trying to put in a water supply in each house.

Wells?
There is a delivery every day to each of the houses.

By W. F. McNeill:

From a water cart?
Yes, pumped up to the head of the hill.

By J. Loughran:

Do the workmen pay for the water?
They are charged, I think, $1.00 a month.

Not by the barrel?
No.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

They get as much as they want?
Yes.

What do you charge for light? Is it a flat sum?
It's a flat rate. It is that regulated in the agreement. I think it is $0.50 a light a month. It's the agreement.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Have you any information as to what coal the railways are using here?
No.
By H. Shaw:

*How far east are Grand Trunk using your coal? Winnipeg.*

*And west all the way?*
No, they have only been using it to Jasper. That western division has been using oil.

*They’re back on coal now?*
They are figuring on coal for the west clean through to Smithers, and from Smithers on to the Coast was to be left on oil for the time being.

*That will give you a bigger market when they do get back? Probably.*

By W. F. McNeill:

*Won’t that market be taken care of by Jasper Park and Brule?*
It has been largely a case of certain engines using certain fuel. The Jasper Park collieries has been for the larger fire box engines, set aside for that coal, where they want coal that will push.

*Jasper Park at the moment are not shipping large coal?*
No.

*Brule isn’t?*
Well, Brule started up about a week ago.

By J. Loughran:

*What effect would government ownership of mines have upon the mining industry? If investors cannot get a return for their money, wouldn’t the next best thing be for the government to own them and operate as many mines as was necessary according to the law of supply and demand? There are so many points one way and another. I haven’t made my mind up on that. I don’t think, from our ex-
perience of government ownership, we will get the best efficiency. We have no case where government ownership has been able to reduce costs alone, and any effort which might be made to improve our coal mining conditions, seems to me should be made and controlled just as a Railway Commission controls conditions for the railways. Just as the railways are public carriers of all our commodities, so, I think, our coal mines should have certain definite regulations. You should leave it up to the individual to develop efficiency and improvements. I think if you try to put it to government control, it would be very difficult to improve our conditions. If you leave it under government supervision, I think you will get the best results and cheaper coal, which will mean the development of this country.

With respect to government not being able to operate as cheap, or be more expensive, don't you think it is rather more or less in the experimental stage? Well, all government ownership has been a failure. It has never reduced the prices.

I agree with that, for the reason that it is simply in the experimental stage; it has never been tried sufficiently long enough to give us an idea of what it might be if it was carried on on a large scale. Take, for instance, government railway ownership has always been a failure. Almost every utility that you have taken up of that type, has never reduced the cost of that commodity or service.

W.C. Mackay, owner, Fraser-Mackay Collieries Ltd. and Mackay Coal Co., Clover Bar (offices in Edmonton).

By Chairman J.T. Stirling:

Do you think we could get sufficient market for Alberta coal to make any appreciable difference on all the mines? It is said our output is probably 5,000,000 tons, and it is said we have development in the country for 11,000,000 or 12,000,000 tons. Do you think there is a market available? It would be a grand thing for the industry.
**Is it possible to get it?**

You want to find out if it is possible to get that market to compete with outside coal? I honestly believe that if the thing was gone about in the right way, it could be had.

*I have information that the consumption of coal in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba runs approximately 8 or 8½ million tons, maybe 9 this last year. We want to dispose of another 5 or 6 million tons more than we are doing, so that leaves a balance of three million tons. Do you think there is something else might be done besides trying to increase the market to its utmost capacity? But even that would not take care of the situation. Do you think there is any over-development in the Province?*

There is no question of that. There is probably too much coal in the country, and in a great many places it is so easy to get at it, and get it on the market. We know there are new mines opening up all the time. There's no question about it that there is probably too many coal mines. It would be nice if we could keep them all working. If there is a market in this western country that we should have, then I say get out and get it by all means. It is a poor business to keep capital out of the country if we have a market.

*Just as poor to come in here and be lost?*

Yes. It is lost. I guess there's no question about it. Probably the business is overdone a little.

**By J. Loughran:**

*Would you suggest government control, and, if so, in what form?*

That's too big a question for me. I don't think I would care to tackle that. I would not favour government control. The government has more than they can control now.

**Evidence of E.J. Mahar, owner, Mahar Coal Co. Ltd., Edmonton**

**By Chairman J. T. Stirling:**

*The purpose of the Commission is to ascertain if there is*
anything the matter with the coal mining industry and, if so, if there can be any suggestions made as to possible improvement. What is your opinion about it? Is the industry in a satisfactory condition?
Well, you mean from the operator's standpoint?

Well, we are investigating this from every standpoint, the consumer's, dealer's and operator's.
As I see it, there is going to be a shortage of coal, and from our standpoint the strike this year has disorganized everything, and we have not been able to get anywhere near the amount of supply of coal that we would like to get. All summer we were tied up that our mine never turned a wheel. That means all that is a lost output, so that I have been very lax on taking contracts just on that account as I am afraid there is going to be a shortage. So far, we have not been able to put any coal in storage. We have had up to 5,000 in storage. This year we have not a ton.

Have you any suggestions to offer as to what might be done to ease up the situation and let the mines run steadier? That is really what is the bottom of the whole trouble, the intermittent operation of the mines.
Yes, with the upset conditions now. I'm not a miner, and cannot see things with a miner's point of view, but up until the time we had unions here, we never seemed to have any trouble. I believe that if the unions were done away with here, that we would have less trouble than we had with the unions. I am not speaking for the miners, you understand. I only give my own personal observation. Since we have had unions, then has been our biggest trouble.

You mean there have been more stoppages of work?
More uncertainty. You never knew where you were at. If we knew at the spring of the year what our coal was going to cost us, we might give people some assurance what coal is going to cost them and take contracts. I was in hopes that stripping proposition was going to help matters, for I felt if it was a success it would go a long way to getting rid of skilled labour, and get away from a lot of trouble; but that was not a success, and wasn't really a fair trial.
By J. Loughran:

When you think that unions help to create trouble which union do you refer to, the operators or the miners? The miners' is what I refer to. I don't think there is a union between the operators.

You haven't anything to suggest? You tell us you are not a miner, and you won't know the details of the workings between associations?

No, I don't. I am only speaking from my own opinion.

The public as a rule blame the miners' organization, and very often the paid agitator—that is the general impression, but it's for want of experience.

I would like to be able—take for instance, you live in Edmonton, and you were going to buy so much coal—I would like to be able to go to you and say "I can supply you your coal this winter; I will give you a price for all you can put in, and a price for the rest of the winter." If I don't know what the coal is going to cost me, I cannot tell you. That has been our position. We don't know what the coal is going to cost us. Conditions have arisen lately—the mine has said "I have to charge more." And I take it is principally on account of the money he had had to pay to the miners he has had to increase that price.

It would be a very plausible excuse on his part, that that was the reason, the miners' union insisted on the miners getting more wages or something. I am representing labour to some extent, and that so far as the keeping the mines working continuously is beneficial to us all. I as a miner am equally as interested in keeping the mines working as many months in the year as the operator is. What I would like to see would be steady employment all the year round if possible, or as many months as possible, to give steady employment to all those engaged in the coal business.

That would be a grand thing if it could be worked out. It would be a case where in the summer months when we are losing money, we might be able to break even. It would be a whole lot better from the dealer's point of view, and that is just the point that I believe the miners having a union here, we don't know what coal is going to cost us, and we can't go and fill a man's basement up.
You will be aware that the operators’ association and the miners’ representatives fixed up what we call a contract, and that to a great extent regulates the wages until the expiration of that contract, unless something extraordinary crops up, such as the great war. That upset the working arrangements, and what would be a fair wage when food was at a normal price, was not a normal wage when food doubled. But when things are going normally, it is quite possible for an operator to quote a price for a long way ahead until the expiration of his contract, and when there is a good feeling between the two associations, it is really a guarantee of steady work. There is very seldom local strikes, and when there are, it’s due to the operators and not the miners.

Evidence of N.C. Pitcher, General Manager, North American Collieries Ltd.*

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

You have heard the evidence?
Yes. On housing conditions, I have noticed in the papers that you have been taking evidence to the effect that the bunkhouses should be abolished. As an operating company, we quite agree with any evidence that could be brought in on that matter, but at the same time it must be remembered that when you abolish your bunkhouse you must substitute something to take their place. Most of the mining camps, so far as our company knows, have a certain number of houses which are in good shape and well built and which are occupied by the settled miners; but you always have a drifting class. These in most camps are taken care of by the bunkhouses. Some mines are putting in hotels, which are really glorified bunkhouses. But they still only take care of the drifting class. Possibly the fact that you have those, encourage a drifting class; and my company is of the opinion it would be a great benefit to the industry, both to the miner and the operator, if there was less of that done and more houses built. Our experience has been rather unfortunate in our houses. We have at this mine, houses

*Oct. 30, 1919 session.
occupied by miners. In the spring they would leave, and we
would look over the houses and find they pulled the laths off
the ceilings to make kindling with. They maltreated the
houses, and from an investment point of view of course you
got no returns on that at all. One house at our Pembina
mine, the other day, one of our men had been in it a year. A
four-roomed lath and plastered house. He was furnished
light and water and house rent for $10.00 a month. He had
been in it a year, and it cost $150.00 to fix up the house
when he left. That is not typical at all, but there are a good
many houses kept in that condition by the tenants. Our idea
is, if we could get the miners to build their own houses—to
have a stake in the country, a place where they can have
their own gardens, bring up their family, with the idea of
possession—you will get a better class of miners. At the
time, I don't know. The miners I think would look on any
scheme with suspicion much as we have tried to inaugurate
at our mines, of offering these houses for sale at the cost to
us and spreading this payment over a long period of years.
We haven't been at all successful about it, and I have
thought that possibly since the Dominion Government have
offered a large sum of money at the disposal of the province
on housing in industrial centres, that the government might
lend this money to the miners at a low rate of interest and
let them build their own houses. Encourage that. Most
companies would be willing to do that if the miners would
accept the idea. I presume the Provincial Government has
reasons for not accepting the Dominion Government offer.
Two or three reasons I can see are in the regulations that
they demand to be enforced. One is, for instance, these
houses must be on sewerage; whereas it is impossible in a
good many mining camps in the country; and others at a
tremendous and unnecessary cost. Those regulations were
drawn up in Ottawa, I don't think with a view to our
regulations in mining camps. But if the local government
would create a fund and let the miners know that this
money is available to build their own houses, I think it will
tend to settle down a large percentage of the miners that we
have now drifting, which are an expense to the community,
and to themselves and to the company.

*Can they always get land?*

I think there are some camps in the province which are
closed camps. None that I know of definitely. I would say, wherever you are in the park reserves, you might have difficulty, though I think they can get them under lease. I don’t know of any closed camp in the province outside of that. I think there are some. Mr. McNeill, is the Canmore more or less a closed proposition on that account?

By W. F. McNeill:

No, there’s a townsite laid out by the Federal Government, whereby a great many of the men own their own homes, and situate on town lots.

By J. Loughran:

Cadomin would come under that if the evidence we got was reliable—was a closed camp.

It may be.

By W. F. McNeill:

There has been no trouble whatsoever, so far as I have been able to ascertain, to have the Federal Government establish a town anywhere you want it. In fact, they will survey it in their parks or any place. Where they lease you ground, they will survey a town for you, and they will sell the lots. That will apply to Cadomin, for the regulations are much the same. Lovett was also the same.

I may be wrong in that. They may be leasing those lots at the present time, but the lots at Canmore in the early days were sold outright. I believe there has been some regulation in regard to selling of the land.

In connection with that evidence that was presented at Lovett, I got two letters I wrote to our manager at Monarch: “You might offer any man who wishes to build shacks, the privilege of building anywhere on the townsite.” This particular case was at Monarch.

By J. Loughran:

That’s Drumheller?

Yes. I have written this when Mr. Lea was there. I could not
find the previous letter telling them we would furnish lumber and windows and give them a lengthy term.

By W. F. McNeill:

Would you limit that to some design of a house, or let them do their own?
We have offered to design the house free for them; at the same time we will make plans and everything, them telling us their ideas.

Does it not appear to you that in order to get better housing conditions, in a great many instances, more particularly with foreigners, that it would be necessary to specify as to what kind of house should go up?
I think it would be a very good idea.

We have evidence to that effect, that some of the houses put up are not satisfactory.
We made no restrictions at Monarch nor at Lovett. The only restriction we would have made there was, if a man was going to build a poor house, he would have to go into a different district away from our townsite where our houses were fairly expensive houses.

By J. Loughran:

Our idea is to make the miner contented. We have nothing to gain at all by having a class of man that is forever seeking trouble.
As a matter of fact it does not tie down a miner, because there is no case where he cannot turn over his investment to another miner.

Of course, there's always the risk if the mine stopped.
Quite right.

There's nothing else in sight.
Quite right. The next note I had was uniform dockage. We have been doing our best to get the Manitoba market, which depends entirely on what we can do—how far we can meet American competition. We find that a good deal of the coal shipped from the Lethbridge district, for instance,
today, is almost dirtier than the coal we used to hoist there. We are packing out today, dirt sent up by the miner equivalent to over 8% of the entire output—is picked out as dirt. As Mr. McNeill knows, that dirt is paid for as bone in the seam, and then we have to pay the same miner a second time for it as coal. For instance, our dockage is very expensive in that Valley. You may dock a man 25¢. He doesn’t care that. He would just as soon spend 25¢ in the dockage. After three dockages, he might be discharged. He doesn’t care about that. We, I think, should ask our miners to help us get this market. We should ask them to endeavour to get out clean coal. I think that that could be gotten at if a uniform dockage clause were put in our agreement similar to the one at Fernie and Brazeau. I think the way it works is, periodically a weighing is made of the amount of dirt that is picked out. As the miner is paid for loading coal and not for loading the dirt, they take out 3% of dirt and dock all the loaders 3%. During any other time they may weigh the dirt again. If it weighs one per cent, the loader is only docked 1%. If it is docked 5%, they are docked 5%.

By W.F. McNeill:

The general principle is that, that it is absolutely impossible for a miner to load his coal thoroughly clean, that a certain amount of refuse will of necessity come in with the coal. That amount will be a percentage of the total amount loaded, for which there is no dockage. Then periodically the amount of refuse which comes out in the coal, say today, will be ascertained. If that amount of rock is greater than the amount which has been agreed upon as to the amount which it is impossible to take out, then that forms the dockage. A man is just fined in accordance with the amount that is over that amount. As, for example, the rock would be 25 lbs., and it was ascertained that Mr. Pitcher sent up a car of coal in which there was 100 lbs. of rock. He has then sent up 75 lbs. excess rock, for which he would be fined a given amount of the coal which was in the car that the rock came out of. He is fined that in coal. That is kept separately. That coal, of course, is sold by the company. It is kept in a separate fund. The fund that is raised from this dockage system is used for the children in their sports, for sport days, and baseball clubs, and football clubs, and
entertainments and so on. The company derives absolutely not a single nickel from it; but the money that is derived from this source is given for more or less benevolent purposes, and works out satisfactorily.

My idea isn't quite that. But that the dockage is taken as weighed, the picking taken and weighed, and all loaders docked by the excess to the average that comes over.

By J. Loughran:

_I was recording secretary for a Union. When I was there, we had this question of dockage continually, and they used to give as the reason the bad light. Now if they have the electric light they have a better opportunity of cleaning the coal. It's taken on an average of all coal loaded out._

By W. F. McNeill:

_If the average don't exceed so much and so much and so much, there will be no dockage? But if it exceeds that, it is docked._

By J. Loughran:

_I don't think it is satisfactory to dock every man. I think the practical working out of that is the miners cooperate then, and where they find a man sending out dirty coal they let him know._

_The check weighman lets him know. The check weighman gets hold of the man as a rule._

By W. F. McNeill:

_That's only the individual car, Mr. Pitcher._

By J. Loughran:

_It would not be fair if there were 20 good men that never let any dirt at all off, and you had one or two careless miners, it would not be fair to fine the good men._
By W. F. McNeill:

I don't think you have got that right yet. The average weight of rock is taken, as from the total. That is then deducted from each car, as the amount which comes out in each car. But the excess over and above that amount is what forms your dockage fund in the individual car. That's what I mean.

Evidence of G.S. Montgomery, General Manager, Alberta Coal Mining Co. Ltd., Edmonton*

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

The Commission is collecting evidence with a view to making a report to the Provincial Government as to anything that can be done to improve the coal mining industry, if possible. Is it to recommend legislation?

Well, probably, yes, to advise the government what should be done, if anything can be done, to improve the industry. We have had various suggestions made, probably you have noticed them in the press? Yes. Shall I make my statement now?

Yes.

I was requested to come here in regard to a matter that might be contentious with labor, but that if it is proper put, I think labor will agree with me. We are having a coal famine in Saskatchewan; I suppose that is a matter of common knowledge. We can't fill our orders and I guess nobody else can, so we are figuring on asking the government to suspend the 8-hour law during this emergency. I phoned Mr. Richards the other day, and he asked me to come here. Of course, you have no authority to do this, but it does seem to me that this matter should be taken up and considered with a view to amending that law. I am not appearing here for the operators at all. I am appearing here more for the men in our own mine who want to work over 8 hours. This is their harvest; if they want to work, and we

*Nov. 26, 1919 session
pay them for their work, what right has any man or government to come in and say they can't do it? They can sell me nine or ten hours' work if I am willing to buy it. It seems to me that is the right of the British subject. How with that compulsory arbitrary 8-hour law it treats them as children, making us pull them out at the end of 8 hours or be fired. It is interference with the rights of the citizens. This and B.C. are, I understand, the only provinces that have that law. I am not saying anything against the 8-hour law as a base. We are very willing to pay for overtime. I wanted to ask the Commission to allow us to put in an amendment or an absolute repeal of that law in the next session. I know it will be objected to, especially by the leaders of labor, not by the rank and file. The rank and file of the coal miners want to work and make money. This is a weather business in Alberta. It's a very different proposition from the southern part of the province where they have double shifts, sometimes treble shifts, so this 8-hour law doesn't affect them at all. It affects the small mines here in Alberta, and miners and operators and especially now the consumers. We get telegrams and telephone messages every day for coal that we can't possibly fills the orders. That's one thing. This other matter is a contentious matter, but it's a very important matter. We are suffering now from unrest in labor unnecessarily. Strikes are called without any reason, without any sense. The strike that was called on May 24th at our mine was the most senseless and silly strike that was ever pulled off in Alberta. There was not a single demand made on us for higher wages, the conditions were satisfactory, and the men were all satisfied. Why should they strike? Along came one of these fellows—a parasite that lives off these people. He cracked his fingers and all these fellows came out and stayed out all summer. These labour leaders are very solicitous for the welfare of the miners. They lost those fellows $85,000 in wages; lost us $14,000 in business and damages in our mine. For what? They didn't make one single demand on us. Now if there had been a penalty clause in their contracts then nothing would have happened. I am coming to the point now. It is this. No contract ought ever to be signed unless both parties are responsible. These contracts made with the union are jug-handle contracts, they're one-sided. Their labor leaders tell them they mustn't consent to a penalty clause, because they want to walk out any minute, put us out of business, lose money.
Look at the United States today—right on the point of freezing on account of that very thing. I would make a request that a law or an amendment be introduced providing for incorporating the unions, and not treat the members of the union like children and lunatics. Make men of them. Every honest worker wants to keep his contract. These men at our mine, the ones who were honest were intimidated, bulldozed. They didn't dare to go to work. If we had had a proper penalty clause they wouldn't have walked out, they wouldn't have lost that money, and we wouldn't have lost our money, and business would have been in better shape today. I want to ask that we be allowed to put in an amendment or a new Bill providing for incorporation of unions. That is common sense, and why should the labor men object to it? And then there's another thing about labour unions, I don't believe that anyone should be allowed to join a labor union except a British subject. I suppose that would be another contentious subject; but there's common sense in that too. Those two points are about all I care to speak about, as a reasonable man. And of course these two points have been brought up before and fought by labor; but you can all see that labor would be better off with those conditions in the law.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

You are of the opinion that the men would work more than the 8 hours if they were allowed to?

They certainly would. They come to us every year and say "I'm on a homestead out here. I want to make all the money I can this winter, and if you let us work we won't say anything about it." But we will not break the law; we won't wink at it. We therefore lose an output of 40 to 50 tons a day, and the customers in Saskatchewan freezing would have the benefit. We would have a benefit, and the labor men too. Who is to be humbugged by such a provision as that? That compulsory 8-hour law is tyrannical, it's autocratic, it's un-British, it's impracticable, and it should be repealed or amended in such a way as to give us an opportunity. Let these men work when they ask us to. I don't come here as an operator to demand anything. The men themselves want it; but they don't dare give me their names, as they're afraid of the labor unions, afraid of the leaders, afraid of being bulldozed as they were last summer.
By W. Smitten:

You said you didn’t believe it should be possible for any but British subjects to belong to labor unions?
Yes.

Irrespective of whether a man wanted to or not? Isn’t that a contradiction of your previous statement relative to compulsion—there should be no compulsion?
What do you mean?

In connection with your 8-hour law, you said there should be no compulsion that a man should have to stop work at the completion of 8-hour day if he wanted to work. Yet in connection with the question of joining an organization you say a man should be compelled to stay out of it?
No. Compelled to be a British subject before he joins, and not allow these aliens to outvote these people.

By J. Loughran:

Why a British subject? Why deprive any man of the right to be what he likes?
We don’t deprive him of the right.

Why would you give a privilege to the British that you wouldn’t give to any other man?
Because it is a British country.

By W. Smitten:

You wouldn’t carry that further and say as an operator you wouldn’t employ any but British subjects?
No. I don’t say anything of the kind. I say why should aliens run the unions? Why are they allowed to outvote British subjects? They come over here without a dollar, to better their condition. They come in here, they don’t like our institutions, they want to upset them. The labour unions allow them to join—that makes them the stronger.

By J. Loughran:

Have you had much experience with labour unions?
Too much. I don’t call it a trade union, I call it a conspiracy.
Have you had sufficient experience in trades union matters to know whether the aliens outvote the British subject, or not?
Yes, sure. We have it right here. I can give you figures almost where the majority is probably a third over British subjects, and maybe more right in Alberta.

By W. Smitten:
Didn't you say a while ago that these men were intimidated by the leaders?
Yes, sir.

Were the leaders aliens?
I didn't say they were, I don't think. Some were and some were not. There were two aliens, I think, and two British subjects—four I can think of just now. Yes, sir, there's no question about intimidation. I have their own word for it.

I was just trying to rectify the position that the aliens outvoted, and then that the leaders intimidated, and then that the leaders not being aliens.
They are.

How would the two come together?
That's very simple.

By W. F. McNeill:
What was the nationality of the leader in this district?
Would it surprise you if I told you he was an American, and couldn't vote in this country?
That doesn't make any difference. All we want is a contract with a union that will keep its contract, you understand? There's not been a single union contract kept in the Edmonton district in the coal mining business. Not one. Don't you think it's about time these men are treated as men and told to become British subjects and join unions and make valid contracts, and put a penalty clause in them; and we will have peace and the men will be better off.

By J. Loughran:
You told us that men should not be allowed to join the union before they became British subjects?
That is only an opinion—or declared his intention to become a British subject. I don’t have to explain my reason for it.

*A man comes to this country, and we encourage him, send out flattering advertisements to every country, we invite him—tell him this is the land of the free.*
That’s what it is too.

*And then they come here at our invitation. What would you do with the man between the period of him coming to Canada and him becoming a British subject?* Let him work. He doesn’t have to join a union to have to work. That’s the way to get out of work, to join a union.

*You think that man should be a mule or a horse?* That’s the same old argument we are always listening to when this comes up. A man who is not a British subject is just as much a man as you or me. But when he comes here, he can declare his intentions of becoming a British subject, and then he would be eligible to join anything—even a church.

*When a man comes to your mine and asks for a job, do you ask him his nationality before you employ him?* I’m not talking about that. I’m talking about labor unions—an organization where it should be British subjects. I’m not talking about men that work for me. I don’t see why unions want to be run by aliens, that’s all I said.

*And yet you haven’t been able to give us any instances where they are run by any aliens?* I thought I did. There are several instances, if I want to go into it. I don’t know as I care to.

*Then I think if we were to sum it altogether, your idea would be this, that the man for the first three or four years when he comes to this country, should be allowed or encouraged—we will not say forced—but he should be encouraged to work 12, 14 or 16 hours as long as his health*... What’s the good of talking about 12 or 16 hours to you, when I said I believed in the 8-hour day; and what is more, when a man lands here he can declare his intention of
becoming a British subject, and should be eligible to join anything.

Wouldn’t that make him eligible for the unions?
Sure.

And wouldn’t he have to conform with the laws of the union?
Certainly he would. He would be a British subject and have something at stake.

Evidence of S. Centazzo, unemployed miner, Edmonton.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
What are you employed at?
At present time not working.

Have you had any position at all in your organization?
I have been working for 15 years in the mines. After the strike it’s impossible for me to get a job there. I have to get the job in town two or three days a week.

By W. F. McNeill:
Where did you work last?
Bush mine.

And you are not working now—not in the mines?
No.

Why?
Because it’s impossible to get a job. I was one of the leaders, and I am under discrimination and you know very well all the leaders from the United Mine Workers they’re up against it today. One is working on the section, and other one working on the section south and one way and another.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
Do you hold any position with any organization at present?
No.
Did you before?
Yes, sir.

What?
Chairman of the Humberstone miners.

Of the local?
Yes.

It was Bush mine you were working in?
Yes, sir.

Well, have you anything further to say?
Well, I don't know; according to the previous speaker I shouldn't be allowed to speak for the simple reason I'm not English speaking. I don't know if you will allow me to.

We will stop you when we think you should not speak, so go ahead. You are here to give evidence. Never mind what any previous speaker has said.
In regard to ourselves, we got washhouse here not in proper conditions. That's the main thing for the miner. Second.

By W. F. McNeill:
Washhouse where?
In some mines they got the box in with the locks, and the spray baths, and some mines none.

You say that the washhouse isn't in proper condition. What washhouse?
I take in general.

If you deal in generalities, we are in a pretty hard position.
I will not take just one mine. I take in general. Because it's not fair to ask one fellow and leave the other out.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling;
What district do you mean? The whole province?
Edmonton district.
You make the statement that none of the washhouses in Edmonton district are satisfactory?
They're not, for the simple reason that the Mining Act asked the water should be there any time it's required, while it isn't in.

In no washhouse?
The water isn't there all the time. Some time I have been there myself, and I have been asking the manager in the Bush mine as well, "We want the water like the Mining Act require." He say, "You fellows want too much." I say, "Law gives that to us, we want to take it." Now we never get that. They say somewhere they can't get water. Some time you have to skim your pail out, and sometimes to freeze yourself because the water is cold.

And that applies to all the washhouses in the district?
And I was chairman of three mines, and every empty locker—they were soused for the water.

Is lack of sufficient water the only thing that is wrong with the washhouses?
And the wood box—they will not dry the clothes. There should be a screen box so that ventilation will get through the box—but when the box is closed, that wood, only a few holes in the board, and few holes in the bottom of the box. When the miner put his shoes there they close the holes there and ventilation can't get there.

You mean the lockers?
Yes.

Have all the washhouses in the Edmonton district, wooden lockers?
They are Twin City, Bush mine and the Humberstone.

Well, those are the three mines you are speaking for? Not speaking for all the mines in the district?
Well, Standard mine, they got none. Fulton mine at the other side of the river, they have got no washhouse at all, only a small stove without a boiler at all.

How many men employed at that mine?
I could not tell you exactly.
5 or 50 or 500?
It's only a small mine. I could not say.

Are there more than 5?
Yes.

More than 10?
Well, I guess they employ about 25— that one as built the tipple last summer.

Have you anything else?
Now it's a question that my opinion in regard to the safety lamps in room work. We have cold weather in this country, some time 45 below zero, and the miners got to stand outside there waiting for the fire boss to put the lamp—examine the lamp. The miners have to stay there 15 to 20 minutes in some mines where there's a big crew. It seems to me, speaking humanity, there should be a big room there so the miners can go in and warm themselves instead of stay in the cold weather outside.

Are you again referring to the whole of the Edmonton district?
All through the province.

Do you know—in the Crow's Nest Pass, for instance, how long the men have to wait outside before they get their lamps?
No, but I can give you here on the north, and the branch here on the Brule branch.

What else?
Is the question of the safety lamps inside. Speak by myself in mine 22. I was foul damp for the days I went down 150 feet while the lamp was hung up there. There was a little bit of gas on the face that was keeping the lamp fire down about 15 to 20 feet below the face, and I happened to hold and went right on to the sheet. Now I went over a bit on the left, and it was a hard job for me to climb up again, for the simple reason I didn't have a lamp to go up. If a miner is allowed to carry up those small electric lamps in the pocket in case of emergency, he can take out his lamp and save his life. Some time we have a cave or the lamp run out. Probably fire boss isn't there. Well, anything took place
there the miner lose his life, because he ain't no key to open the lamp, but if he has the small lamp in the pocket, just to use for emergency, save his life.

*How do you mean? He should have two lamps?*
One so that they can keep in the pocket.

*In addition to the safety lamp, they should have a flash lamp?*
Yes, the safety lamps, but in case the lamp run out and caves coming down and cave the lamp, well, the miner only put his hands in the pocket and took his lamp out.

*Do you know what would be the effect? You know when a cave takes place that you get an outburst of gas? What would be the probable effect of using one of these flash lights you suggest in that gas?*
I don't know quite that. They use some electric lamps in the gas mines. I don't know if it's true or not, yet they have used these big electric lamps. They know very well the gas is there, and they still have the electric lamps.

*By J. Loughran:*

*If there is more than one man, there will be more than one light. You are referring to places where there is only one light?*
Yes. Sometimes you have a partner, and you have to go in yourself.

*By W. F. McNeill:*

*You mentioned washhouses and lights. Have you anything else to mention?*
There should be in each mine—inside the mine—in every section or two sections a couple of blankets and an ambulance; I guess that's the proper name, put there in the box in case of accidents. A miner can go there and take the blankets and the ambulance to support that fellow miner that has been hurt. It happened to me in Drumheller field last year, a man be shot and I asked the pit boss if he had no blankets. He said nothing doing. While the man was nearly dead and I had to go and take a board—was full of nails—and take the nails out and then carry him out on that
board. That should be in the mine in case of accidents, and support men being hurt.

Stretcher, you mean?
Yes, stretcher.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

What mine was that?
Peerless mines, Wayne.

By W. F. McNeill:

When did you leave the Peerless mines?
I left there on the strike time. I guess it was July last summer.

By J. Loughran:

May?
No, we was out in strike on the Peerless mine to come through with the agreement.

By Chairman, J. T. Stirling:

I thought you said you were working in the Bush mine previous to the strike?
No, I mean last year 1918, not 1919.

By W. F. McNeill:

You had no agreement?
We signed the agreement after six weeks, I guess.

Didn't you have one previous to that?
No.

You are quite sure of your statement?
No agreement with the union.

You had no orders as to the Director of Coal Operations how that mine should be operated?
But Mr. Armstrong he was giving it out himself without reference to the membership of the union.
He had that authority?
Yes.

You didn't accept it?
No.

You went on strike?
Yes.

Contrary to the law?
No. Contrary to his order.

You were not working contrary to the order of the Director of Coal Operations? Answer that question.
No. We never worked contrary to the order.

The order was issued?
Yes, sir.

You wouldn't work under it?
To the order — I been working all the time on the order.

You said there was a strike there?
Yes.

I ask you wasn't there an order issued for you to work and you refused to work under that order?
Yes, we did.

That's what I'm driving at.
Yes.

By J. Loughran:
Was there an organization there?
Yes, United Workers.

You have heard some evidence with reference to men being allowed to work as many hours as they wished. What is your opinion?
My opinion is, they shouldn't be allowed to work more what the law asks for. Now they claim they got no kind supply the coal according to the demands. Well, the mine probably employ 100 miners, and they get the contract probably for
150 to fill the orders he supply 150 miners. If the next mine has only order for 50, has 100 men employed, that company should run the orders of the other company, so the miners would work even.

By W.F. McNeill:

Do you say you wouldn't work beyond the 8 hours to relieve that situation?
No, I am quite satisfied to help the situation as far as that is concerned, because I don't like anybody to freeze to death, but I don't like to see a mine run with full power, and the next mine working only half the time.

Do you know of any mine in this province that's working half its time today?
I guess not at the present time.

By J. Loughran:

Do you know of anybody freezing to death for want of coal?
No.

By W.F. McNeill:

Have you read the newspapers?
Yes.

Do you know that people are burning straw and fences and try and keep from freezing to death in the province of Saskatchewan?
No. Well, I guess there's plenty of coal coming from the United States.

Do you know there is a strike in the United States—practically no coal being mined?
I guess it's some millions in the United States are stocked.

Can you suggest some way how it can be brought into Canada when the United States government won't allow it to come in?
No. Now I see from the Bulletin a week ago, the operators was meeting Mr. Armstrong in regard to shortage of cars. They lose the market in Manitoba and Saskatchewan
because they have no cars and they claim they work there
only half the time. The government of the province should
press power into the railroad company to supply us suf­
ficient cars therefore the miners can work and relieve the
coal situation in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Not working in the mines now?
It's no use to me to go near the mine.

By H. Shaw:

You are not working in the mine?
No, it was impossible. Because my name is down in the
books to be an agitator. And all the bosses were satisfied
with what I had been doing in the mine.

By W. F. McNeill:

What nationality are you?
Italian.

Are you a reservist?
I am discharged.

You took no part in this present war?
No. I am discharged.

Are you a married man?
No, single.

How old are you?
23.

By H. Shaw:

You are not nationalized?
No.

By W. F. McNeill:

How long have you been in this country?
Came in 1913, September.
From Italy?

By H. Shaw:

You are not a United Mine Worker member?
No, not now.

Are you an OBU?
Yes, sir.
Evidence of E.T. Fitzsimmons, Alberta Government Trade Commissioner in Manitoba.*

By W.F. McNeill:

In your opinion, is the Pittsburg coal, or the Youghiegheny coal, coming to Western Canada through the lake ports at a less figure at the mine, than the coal that is going into Eastern Canada?

Yes, I believe it is. I believe it is dumped.

Your opinion is, this western country is the dumping ground for the Pennsylvania coal?

It certainly is. I figure that the American importers have made a direct drive at this market. I made a report on that months ago. I believe they have lower prices. The reason I have for believing that is that they have quoted their quotations and said they were going to get contracts in any

*Oct. 15, 1919, session.
case. Some of the importers went down there, said they were going to retain that market. They're not going to lose it. They made a direct drive at that market in the early summer and spring months, because there was 126,800 tons of commercial American steam coal carried over on the docks from 1918 before cargo started to go up the head of the lakes; and was available, and the importers made an effort to move this coal before the 1919 cargoes came up to the head of the lakes—that coal was dumped on the market at a price, and other early cargoes came up.

_How can we give the men steadier work, and get out more coal in the province?_  
Well, there's one thing, on the steam coal especially, you have got to get your cost of coal down at least from 75¢ to $1.00 per ton, less than what it is at the point of destination, Winnipeg, today.

_Can you suggest how that can be done?_  
Well, it might be done through a reduction of the present freight rates. It might be done by adding 10¢ or 15¢ or 20¢ a ton to coal in the home market, and giving a rebate on tonnage going into the other. Supposing that they made a special price to Winnipeg market, as some of the steam mines have done at the present time—they have allowed 10¢ or 15¢ a ton on Winnipeg prices. If they could do a little more, they would have to take up that money and make that extra money on the tonnage that would be shipped to Saskatchewan or Alberta.

_You have reference to using the same tactics with respect to the selling end of coal, so far as this province is concerned, as you have reason to believe they are using in Pennsylvania on us?_  
Here's what I run up against in Winnipeg. One fellow could not get Pocohontas and went to New York. They gave him a quotation and Buffalo gave him a quotation. The New York fellow couldn't send it to Buffalo territory for the reason they had it zoned, and says if you send coal to the head of the lakes, my territory—you quote that fellow—we will dump coal into your territory at the other end—we will encroach on your middle west district—the central area. Well, they take and arrange their prices in such a way that
one fellow won't overlap or over-ship the other. For instance is you say here what the price on Alberta steam coal—has to be 25¢ a ton more, and to get that market could you cut that price on the deliveries going to Manitoba for a corresponding time covering that. That's only one thing that might be looked into. And the next thing that, if it could be done, I would suggest that there be more—this matter of freight rates be gone into. That's still hanging before the Railway Commission, and they have had no decision on one brief that was brought up before them, and if these railways are largely nationalized now, all but one line, it might do something to help to develop the resources of the country by giving us a freight where we could meet this foreign competition.

By W.E. Robi, Coal Sellers Ltd., in the audience:

Isn't there one way of reducing the cost at the mines, by giving them longer operation?
Another thing is, if these mines could possibly be worked, largely the domestic mines, instead of 40% capacity, if they could run up to 75 or 80% capacity, the tonnage handled, it would reduce the overhead cost, and that would automatically allow us to sell coal at a reduction.

By W.F. McNeill:

I think this Commission fully realise that, and the object in asking the question was to see if we could get a market whereby they could run steadily.
Now if a combination of those three ideas could be effected, it should help considerable—the prices, the freight rates and the working the mines to capacity—it would all help. I believe it could be done.

They all dovetail into one another?
Yes, they all do. It means that the operators will have to make a little concession in the matter of prices for that market, but might make it up for some other markets.

In your capacity as Trade Commissioner, have you heard of any complaints with respect to Alberta coals in the Manitoba market?
Yes. There's been some coals down there that have not given very good satisfaction.

*On what grounds?*
They wouldn't stand storage. Of course, here's one thing—the Winnipeg dealers haven't got any storage. They haven't got any sheds. They won't build any. Their storage is at the docks.

*I understand that Winnipeg has heretofore gotten its coal supply largely from the United States, and they are coals which don't need any shed for storage capacity?*
Yes.

*That puts a different face on it altogether. In order to get storage capacity in the City of Winnipeg for some of these western coals, they must be educated up to a point where they will put in some storage bins for storing this western coal. Have you heard any complaints as to the dirty coal—not being cleaned?*
Yes. There was some coal shipped down there from Alberta mines that wasn't properly cleaned.

*You speak of domestic coal?*
Yes, and it wasn't cleaned—it wasn't properly prepared. There was rock, shale, and everything else in it, and it kind of gave a black eye to the market.

*Was there any complaints in the Winnipeg or Manitoba market with respect to coal being sold under an assumed name, say?*
Yes, there was last summer. It was sold under trade names.

*Is there any complaints with respect to a man buying a lump coal and receiving a stove coal?*
No. It has been a general practice, though not in lump coal, but it has been a general practice for some jobbers buying a single screen lump 1½ inch screen, and charge the double screen prices.

*In some instances the consumer hasn't got what he paid for?*
Well, not in that case, because he is supposed to have got lump over a different screen. The middle-man is taking the double profit.
Do you think if there was a systematized screening system at the various mines, would it eliminate any of that trouble? Speaking of a screening system, I do not only mean the screen in itself to size the coal, but I mean something with respect to the preparation of the coal—with regard to taking out the bone and the rock and generally putting the coal on the market in a more uniform quality than is put on at the present time. Would that be any assistance in obtaining any more market—a standard screen?

I recommended that something along that line about a year ago.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

State personally what you would recommend.

I suggested that if coal were shipped from the Alberta mines, it should be clearly stated whether it was lump, stove, nut, pea, mine run, or slack, and if a mixture of those grades, state so clearly, and over and through what size screens the coal passes. This would enable all consumers at points of destination to know exactly what they're getting and paying for. It would also stop wholesale jobbers in Manitoba in buying coal which passes over a 1 inch screen, as for example, and call it lump, which they buy at a price and sell it to consumers and represent it as a 3 inch lump coal from Alberta mines.

By H. Shaw:

Don't you think that the fact that they're not used to a lump in that anthracite coal—it's very easy for a dealer to pass off a smaller coal and get away with it?

They're getting educated to it now. They know pretty well what is the best grade of lump coal.

By W. E. Robi:

By the time your recommendations were carried into effect, the ultimate consumer would know nothing about that. Wouldn't it be better to change the screens at the mine? I think in theory it would be a very good thing if it could be worked out, but all coals are not of the same nature. If they were all the same as Lethbridge, I think it would be a fine thing.
By W. F. McNeill:

My question was only with respect to the facilities at the mines. I doubt if this commission would have very much influence with respect to recommending what a retailer should do in the City of Winnipeg. We would have no power outside the province.

In your opinion, would a zoning system be of any benefit, that is, coals of certain quality say, be allowed to be stored the different months in the year, and certain other coals would not be allowed to be stored? I recommended that nothing but the best grades of Alberta coal be shipped into Manitoba; but there's some fellow down there will want a cheap coal just the same as anyone else will want a cheap article. There's Tofield coal going in there now that should not go.

By H. Shaw:

You think Pennsylvania coals are dumped in that market? They have been.

Have you any proof to that effect? They made a direct drive at that market. Importers come up and said they were not going to lose out that market—that the question of price was no object. That market took care of a surplus amount of coal for them and during the season when things were slack. There's no coal burned in the summer down in the middle states—no domestic coal.

Isn't there a dumping clause that would make that price advance equal to the local price at the point of origin? They went right after that market.

Isn't there a tariff that governs this dumping clause? I think there is.

And if that could be proved? I think there's a tariff.

There's a clause I think. It advances the price in that case something like the home price. But you are working up against one of the biggest organizations in the United States.
Well, that is within the power of the Dominion Government to regulate that. When we brought up the case of saying that the Alberta mines should take care of the Winnipeg market last year, the American anthracite shippers practically told the Dominion Government that if they didn't allow coal to go into the west, they would not get any for the east. That is common history. So the American shippers dictated the policy of the Federal Government.

They hold a club over us—in the east?
Yes.

By J. Loughran:
Do we understand that hard coal is allowed into the east, duty free?
Yes.

Why?
Every man in Manitoba would be up in arms if they had about 53¢ a ton duty.

By a member of the audience:
May that not be on account of Ontario and Quebec not having hard coal?
You put 53¢ a ton duty on hard coal coming into Canada—you would have a howl from Nova Scotia right through to Winnipeg.

By W.F. McNeill:
In your opinion, would coal be purchased cheaper under Government ownership than it would under the private individual?
I don't think so.

Do you think that under Government ownership the public would be paying more for a ton of coal than under private ownership?
I believe so.
By J. Loughran:

Why should they? They would not operate so many mines, and keep them operating more regularly, and the result would be coal could be handled cheaper. That's all right in theory, but it don't work out in practice. We have had the operation of the United States railroads, and we have not had in the United States—we have had Government control of the fuel situation in Alberta for the last couple of years. They have said what your railway freight rates will be, under the Railway Commission; they have said what you will pay your miners owing to the high cost of living; they have said what you will sell your coal at—a maximum. I don't think you would reduce the cost of coal to the consumer as to what it is at the present time. You've read of the action of the British authorities on that, and the cost of coal has gone up.

By H. Shaw:

The theory is good, but the practice is poor?
Yes, it won't work out in practice.

Why not?
The human element—politics largely—inefficiency.

By J. Loughran:

I don't see why not—the Government would have to employ men such as yourself, and such as the Chairman here, and other practical men. The Government themselves would employ men that thoroughly understood the matter; and these men, if they can make private mines a success, why not have the Government as economical and make it as great a success. There would be no charge practically in the management of the mines—the same men, the same Government officials—they would be under the Government instead of private officials. If sounds fine, but it won't work.

By W. Smitten:

Why should there be a difference between the Government
ownership of the production of utilities, and the Government ownership in the delivery of messages? Has the Government not made a success of its letter carrying and mail carrying business? Why the difference?

By Mr. George (a member of the audience):
They never have—the Government of the United States has a deficit in the mail business every year.

By W. F. McNeill:
It's pretty hard work, Mr. Smitten, with respect to resources and with respect to postal work, for the reason that we have always been under Government control in postal service. I daresay that you could find a body of men who would undertake to take a contract either from the United States Government or the Dominion Government with respect to carrying and delivery of mail, at a much lower figure than it's costing the Government to do today that same work, and they would show a profit.

By H. Shaw:
And a more efficient service.

By J. Loughran:
The thing would be that, that a private firm would handle it where it paid best, but the rural cities where there was a loss, they wouldn't handle it at all.

By W. F. McNeill:
Well, the rural delivery has only been in effect the last 15 years.
In reply to your question. You take any group of organized businessmen that have got their own money invested, that have got their own ideas, and that are free to work them out; and they either take their losses or their profits, and they take them themselves. Under Government control things would go along stated lines—it might be efficient, or it might not. There's too much of the human element enters into it. It sounds fine in theory.
How far west are the railways using American coals?
Well, they had American coal right almost into Saskatoon.

I'm not speaking of during the strike. I'm speaking of generally, say, today.
Well, they're getting some American coal west even today.

How far west?
They had some American coal almost into Regina, that is Canadian Northern. They're short of coal. They haven't got anywhere near 30 days supply on hand, and they have been getting a lot of American coal and shipping it west.

That is the result of strike too?
Yes. If they'd had a little surplus—now the G.T.P. have got a little surplus: they have been selling coal to some of the other people: and the C.P.R. have got about 3 or 4 months supply on hand.

How far west does the Canadian Pacific use American coal?
They've been getting some between Broadview and Brandon. They were taking in a little supply on that north line almost about half way to Saskatoon. That was the result of strike too.

This coal that's coming west—probably west of Winnipeg. Is it your opinion that this coal is now coming west of Winnipeg on account of strike last summer, or is it coming west now on account of having purchased the coal last summer during the strike and they have it under contract to buy?
I couldn't get very much information out of that. I was up to the railroad people, and they're very vague; they don't want to give out very much information. I saw the General Manager of the Canadian Northern and some of the C.P.R. officials, and things were up in the air. They were not getting out any tonnage from the Alberta mines and they had to get coal somewhere. That's the way they put it, and I think a lot of this coal had been bought right on the spur of the moment during the strike for current use. It wasn't the goal that was bought months before. They bought it in the market they could get it quick.
Evidence of W.E. Robi, District Manager, Coal Sellers Ltd.

By W.F. McNeill:

The amount of coal stored in the Province of Alberta and Saskatchewan is only a mere bagatelle to the amount of coal consumed?
Yes.

Isn't it necessary, in order to get greater production, to get greater market?
Yes.

Do you know where that could be found?
Well, we haven't shipped any domestic coal into Spokane since December 1915. We used to have a very good business down there. They used to stock our coal early in the spring and sell quite a bit of it in winter, but since we've had these recent advances in price, we are unable to compete with American territory. I picked up a bill that was before the legislature in the State of Washington, saying that the State of Washington, for any public institution, could not contract for coal from anywhere out of the State unless a coal was mined under labour conditions similar to those necessary by their laws around coal mines in Washington.

Was that a war measure bill, or a regular bill?
A regular bill.

Is that law in effect now?
As far as I know.

By E. T. Fitzsimmons (a member of the audience):

That Bill was brought up before the House in the State of Washington. I inquired into that. And also another portion of the United States where they're producing coal—Wyoming and Montana market. I sent a notice along with a letter attached, to yourself, Mac, and I inquired into it that while that bill didn't pass law in the State Legislature, it was put into practice just as much as if it had been law. It's an unwritten law that no State should use the coal mined out of that State when there was an available supply in that State.
If it hasn't passed, it's put into effect by all State institutions. They were circularized to that effect.

Our aim to increase production has been to develop the Manitoba territory. We have opened an office in Brandon, and have a man there who is on the road a great deal of the time. And what our understanding is—should be a well prepared uniform size of coal to be equipped down there to compete with the American anthracite.

By H. Shaw:

You have no States market, then?
We have for our Hillcrest coal, but not for our domestic coal.

Is it increasing or decreasing?
Our steam business in the States is increasing, and we cannot compete with the American coal on our domestic.

Do you have any market on the Coast to speak of?
No. We can only ship as far as Kamloops, with the west.

You cannot compete with Kamloops?
We can compete with Kamloops, but not to the Coast. We ship to every town between Winnipeg and Kamloops.

But beyond Kamloops the price is against you?
Yes.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

What is your opinion about zoning the coal?
I think it would be very very feasible. I think some of the low grade high moisture lignite should be kept into a field where their freight rate makes it favourable, and that other coals like the Lethbridge coals should not be shipped within 100 to 150 miles east of Edmonton, and that the zones could be worked out that way. But as far as saying whether a man should ship the coal from a certain field for Winnipeg in the summer, I don't see where that interests you at all. But I don't think that the coal that is surface mined in Alberta should be shipped into Manitoba. It is true a man is only paying $2.75 a ton for it, but by the time it gets down there it isn't worth the money.
Do the cessations of work that we have time after time, interfere with the marketing in any way?
There's a rumour there's going to be a strike. Everybody wants their coal shipped the same day they hear that rumour. That rumour passes away. A good many people are overstocked, and then we're wanting a market.

It has the effect of making people put in coal when they wouldn't otherwise?
They've cried "wolf" that there's going to be a coal shortage for 3 years. The farmers in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were told to get their coal early. They have done so. This year we had the strike. 514,000 tons of domestic coal were mined in June and July last year. This year there was none to speak of. That has to be caught up some way, and it makes a big difference, this unsettled labour market. When I was with the Industrial Congress here, I read hundreds of letters from people saying they were going to locate here, but the labour conditions were such in Western Canada they wouldn't risk investment. Mr. Crowburn, the agent for the C.N.R., told me it was so unsettled they didn't know what to do.

By J. Loughran:
Could you offer us any advise on the best way to reduce the number of strikes, if they could not be eliminated or done away with altogether? Avoiding strikes?
I would say the first thing to do would be to start and educate the workman, the men that couldn't speak or read or write English. Make him a Canadian citizen, to have him take some pride in himself, his country, his God, and everything else. They don't appreciate some of them, what they have today. I don't know anything about the coal miner as a human being, but I know a lot about a railroad stiff, and if you want me to talk about what I would do with the railroad fellow or a construction gang, I could tell you. But I don't know anything about the coal miner. They have got wonderful living conditions.

I've no idea what you earn, but I would like the difference between. But apart from that, the average miner lives in a shack.
We built 30 houses at Drumheller. 5 rooms. We rent them for $12.00 a month. We hired a returned man and sent him
out there—he was paying $40.00 a month in Calgary for a
house not as good as what he got. At the Rotary Club last
night we had a talk on the difference between capital and
labour, and Pete Naismith brought out something. This
happened about 7 years ago; Drummond will verify this.
They build houses on their Mountain Park mine. They put
toilets in there, and there was a family living in there. And
they sent their inspector around to inspect this, and the
string was fixed down and the water was running, and they
had their butter in there to keep it cool.

That would be an isolated case.

You heard this morning that there were 47 jobbers in
Winnipeg, and making a profit between $2.60 and $2.90 a
ton.
They’re not jobbers—they’re dealers. A jobber handles coal
in car lots. A dealer delivers it retail.

What I want to convey to you is this, that the miner has got
to risk his life and go down the mine and work like a son of a
gun to make about $4.00 to $6.00, or from 65¢ to 90¢ a ton.
He has got to dig the coal, shovel it, shoot it, load it and
push the car for something under 90¢ a ton, whereas the
other man is simply ordering the coal.
One man is working with his brain and the other with his
arm.

The miner has to use his brain, or he’s going to get the roof
down.

By Mr. Gouge (a member of the audience):
The jobber don’t get that; the Government limited the
jobber to 30¢.
I object to your term of jobber. Use Retail Coal Dealer
instead of Jobber. The latter is a man who physically
handles a coal—the jobber doesn’t physically handle the
coal.

By W. Smitten:
The Jobber is the man who goes between the operator and
the dealer.
A Retail Dealer is a man that physically handles the coal.
By J. Loughran:

If the coal was handled by some central committee instead of this great number of men, one staff of men would do. They have all to keep an office and advertising.

There's no business in the world can live unless it gives service. And I don't care how you handle your coal business, people aren't going to freeze. Coal is a commodity that you can't tie up—it's a necessity. And if you put it in the hands of some few people, would they deliver that coal in rotation as the orders are received? Would they deliver as good coal as they get under competition today?

I don't see why they shouldn't.
But would they?

They would.
You would make the City of Winnipeg Hutterites Settlements.

No, I don't think that. We have Sanitary Health Inspectors. Your coal would all be in one place. Different railroads run into Winnipeg. We have the different districts to serve, to cut down the haulage expenses. Motor trucks to cut down haulage and give better service. I don't doubt for a moment that our company would be perfectly willing for the Government to take that over. If they would run that and guarantee us 7% on the money, I don't see why they couldn't have it.

Evidence of Jesse Gouge, President, Newcastle Coal Co. Ltd., Drumheller.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

You have heard a good bit of the evidence today. Have you anything to add to it?

I have not an awful lot to say, but I have given considerable thought to this question of developing the coal industry. I have been connected with it for 7 years and I have had charge of the selling end of the business all the time and I think that there is a possible chance to increase the markets for Alberta coal and material. In my judgement, there's just one way to do it, and that is to do it by competition with the
American coal. I mean by competition, that we must furnish quality and efficiency in the product at a price that compares favourably or is better than the American price. Whenever we can do these two things we are going to get the market. The market for Alberta coal will be limited to the consumption of Western Canada. I think the market for Alberta coal is practically limited to the consumption in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. There's a little sold in B.C., and a small portion of coal from the Crow's Nest Pass goes over into the United States, but not a very large amount. When we get all the market in these 3 provinces, we have got all that Alberta coal can ever get. We don't get near that now, because of the fact that we have the competition with the American coal all over Manitoba and part of Saskatchewan. In my judgement, the remedy is to reduce our cost of production and that could be done by greater efficiency, the introduction of labour-saving machinery, and what they call getting a higher production per man employed. I have very little expectation that there will be a decrease in the labour cost. I rather expect there will be an increase in the labour cost, rather than a decrease. But to illustrate that point, I might say to you that each field in which I operate mines, varies in the production of coal per man employed, from $2 \frac{1}{2}$ tons to 5 tons.

*Per day?*

*Per day.*

*By H. Shaw:*

*Working under the same conditions?*

Working under the same conditions, paying the same rate of wages to the employee. You will readily understand that the mine that can get 5 tons per man employed has got a lower cost than the $2 \frac{1}{2}$ mine. I visited the mines at Illinois, where their production was very high, and I found a mine that was producing 7 tons of coal per man employed, each day of 8 hours. That was because they had a very large mine, big equipment, and all labour-saving devices. They did their haulage by motor, the coal was cut by electrical cutter, and a large track to haul the coal. Of course, outside it was lower than ours will ever be, because they load it in open cars. But you take the cost at which they were selling the coal there, and compare it with the price of our coal;
they were making just as much money. I think that in Alberta we will be able in time to get greater production at a lower cost. I have great faith in the justice of our claim for reduction in freight rates. They are entirely too high on coal from Alberta to Manitoba. The competition, of course, involves too the questions that have been discussed by Mr. Fitzsimmons and Mr. Robi, including the question of preparation and the question of sending coal of clean character and clean quality. It is always bad for any district to have coal go out that is badly prepared or inferior in quality or containing rock or bones. We can overcome that. Whenever we get production per man up to the highest point of efficiency and our freight rates adjusted on an equitable basis, and then send coal of quality and cleanliness, I believe we will get the Manitoba market and all others practicable; because the influence of prejudice is merely a temporary obstacle. Men have prejudices, but prejudice is the easiest thing in the world to remove. If you can show he is going to save a little, you can get rid of that prejudice easy enough. You have to first show him. The dealers getting a bad car of coal: our experience is, they don't quit buying— they may quit the fellow. That case is getting so general throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan, that you can hardly find a dealer in Manitoba and Saskatchewan who is not pretty conversant with the coal in Alberta. He knows the coal— only, once in a while a new man gets into the business and gets stung.

By W.F. McNeill:

Would you suggest some sort of control over the preparation of the coal?

I have very little faith in Government control, Mr. McNeill. I think that the question of preparation is something that competition will force, and that attempt by the Government to control preparation might make the preparation a lot worse instead of a lot better. I read a lot about preparation by rules and I noticed with that argument, the fellows urging it were always the fellows who wanted more preparation instead of better preparation, always the fellows who said somebody else was making a coal too good and they could not compete with it. They say if you had a uniform preparation, we can get away with it, because
nobody else has anything different. My idea is, preparation has to be adjusted to the character and quality of the coal. You find in Alberta we have every grade of coal—from the lowest grade that there is right up to as good a grade as they get anywhere in Pennsylvania, outside of the best anthracite. Those mines with all those varying grades of coal have to have varying methods of preparation—even in the same field, as Mr. McNeill illustrated this morning. One kind of coal may be friable, brittle, sharp coal, and another fellow's 15 or 20% of ash, almost half bone, and yet sold for coal. He could throw his coal off the top of this building and not hurt it. The other fellow has to handle it very carefully—not to act according to law or rule. But to compel one man to put a friable coal over the same screen, you are working to the disadvantage of the man who probably has the best coal if he is permitted to screen his coal the way he wants to.

The same sized screen?
The same sized screen would amount to the same thing. The question I suggested a while ago—a method of mine—is in our mines. As an illustration, in 1914 we were mining by hand-picked work altogether. Our coal is a brittle coal, breaks like glass. They did a great deal of shooting off the side. We found that our coal, instead of getting from 60 to 70% lump, as we should, we got about 50 or 45% lump. The percentage of lump has a great deal to do with the cost of production. We installed electric coal cutters and after we got them we haven't done any hand mining at all. If we had put our coal today over the same size screen that we do put it over, and put our hand picked coal over the same screen, we would get 30% more lump than we got before. Since we got electric coal cutters we can do it, but if you say the other fellow has to screen over the same screen, and he has a handpicked mine, you are making it a hardship for him.

You would be protecting the public?
The public is able to protect themselves because they will buy the best only when they have it. The question of competition will settle those problems. There are different fields.
By J. Loughran:

The general impression is that we are operating too many mines. Wouldn't that have a tendency to prevent the mine that couldn't compete from having to close down? They will have to close down eventually. I don't want to be introducing any political question. No legislation or government rules which tend to foster combinations or restrict production in the interests of the producer is good legislation. That matter should be left to competition. If a man wants to mine coal, it's to the public interest for him to do so. If a mine can be discovered where coal can be produced for $1.00 a ton, and there was a law preventing you from opening that mine, it would be bad legislation, in order to keep open a mine that was selling $3.50.

I am referring to keeping the mines running all the year instead of part of the year. That could only be done by reducing the number of mines? You are creating a monopoly again, where you might produce something for the benefit of the consumer at a cheaper price. You are enacting a rule by legislation in the interests of an industry by preventing that industry.

Let's admit that to be a fact, for the sake of a question. Take lots of mines that may open up alongside a river bank somewhere, and gouge out a thousand tons of coal at a cheap rate, and then leave it. What condition does that leave your coal in in that locality? That's a legitimate matter for Government legislation on the ground of legislation, but not on the ground of keeping a mine in existence that's already open by legislation. It would be perfectly legitimate.

By W. Smitten:

You said a while ago, Mr. Gouge, that in the Drumheller districts some of the mines were producing equivalent to 5 tons per day per man, and some only 2½ tons per man. What is the cause of the difference? Lack of equipment? Conditions and equipment, I think, accounts for the whole thing. Of course some mines are mining coal under difficult conditions. Many illustrations could be given. Take the case of bad roof conditions. I was in a mine last summer where
the clod between the coal and the roof was about 18 inches thick, and that clod would not stay up; it had to be taken down with the coal. It cost just as much to take that clod out as it would to take out the same quantity of coal; it has to be taken out. The consequence was the cost of the production of that coal ran nearly a dollar higher. While a miner was taking out that 18 inches of clod, he wasn't taking out coal, and his production was considerably lower. That's one reason. Then the other is, of course, the question of getting equipment. And the Alberta domestic coal mines at the present time are not fully equipped with modern equipment.

*By W.F. McNeill:*

*I don't know the question is pertinent, but Mr. Loughran made the statement of miners wages $4.00 or $5.00 a day. Do you have many contract miners making $4.00 or $5.00 a day.*

Contract men last year in our mine averaged $8.80. The company men get the regular scale.

*By J. Loughran:*

*At the same time, what percentage of your miners are on tonnage?*

About 50% approximately half on company time and half on contract.

*By Chairman J.T. Stirling:*

*50% of the miners—men digging coal?*

All the miners work on contract, but 50% of employees, that includes men outside, box car men, pushers and drivers.

*By J. Loughran:*

*You use a cutting machine and shoot?*

Yes. We used to put in a large charge of powder; it almost ruined the coal. The coal is awfully hard to pick. At the same time it's brittle coal, and for pick work it was very hard. A few years ago it was absolutely impossible to put in and mine with a pick.
By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Do you provide houses for your men?
No, we don't. We have about 8 or 10 houses all told. We are pretty close to town, and most of them live in their own houses or rented houses.

By J. Loughran:

Have you a wash-house?
Oh yes. That's required in the Mines Act. The Mining Inspector here attends to that.

By J. Loughran:

Could you give us a suggestion as to the best means of avoiding strikes?
I am strongly in favour of arbitration of all differences between employer and employee. I think differences could be arbitrated and both parties agree to it and accept it, but I know that in practice it doesn't work out very well. I think if labour was careful enough and considerate enough, they would find that the new Act was a good Act for labour men—an Act which required both parties to arbitrate all differences. I know that they don't like it and object to having it applied.

I have in my mind the system they used in the old country. Three operators and three practical miners met once a quarter, and all the grievances are placed before these men, and as a rule they go for years without a strike very often. That was under conditions which prevailed under the last 25 years till the war. Do you think that is going to work out now? Conditions at the present time are abnormal, but they will gradually right themselves. You saw Mr. Lloyd George's estimate on coal cost in England. Coal that cost 10/- costs 30/- now. Increase up to approximately $9.00 up to the pit head. We have had less than 50% increase in this country all through the war, and all increases combined.

Yes, but I couldn't understand. We have no details on the matter. I read where he made that statement; I couldn't form any opinion on it.
I don't know that I've much more to add.
What is your opinion on these questions, seeing that the miners are a very moderate class of men, and that their demands were always reasonable—provided the operators always gave them what they asked? Would it be an easy way of settling matters?

It might be an easy way, but your premise assumes something that I could not consider at the present time. For instance, the present demand made by the miners is very unreasonable—a demand for 6 hours a day, 5 days a week—60% increase is very unreasonable—it means 100%.

That applies to men across the border. The men in District 18 are reasonable.

The men in District 18 belong to the United Mine Workers, and joined the demand made in the United States.

You gentlemen forced them. They didn't want to be connected with them.

I think you are assuming something again. We merely had a preference as to the Union we wanted to do business with. I think yet that the preference was good.

By W.F. McNeill:

You mean you only had a choice of two?

Yes, we had the choice of two Unions and took the one we thought was the best. But I think perhaps, as you suggest, these conditions will get around to normal after a while, and men will get to know that 6 hours a day for 5 days a week isn't a reasonable time for any man to work at any production or trade. It isn't fair to other labour. The men who make that demand go on the assumption that all that they get comes out of the operator. That's the opinion of radical labour. As a matter of fact they don't get anything out of the operator—it comes out of the consumer at the other end. The man that made this pair of shoes didn't pay the labour. He made them, and I paid them. I pay for shoes on the basis of a 6 hour day and I am paying for the other fellows profit. And every man with regard to 6 hours a day for 5 days a week, for coal, is paying on an unfair basis.

By J. Loughran:

You don't assume that because a man works 6 hours that he
does less amount of work in 6 hours than in 8? For 30 years miners worked a 6 hour day. They were put back on 8 hours, and Lloyd George says it costs more and they get less coal. And those who have a practical knowledge of coal mining say the miner hardly ever works 8 hours. The man can't stand it.

Well I think you are mistaken. Basing my judgment on my experience in this country. I think they do work 8 hours, and we have contract men who would like to work longer. We've had trouble getting them out at the right time. But you have got so much lost time. This 8 hours now is from bank to bank. They never go away until the whistle blows. They go to their work on company time, come back on company time, and have their lunch in the mine and eat it on company time; all that comes out of the company time. On the 6 hours scale that would also come out, and your reduction would amount to really more to the operator than the 2 hours which they take off.

_The meal time that comes out—he would eat before he started and when he finished._

When they take their lunch in with them, some eat quick and some take more time, but whatever time they take comes out of their 8 hours.

_I hardly ever met a man that worked 8 hours._

I've been a labour man myself, and worked a lot more than 8 hours, and worked hard.

Evidence of Mrs. G.S. Corse, representing Calgary Trades and Labour Council.*

_By Chairman J. T. Stirling:_

_Are you representing anyone in particular?_ Trades and Labour Council, and I might be called a small consumer; I burn 4 tons of coal a month during the winter—coal both in the furnace and cook-stove. And as a consumer there are a good many things that we wonder about, and I think that though one of the witnesses yesterday has covered almost everything when he said that

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nothing comes out of the operator, and all comes out of the consumer. Why does the operator put up a fight if all comes out of the consumer? Practically everything does come out of the consumer. The fact is that the cost of coal has gone up by leaps and bounds, and we have not had an increase in wages to meet it. I think this is one of the chief causes for complaint. The statement has been made here, or the question asked, why doesn't the consumer put in their coal in the summer time? One reason why is that we all have a certain amount of money over and above our actual expenses every week or month. We have certain things to do with that. In winter time we buy coal. When I am buying coal I haven't much left for some other things. During the summer time there are other things to be done with the money. That's one of the reasons why the working people as a class can't afford to put in their coal during the summer months—even if it didn't slack or had no other disadvantages. There are a great many things that come up. For instance, in putting in coal we have a good deal of loss too. Where I live we have a coal shute that has quite a drop with always a great pile of slack. We have no means of checking up the weight. I consider the consumer is absolutely at the mercy of the dealer and the teamster. 200 lbs. isn't very much, but we don't know whether we are getting it or not. With regard to paying for it, I know that we have to have the money. Most people have to have the money before the coal is put in their basement. I am speaking of the ordinary consumer. Once in a while he may have a little put in, because you are not at home, but that is very seldom. Different speakers have been asking the question of centres—or if one man handling, would it cut the price? Mr. Peat said it would cut it down a little. Mr. Johnston said it wouldn't be noticeable. One of the large dealers in the city said competition was what was needed. I don't think we are benefitting at all through competition. All the probes at the present time are proving that the competition is not for the benefit of the consumer. But they're competing to see which could charge the most.

By W. F. McNeill:

Do you think, for the question of delivery of coal, if the City of Calgary would undertake to have delivery depots at different points of the city and haul that coal there over
their electric lines at night time, so that it could be delivered the following day. Would it not reduce the delivery charge on coal materially to those outlying points? I think so. I think anyone who is unfortunate to live where they have to pay $1.00 to $1.50 a ton more, it would be a great help to them.

I have seen this done in the city of Seattle, which is very hilly, and they undertook to haul coal up those hills at night time with their railways, and had coal stations situated at different points, which cut down the delivery of coal.

By W.E. Robi (a member of the audience):

We thought of that several years ago. Coal would have to be hauled from the car and put in those dump cars that the city have, and then hauled on top of the hill. It would then have to be re-handled and re-weighed, and for what the city wanted to haul it up, and the labour charge and the breakage, it wasn't feasible.

Evidence of E. Lavoi, Chief Engineer of Hudson's Bay Company, Calgary.

By Chairman J.T. Stirling:

What coal are you using? At present Crow's Nest steam coal from McGillivray Creek mine. We have been using natural gas till last Friday.

What do you think of the comparative values of the two fuels? Between gas and coal? It would depend on circumstances. In a building such as the Hudson’s Bay, gas is really the only fuel for us. But as Mr. McNeill says, it depends a good deal on the plant. It is on account of its cleanliness and ease in handling, and less help required. Cleanliness in such a building is a great consideration. Gas is out of the question. It is really not a question of cost between coal or steam. It is, we can't get gas. Mr. Parker, more than a year ago, when we had to burn coal, he says, “This damn coal drive me crazy.” It was not a question of cost so much as the dirt and inconvenience of coal.
By W. F. McNeill:

Did you ever consider whether such firms as the Hudson's Bay Co. have considered a central power plant situated near the centre of the city, distributing the power to the various centres? That space is too valuable—altogether too valuable. In order to successfully handle large quantities of cheap coal, we must have railway sidings. All our coal now has to be dumped—the land being so valuable and coal really costing us more than it would cost the city power plant—a difference of 70¢ a ton.

It has come to my notice in some cities that they have central power plants at some places, and distribute the power from that plant to such buildings as your building. I wondered if it had ever come to the attention of the owners of large buildings in this town to have such a plant, with the idea of reducing power cost? I spoke about that one or two years ago, and I pointed out it would be necessary to get a location where it was not so valuable as the basement of a building; and it's necessary to have a certain number of customers as well. I've no doubt they would be pleased to buy their steam in that way if they could do it.

By H. Shaw:

You run the heating plant? Heating, power and light and everything—only thing we get from the city is water.

By W. F. McNeill:

That was one of my objects in asking the question. Ground such as a power plant is on in your building, is very valuable ground to put a power plant on. In fact, that space is very valuable. They need the space that is occupied by the boilers—use it for storage and shipping and so on, as a warehouse. You must take that into consideration: the interest on the money invested in land has got to be considered. It's quite an item.
By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Is it just the ordinary run-of-mine coal you are using?
We are using a pretty good grade of steam coal. You remember the previous witness, Mr. McCall, said that the ash question didn't amount to much down there. With us it's a very serious matter. We have to get coal with a low ash content, because all the ash has to be teamed away. It must be done by wheelbarrow. So we usually look for coal containing the least quantity of ash.

But if you are going to use coal permanently, you would have to consider that question?
We would be obliged to.

By W. F. McNeill:

Cheapness of power from a fuel standpoint, depends almost entirely on installations?
Yes.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Did you ever use coal previous to now?
Yes, when we first started up we used coal altogether.

The same coal—the Crows Nest Pass?
No. I guess it would be the pea coal or nut coal from a southern or Lethbridge mine, before the Drumheller was opened up. I'm not certain. It was small coal, about 1½ inches in diameter.

What do you think about the suggestion that has been made that a testing station be erected for the purpose of testing the different kinds of coal, and give information out to the public?
Yes, I'm a great booster for western coal. I have handled American coal in Ontario for 10 or 12 years, and the western coal for the same length of time. But I realize that western coal must be burned under different conditions to the American coal—but when you get the conditions right, it's the better coal. A man puts in a boiler plant and wishes to buy fuel for it. An agent comes along, and offers him a coal at an easy price, and he uses it and it doesn't give
satisfaction. He stops buying western coal. It seems to be if he could buy the coal suitable for the conditions in his power plant, it would be better for all concerned.

By W. F. McNeill:

In other words, your opinion is that all coal is Alberta coal after it gets beyond a given distance from Alberta? That's the idea; and if it happens to be a poor carload, it condemns the whole country.

Evidence of F. Wheatley, Bankhead miner, official of District 18, United Mine Workers of America, and President of the Alberta Federation of Labor.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

This Commission is endeavouring to arrive at something, in the first place, that will help the mining industry, if it requires help. Yes, I think it could be made to help the mining industry. I would like you to hear my reasons.

Do you suggest that a reduction of the hours underground should be considered and in what way would a reduction of the hours of labour assist the coal mining industry in the province? Just to what extent it would assist the industry is many-sided. It is naturally going to put on a little more expense, but in keeping with the times throughout the world, it is necessary that it come here in order to maintain itself as an industry, or else there will be no miners who will undertake to work here. They will work where there is less hours. It is as well to take that matter up now, and if it is machinery that is required to make up the difference, there's all kinds of scope to place machinery into the mines to cheapen production. In that way the industry would not be affected from the shortening of hours. Furthermore, it is my contention that the mine workers themselves should have more say in the direction of the industry and the running of it than what they have at present. The co-operative features of that would bring about more efficient production than it has done at the present time. It would tend to reduce strikes
to a minimum; it would tend to accelerate production to its fullest possible point, and generally it would be to the welfare of the industry if the men themselves were allowed to take a controlling part in the direction of it. During the last ten or twenty years, the education of the rank and file of the working class, particularly I refer to mine workers, has been such as to give them both ability and desire to take part in the control and management of the affairs in which they are a component part. Today we find that the workers in the mine industry have no say-so whatever in the way of controlling or directing the affairs of the industry, with a result that there is a feeling of carelessness or antagonism in some instances, because the operators have full control of everything. Our agreement says the management of the mine is vested exclusively with the mine operators, and that the United Mine Workers shall not abridge this right. It gives them the right to, in subtle ways, dismiss men, over which we have no control. We have pit committees that may look into it, but the trouble is that the pit committees are men that are asked to step in and adjust things after the trouble is made. My contention is that these people should be given a voice in the matter before any man could be dismissed. In that way it would lessen friction and the chance of strikes. Innumerable local strikes have occurred that could be avoided if such a provision was made in the running of the mines, whereby the workers themselves would have some say-so whether a man should be dismissed or not.

Can you outline a scheme where that would be put into practical effect?

Yes, I believe I could. Give the pit committees or a fixed representative body, a say-so. Before any of the management could dismiss a man, it should be under consultation with the men's representatives also. They should have a voice in the directing of affairs and the managing of general affairs. They should have some consultation when it affects the material interest of their own element. In just the same way—I would draw an illustration—the companies consult together in any change or drastic move that is likely to be met in their forces or industry. Before a drastic change is made, with dismissing or making a radical change with the workers that would bring about different conditions, the workers, as a necessary
part of the industry, should also be consulted. They should not allow, in an abrupt way, the pit boss to dismiss a man, so then he has to take it up with the management. Possibly it may be prejudice that he may be dismissed for. The pit committee then takes it up, but the trouble is already made. These pit bosses can usually make trouble. It is passed on from one to the other, with a result that this trouble often creates a local strike of long duration. If it was possible to get together prior to the friction being caused, I have full confidence that most of this could be avoided. This is a provision that should be brought into being as soon as possible because, I say, the workers now have both the ability and the desire to take a co-operative part in the direction of the industry which they give their lives to.

By W. Smitten:

*Do you mean industrial councils?*
Yes, something in the same nature, but it would apply different in the mines.

*It would apply as the exigencies of the industry requires?*
Have to be adjusted.

*You believe that if the workers were consulted and told some of the troubles and snags that the mine had to run into, consulted periodically, that it would have an effect of doing away with unnecessary friction?*
Yes, I believe it would. The incentive would come in an interest in the affairs; having been told and confided in to a certain extent of what was about to take place. This matter of blindly not knowing what is to be, in an industry to which a man is giving his best possible, isn't giving the best results.

By H. Shaw:

*You speak of the dismissal of a man in a number of instances. Dismissal for cause?*
Various things. I have full confidence that if there was justifiable cause, even the men would not support him or try to justify him in wrong doing.

*That theory applying to the army life, would mean there would be no discipline in that case.*
The men would help to maintain discipline.
If a soldier had disobeyed some command, and before he had been court-martialed it had to be submitted to the rest of the company, it would not have made for discipline?
Well, you get that differently. It's a wrong; it couldn't be made a right by no councils if that man was guilty of a charge. To put it under army discipline, that is altogether different.

That fixed rule is for the purpose.
If he's guilty of some crime.

Perhaps in everyday life we would not look upon it as a crime.
It isn't often that such a thing is under consideration in any industry. It is generally on some unforeseen incident, possibly that a man had no control over. It may be various causes.

By W.F. McNeill:
Can an operator now discharge a man without cause?
I don't say he can discharge him without cause. There are subtle ways of discharging a man.

By J. Loughran:
Has it occurred in your experience where a little prejudice, say, between a fire boss and workman caused the man to be dismissed? An instance that came before my own notice. A miner working in a mine had some children, and one of the miner's boys had a fight with the fire boss's boy and beat him. The fire boss had a grudge against the man and he could not fire him for it, but found fault with the man's work and fired him because he said he didn't perform his work as he should have done, and the fire boss was able to maintain that the man was fired for incompetence.

By H. Shaw:
I am supposed to be representing the public, and because miners have a couple of scraps between themselves, have I to pay a little more for my coal?
Could I ask what occurred in this instance? Did the pit committee take the matter up?
By J. Loughran:

They did; but the Manager upheld the story of the fire boss, and although the man had been employed there and given satisfaction for some years, yet he had to go. The pit boss is employed by the management, and if a member of the pit committee makes himself obnoxious he has to go too.

I could cite numerous occasions in which there was prejudice; considerable friction could have been avoided had it not gone so far as the dismissal. And the official standing of the party that did it, had to be maintained for the general discipline of the mine.

What is your opinion of the conciliation board composed of 3 representatives of the operatives, and 3 representatives of the Union, to consider all these matters? In case of friction, work under protest to keep it going until the matter was considered by the general committee? Would that help to prevent friction?

If you are speaking of handling the general conduct. I have what I think would even be a better method to deal with the mining industry. I feel that the mining industry should be put under one executive council for the province. That, in my opinion, could consist of 3 representing the operators, 3 representing the mine workers, and each of those two elements to select from the public 1 representative—because what the mine workers would pick would be a different man to what the operators would pick from the public, in my opinion. Consequently, I say each to make the selection for themselves of what they thought would represent a certain element in the industry on their behalf as a public, and the operators to do the same. That would be 8. I would suggest that the Government select a Chairman, and that be a council of 9 to run the whole of the mining industry of this province. It would be their duty to take under consideration everything pertaining to the mining industry. For example, there is at the present time, a certain zone served by the mines of Alberta. They would find from these statistics what area it was serving, both in railroads, public utilities and domestic, and they would come back to the mines, and out of the 300 mines that you referred to, that are producing something like 6 million tons of coal, which is 1 1/2 million more than we use, they would begin to take the pruning knife to a lot of these mines that
are capitalized at quite a bit of money, and centralize or use those mines that would produce to the best advantage. In that way I feel sure that there are 50 or 60 mines that could produce all the coal that is required at the present time from Alberta. When you say there are 300 mines—and it's a very poor mine that hasn't got $10,000 in it—consider the amount of money that has been wasted in capital expenditure throughout the province, that ought to have been put in sanitary conditions and proper housing conditions into the camps. There are millions of dollars that could be spared in capital from that source alone and put into efficient working, into a mine. That would tend to keep the men around the mining camp, for them to make a home. It would also induce men to make it a trade, because the conditions that would surround them would make the environment such as to keep them there. Take this country. I am satisfied that the number of transients working in the mines isn't a proper basis as to the way of training miners. They haven't any intention of making it a life industry like the mines where I was brought up at home, where men worked in the mines from boyhood and gave their life to it. This isn't being developed in Alberta, and if it was under an executive council, I am satisfied that they could take control of all those affairs that would put the industry on to a stable and an efficient basis; everything such as Mr. McNeill and Mr. Lavoi referred to here. Certainly it would be the duty of that executive council to see that these plans and equipment were installed for the sake of meeting the competition from outside. The local consumption might be held with what might be an inferior coal, and the competition by shipping the best coals to maintain this market, and keep it for the province and maintain the industry. This thing that Mr. Loughran refers to, the adjustment of disputes, also would come under their guidance. You can start at the bottom and give the workers a say-so in these things before the strikes are brought about. Before men are dismissed, the consultation of the men in these matters would tend to lessen the risk of strikes.

By H. Shaw:

You said you were ambitious and had 7 children. I wonder whether you want them to follow the game you are in? I am ambitious; but my wife is keen that they don't go into the mine.
You said that if these mines were stabilized, we would have what amounts to breeding a class of miners. I don’t think that’s good. Do you?
Yes, I do.

If a man is digging coal six days in the week, he has no chance to advance very much?
He could be drawn on for public life just as effectively as a merchant, or an operator, or whatever he may be.

I would hate to see any class of men raise their families to be miners. In Edmonton, the miners work in the winter, and homestead in the summer, and I think there’s a brighter outlook for them.
They have never been miners. A man that has been a miner from boyhood—and it’s seldom—his natural tendency is to go back to the mines. I have been a miner since I was 12 years of age. My father was a miner, and my uncle went down the mine at 9.

There’s something that lets these men out in the season in the Edmonton district, and get good farmers, and let others come in. I think it looks like a good arrangement.

By J. Loughran:

I would take it that you mean that you would like to see conditions about the mines so attractive that the men who were anxious to settle, could settle comfortably and make a home there. Of course, if a boy or a girl had ability for something better, they won’t remain at the mine; they will look out for something better. But those that do wish, the home should be so attractive that they could live comfortably. Some would bring up generation after generation of miners, but the best of them would not be content to live in a mining camp.

By H. Shaw:

I think what makes a lot of unrest is that the miner is confined to the trade and does not see the sun and gets grouchy and narrow.
On the other hand, Mr. Shaw, by not having men that are trained to mining work, you are having the mining industry
pay for an inefficient man to get in his time as a farmer, when the farming industry should have kept him.

*If we are going to cut this coal electrically by machinery, we don’t need to have such efficient men.*
But if the industry is going to be successfully run, it cannot be run successfully by transient labour.

**By J. Loughran:**

*What is your opinion on a minimum wage for miners?*
It’s an absolute necessity. The miner should have a fixed standard, in order that he has some incentive to stay in the industry at all.

**Mr. W.F. McNeill:**

*You spoke with respect to the High Cost-of-Living Commission being one which probably stabilized labour conditions more than any other one thing. You are still of the opinion that that should have been continued and not discontinued?*
I am, sir.

*You were a member of that Commission?*
Yes. In fact, I filed that report for ourselves. I have seen its benefits and heard so much of its benefits.

*You think the Commission did actual good?*
Yes. These periodical adjustments came about, and no friction in connection with it, and brought satisfaction among the rank and file of the workers. With regard to your statement, Mr. Shaw, that the worker may be dissatisfied on account of being in the mine, I don’t think that is the case. It becomes part of his natural environment.

**By H. Shaw:**

*A carpenter can look forward to building his own home himself. I think the miner’s outlook is not as bright as the outside worker. I believe he has got a hard job.*
It may not be as bright in many instances and, while most men that are not trained miners, for what hours as the miner can, he isn’t going to enter the mines. It is sheer
necessity that drives him in there. He has no say-so: his management has the authority. He is liable to all kinds of discipline, even to the extent of being blown to eternity at a moment's notice, without having a say-so whether he should be blown to pieces or not. We have a desire to have a say-so in getting blown to pieces.

By W. F. McNeill:

*Don't the Mines Act give you that privilege now?*
We have the privilege of inspecting the mine and making certain recommendations. To have a voice in the direction of the affairs. We have absolutely none: and there's certainly not going to be a feeling of satisfaction with the mines.

By H. Shaw:

*How are your schools in Bankhead?*
There are 4 schools. Prior to my coming into Bankhead, I was travelling about to all the new mines that were developing and my family was not getting the education that they ought to, because in these camps there were no schools as a rule. When I came to Bankhead the school was some inducement for me to stay, and I have tolerated a lot of things and decided to remain there in spite of some friction I have swallowed.

By H. Shaw:

*Have you got some boys?*
Yes, one of them is 8 and another 16.

*Are they working in the mine?*
No, not in the mine: both working outside.

*Are they going to work in the mines eventually?*
Yes. My eldest boy isn't old enough. Yesterday he sneaked into the mine to see me. I know that that is his inclination.

By J. Loughran:

*Is the housing system satisfactory?*
I would like you to come to Bankhead to see the wash house.
It is not satisfactory at all. I am somewhat moral, although I am not religious. There in that wash house, when the men come off shift, is something revolting. I would like to see standard wash houses that will tend to bring moral spirit into camps. There are there, when they come off shift, all men washing under sprays, fathers and sons together, with their privacy exposed; and there's an immoral trend that isn't proper and doesn't tend to make men and citizens. It breeds a morality which no father wishes to see if he has any morality at all. I would like to see wash houses something similar to what they have at Canmore. The houses in which the workmen live there have splendid wash houses. I would like to see wash houses of that standard all over.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

You mean partitions put up between the showers?

Yes.

Is the place kept clean?

No, it can't be clean, because a man has a locker about 1 ft. wide, and 3 foot high and 14 inches wide. He pulls his mine clothes out, black as the ace of spades, and shoves in his clean white shift, which becomes in a day or so as black as his mine clothes. There is no inducement for a man to keep clean, as a respectable citizen ought to do.

By J. Loughran:

You have not done away with that system of locker? The new system is 6 ft. high and 20 inches.

No, this system was put in 16 or 17 years ago, and is there yet.

It will have been out of date about 5 years.

And more than that.

Is the wash house floor cement?

Cement, and very low roof. All wash in the same place where the clothes are, and the place is just one mass of steam and moisture, and there is not in the winter time sufficient heat to dry up the moisture that has come from the steel boxes to dry that up and made sufficient heat to keep the clothes dry.
By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Have you been in the Canmore house?
Yes, I have. It's a nice one. The steam is in a separate building, and you come out into a big nice place that is nicely heated and clean.

By H. Shaw:

You dress there?
Yes. Each man has a locker, and his clothes are nice and dry there. In these small boxes there is not sufficient heat to dry his clothes.

By J. Loughran:

And he is soon troubled with rheumatism and sciatica. That's what's the matter.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Do you think the intermittent or unsteady way in which the mines work, particularly in the lignite field, has anything to do with the unrest that there may be?
Yes, because a man gets on to the poverty line by being under these conditions. Quite frequently he cannot move away, with his family in that district. If he was to go to a pitching seam he wouldn't be able to get along at all.

How could that be remedied?
Reduce the mines. There are too many mines in the province.

How can you reduce them?
Allow this council full control as to the requirements of the coal industry, and let them do like the man in the vineyard does with the pruning knife.

Would you do the same thing with the shoe industry if there were too many shoe stores?
Yes, I certainly would.
Evidence of J. Hillary, President, Rosedale local, United Mine Workers of America.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Do you load the coal run-of-mine? Do you load everything?
No, we take the bone out—and coal, it goes over a screen.

There's no slack left in the mine?
No, it's all brought out.

By W. F. McNeill:

The payment is on a lump coal basis?
The coal goes over a seven-eighths screen.

And you are paid on what goes over the screen?
Yes.

By H. Shaw:

Is there such a thing as an efficiency engineer connected with any of the mines?

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

I think some of the bigger mines in the Crow's Nest, there is, but I don't think there's any in these mines.

By J. Loughran:

About what percentage of your coal goes through the screen—that is, slack?
That would be pretty hard to say. Sometimes you get nigger-heads*, and you don't get any coal out of it.

And you have to load all that for nothing?
It comes over the screen, and you are the loser. You don't get paid for the slack coal.

*Ed. note: large unbroken lumps of coal that cannot pass through the screen due to size.
Is there a system of dockage if the coal is dirty? Do you lose anything if you send out dirty coal? We haven't lost anything so far, except what goes to the screen.

By Mr. Parker (a member of the audience):
It's in the agreement though.

By W.F. McNeill:
As a matter of fact, the dockage clause in the agreement is what you might term a penalty for a man loading dirty coal or rock, which he should not do, isn't it?
Yes.

That penalty is worked on too in this valley. 25¢ for each dock for 2 docks, and the third dock you can be fired.

By J. Loughran:
Mr. Moodie is your employer, isn't he?
Yes.

Is there a supply of houses—plenty of houses?
No, there aren't plenty of houses. Of course, there's only a very small percentage of miners living in the houses.

By H. Shaw:
You say he don't want to recognize the Union. He has to, hasn't he?
He has got to.

But he don't like to admit it.

By W.F. McNeill:
As a matter of fact he did recognize the Union, and I went to Rosedale myself and made a contract for that mine. He recognized it all right. If the pit committee goes, if he recognized the Union, why should there be so much kicking?
By J. Loughran:

Did he recognize the Union more when the strike was on in the other parts of the district? How did you find him to deal with regard to the Union? He didn't recognize it for quite a while while the strike was on, but he had to come to us as soon as . . .

By W.F. McNeeill:

Your mine worked during the strike? Oh yes, we were only out a month. That wasn't a legal strike anyhow.

By J. Loughran:

That's a matter of opinion. Some thought it was; some thought it wasn't.

By W.F. McNeeill:

It's pretty good evidence. We tried to live up to the constitution of the United Mine Workers, and if the miners don't live up to the constitution of their unions, they're just as well without it. If they're not going to live up to their agreements, what's the use of having it? If they don't work together, it's no good. There will be trouble all the time; and it's getting that time where operators and the working classes have got to work closer together.

By H. Shaw:

But to sum the whole situation up at your mine, housing conditions are very good, and your wash house and the board camp, but about all is the question of more money on account of increased cost of living—that's the main grievance? Increased cost of living.

By W.F. McNeeill:

How is the hotel accommodation, aside from the food, of the places for men to sleep?
All in the office, I think. There's a bunkhouse system.

_Are there any rooms in the hotel?_
There's no hotel. It's a bunkhouse.

_There is an hotel there?_
That's the boarding house.

_There's no sleeping accommodation in this place?_
There are only two or three rooms.

_Where do the men sleep who eat in this place?_
In the bunkhouse.

_What do you mean by the bunkhouse? What sort of a house is it?_
Where there's about 40 or 50 all in one building.

_What kind of accommodation there?_
Just small cots for them to sleep in. That's a poor accommodation for a miner.

_He hasn't very much privacy there?_
He has no privacy at all.

_Is the bed satisfactory? You speak of a cot._
It has a spring and a small straw mattress on it, and either two or three blankets.

_They don't have to bring their own blankets?_
No, they don't have to. It would be better for them to get more clothes and get them warm.

_By H. Shaw:_

_Are you a married man, Mr. Hillary?_
Yes.

_And you live in one of these houses?_
Yes.

_What would happen if a man put up an apartment house—if he had a nice room to accommodate two, and have it furnished neatly and heated properly, and surroundings_
good, and effort made to make it as pleasant when you are out of the mine—would it be an inducement for man to come there, or would they not appreciate it? They would appreciate it.

Would foreigners appreciate it?
Now it's pretty hard work driving anything into these foreigners. You are up against something trying to deal with those fellows.

By W.F. McNeill:

As a matter of fact, wouldn't a foreigner rather live in a shack and batch for himself?
Yes, any old dugout satisfies those fellows.

By H. Shaw:

Couldn't he be kind of educated to these things and eventually make a better man and a better citizen?
Providing these men are willing to be educated. The majority of them you can't teach them anything.

Is that idea at all practical?
Pretty close to it.

By W.F. McNeill:

Do you find that round the camps, in connection with foreigners, that the younger men want a little different mode of living than the men who have been in the habit of living in this way in the country they come from? Boys born in this country, say?
They're not satisfied, those born in this country. They've had the bringing up of the country and are different to the fellow who is ignorant of it.

That's just a proposition of school education?
Yes, take a child right from the beginning, the parents have a chance of teaching the child something, but when they got to 25 or 30 you can't do it.

Have you a good school here?
No, it's not to be cracked on at all. It's a mighty poor school.
How many grades do they teach?
5 or 6.

How many teachers?
One.

By H. Shaw:
A man or a woman?
A woman. The school accommodation is poor.

By W. F. McNeill:
Any effort made with respect to the men, for night schools, or anything of that kind?
There was about a month ago. There was one started up, but it seemed to break up. The school teacher went home. I understand it's going to start again as soon as we can get a teacher.

By H. Shaw:
Financed by the mine?
By the company.

By W. F. McNeill:
Would that give a man who wanted, an opportunity of study so as to better his position?
Of course it would help him out quite a lot.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
How many children attend that school?
Somewhere about 20 or 24. Last fall there was somewhere about 20 went to the same school. It's too crowded. It's an awfully small shack.

By J. Loughran:
If you had more housing accommodation that would enable married people with families to live there, there would be a greater attendance at the school?
Yes.
Who undertakes the management of the school? Moodie is supposed to be the head of the school.

He's the school board?
Yes.

By W. Smitten:

You don't have an elected Board of Trustees who manage the affairs of the school at all?
I've not heard any tell of it at all. It seems to be a private affair right through.

Do you believe that would be good—if the parents of the children had a little say in the management of the school? Why shouldn't they have a say in it? They're getting mighty poor attention.

By W. F. McNeill:

Are you taxed for the school?
No.

Not at all?
No.

By J. Loughran:

There's no such thing—a school tax down there?
Never heard tell of it.

By W. F. McNeill:

The number in your school isn't any greater than the number in the same school that my kid goes to in Calgary. The difference in the grades may complicate things, or your school may be too small. I don't think the number of children per teacher is any greater than it would be in a city school. One teacher can't do very good work on 5 or 6 grades.

I think that has a bigger objection than the number of children under a teacher. I think the different grades have more to do with it.
There wouldn't be so much trouble if they were of any one grade.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Is the school run steadily throughout the year?  
They take the holidays.

There's always a teacher there through the school season?  
There has been up to now.

By H. Shaw:

Was you ever down to the school?  
I've just been past it.

You have some children go there?  
Two. I only wish I could get them somewhere else so that they could learn more. As I say, the school marm can't do it.

I think perhaps the parents are not interested enough.  
If a kid goes to school and sits the day out down there where they should be taught, and should have some pleasure when they come out of school.

I think it is the duty of the parent to see that the teacher is the proper teacher, don't you think?  
That's not true. But then there's such a thing as if you go down there and complain. We put a complaint in the other day—a kid has been going to the school with the whooping cough, and we sent a complaint in the other day. There was no notice taken of it.

Is there a doctor there?  
The nearest doctor is here (Drumheller).

By J. Loughran:

If you contribute towards the doctor—is there a collection from your wage to pay the doctor?  
There's a certain amount kept off us, but it is not such things to include sickness in the home.
In case of a man meeting with an accident, have you hospital accommodation?
No hospital accommodation or anything. The best thing they have in there is the wash house to put a man in there.

By W. Smitten:

Are there any first-aid facilities at the mine?
Yes.

No emergency hospital?
No.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Moodie is quite a doctor, isn't he?
Supposed to be.

I've seen him stitching a man's head up.
We've been trying to get a doctor, but we haven't had the success.

By W. F. McNeill:

How many employees are there there?
I guess there are about 200 on the payroll.

I guess the question of getting a doctor depended largely on the number of employees, don't it?
Yes.

That is, getting an independent doctor?
That's what we're trying to do, so that he could be there when he was called on—but it's pretty hard. They don't think there's enough business to keep him going.

How far are you from Wayne?
About 4 miles.

About the same distance from Drumheller?
It's about 5 to Drumheller. The biggest trouble is doctors—you have so long way to send for them.

If you had a little emergency hospital there, in connection
with the hospital I see going in here, would that be a pretty good arrangement?
Certainly.

That's quite possible with that mine—might be worked different if this hospital is completed.
Yes.

By J. Loughran:
Provided you had an hospital with a trained nurse under the control of a doctor, would that help?
That would help out quite a lot.

I can't understand a population of that number where there's children, having to go so far for a doctor.
You could be dead and pretty near buried before he gets there.

By W.F. McNeill:
Same thing with farmers a good many miles away?
Sure. There might be such a thing as a man getting badly hurt and he can be saved by having somebody there who knew his business. There could be many a life lost there.

Have you any instances of that kind?
No, I couldn't say that.

By J. Loughran:
Have you a First Aid Association ambulance?
There's everything up to the mark there as far as I am concerned.

With regard to the school. Would the parents prefer to pay a school tax and have control of the school, to the present system. A man like Mr. Moodie would insist that if he supported the school that he should control it. But if the others paid a tax they would control it instead of him. Was the matter ever considered?
That's what it ought to be. Instead of if a man had a complaint and went to Moodie, he could turn round and say, "If you don't like it, there's the bridge down there."
By W. F. McNeill:

As a matter of fact, practically all these mining camps, the coal company is a heavy taxpayer with respect to the school, but I don't think the virtue of being the heaviest taxpayer gives any man the right to run a school.
No, certainly not.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Have you any suggestions to offer, Mr. Hillary, including conditions generally?
Of course, the school could be improved by having a different school building. Yon thing is too small for school.

Do the children from the Star Mine go to that school?
I don't think so. Two or three belonging to some farmers come over.

Star Mine about half a mile away?
Just about.

There's no school down there?
No. There should be a new school building, and made so that it would be warm and accommodation for the kids as well as the school marm.

By J. Loughran:

What system of heating have they?
A heater.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Was the building put up specially for it?
No. It was just an old shack up at the mines, and they dragged it down and made a school of it.

By J. Loughran:

How about the sanitary arrangements of the school? Are they satisfactory? Is there privacy?
Yes, there is two of them backside of the hill. But the kids has got to put their fur coats on and shoes to sit in the school and keep warm.
Evidence of D. Morgan, Secretary, Rosedale Local, United Mine Workers of America.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Is there anything, where you could make any suggestions for improving any condition both with a view to the conservation of natural resources, and production of coal?

By W. F. McNeill:

Steadier work?
I think something might be done to make it possible for the miners to work the whole year round. In a way I think it would make the price of coal cheaper. I think the operators base their profits on the 8 or 9 months of the year that they work—and of course the miners aren't able to do that altogether. They place themselves at the service of the operators in a certain place, and when the call for coal is done, either they have to move or take a holiday, whether they want to or not.

By J. Loughran:

You mean the miners have got to make sufficient profit in the 8 or 9 months to cover the whole running expenses of the mine for the year?
I don't see why they shouldn't when the operators figure their profits to cover the time they're idle as well. A man goes to work at a certain place. If he wishes to stay there, he has to take conditions as they come. I think it is only fair that a man who risks his life to make his living should make enough to cover the whole year as well.

By W. Smitten:

You mean, the rates the miner is getting at this time?
They're not sufficient.

8 or 9 months work will not guarantee him a living for the year?
Not by no means.
By H. Shaw:

*How many months have you been idle?*

Three months in the spring, not on account of the strike, but market started slacking off in December, I think.

*What did you do in the meantime to keep the wolf from the door?*

Just depend on what we have.

*You don't go out doing farm work?*

If you have to go digging coal you have to stay there.

*The mine wasn't closed down entirely, but just working part time?*

Working part time.

*Can you suggest any idea how they could get a higher market to relieve that situation?*

I understand that some of the operators based the trouble on the lack of the miners in living up to their agreement. I understand that they can't depend on getting the coal all the time, so they can't make a steady market, but I believe it's the duty of the Government to look around and see if they can't provide in some way if they want to keep the industry steady.

By W.F. McNeill:

*You suggest one way in order to keep the mines steadier, that there would be a greater consumption of coal if it were sold at a lesser price? Have you ever given it any thought as to how it could be sold at a lesser price?*

At our meeting last night the men discussed this question, and they think that there's too much of this middle-man profit. One man said it does not matter whether you order a car from the mines or the dealer, you have to pay the same price.

*Could you work a sliding scale two ways? That is, in order to sell coal at a lesser price, say, during the summer months, if the farmers on the prairie would stock their coal during the summer time, thereby giving employment more steadily—is there a chance for both the operator and the miner to absorb that difference in price as between them?*
I think the greatest difficulty there is that the miners haven't the confidence in the employing class yet. Once they have confidence, I think those things can be adjusted. But I think it's quite feasible.

By W. Smitten:

You said the miners had no confidence in the operators. Do you believe that confidence could be produced if you had a committee of the miners and the management discussing every week, discussing matters generally?

It's too often. All they have to do is to put their cards on the table. Most men nowadays have enough education to understand what is printed.

What I had reference to what a committee of the miners' organization in your camp and a committee of the management of your camp, to discuss the matters for your camp and your camp alone—not the general conditions. Would that have a tendency to create more confidence?

Undoubtedly. Just at present they don't care for interference from the working men's part. We haven't any working agreement with them that way at all. For instance, they laid a complaint last night on the unequal distribution of cars. I'm one of the pit committee. I went to see the management this morning. They don't like to be told about it. Instead of meeting the workman on an amicable basis, they object being told at all about it. They're running the mine.

Take the position that you are interfering with their business?

Yes. Until that can be stopped.

By H. Shaw:

Do you suppose that a man like Moodie, who has half a million dollars invested down there—he's not making much money, we will say. If he was running that at a profit and fixed you fellows up, you would be quite willing for him to make a fair return on his investment?

Yes, I want to be fair.

Might it not be that many of these mines are on the ragged edge—probably losing money? In the meantime they're
squeezing every nickle out of you and the school teacher, to make both ends meet. If that condition was adjusted, the complaint of the miners would not be so serious, I don't think. Do you?
No.

And to remedy that you have to have a bigger market for your coal?
As you say, they may have quite an investment there, but I think they're figuring in paying this indebtedness from what they're making now. The miner hasn't anything like that to look forward to. Once they've cleared their indebtedness, they're making profits all the time.

Perhaps the bank are saying. "We're going to close you up. We want so much this month."
We don't know anything about that, nor anyone else, so far as I know. If they met the workmen and discussed matters with them in a proper manner—give them confidence in the way they're working.

And what they're trying to do.
I think it's easily adjusted.

By W. F. McNeill:
You think there's a lack of confidence on both sides?
There's quite a bit of it anyway.

By J. Loughran:
What percentage foreigners have you in the mine now?
From 10 to 15 per cent I think.

By W. F. McNeill:
How does that compare with, say, a year ago?
A year ago about 5 or 6% of English people.

By H. Shaw:
What has become of those men?
On the construction gangs, and extra gangs, and one thing and another.
They didn't make their fortune and go home? I don't think so. Some of them are coming back again. Some working at the Star Mine that used to work at Rosedale.

Are you especially free of foreigners? Is that the general condition in this field? We are especially free.

Does that apply to the Moodie mine, or the whole field? I wouldn't speak for the Drumheller district. It's the Moodie mine.

By W. F. McNeill:
As a matter of fact, this condition occurred through the strike. That is when the foreigners left and the other men came in? Yes. More the strike condition.

By J. Loughran:
What percentage of Vets have you at the Moodie mine now? I believe from 70 to 80%.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
Do the men work steady as a rule, or are there always some of them leaving? They have been leaving lately.

Any cause for that? Dissatisfied with one thing and another. Some think they don't get enough cars. Others think they see something better in other places. There's always a little misunderstanding some way or other almost every day in the mines or any other plant. I think it would be a more steady place altogether if there were more houses and had married men in.

By J. Loughran:
Have you a library or reading room? There was a small library last winter. I think it has started up this fall again—not very extensive.
Is it maintained?
By the Government. Government extension work, I think they call it.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

From the University, isn't it?
Yes.

Have you any other suggestions to offer for improving conditions any?
I think the houses are too small for any decent family—for a very small family they're all right. Anyone with a large family, they're not suitable at all. The school is too small for any convenience at all. There's one thing I would like to make an objection to, is the toilet and sanitation of the school. The closets down at the school are too far away for the children in the winter, especially for the smaller children. I think you've noticed that.

Have these matters been taken up at all with the management?
We've no control over it at all. I've inquired from some people if there's any Board covering it at all, but they know nothing. We never see an Inspector of Schools at all. I've never seen one. There was talk this summer of a new school being built, but I don't think there's anything going on.

By J. Loughran:

You think if a School Inspector visited the school, that he would suggest something better?
I'd think he would, if he knew his business, if he did what he was sent for.

A doctor or a member of the Board of Health would certainly see to the sanitary part of it, such as the toilets for the children, that they were properly separated. There's no separation with these at all. They just stuck one here and one there, and they're too far away from the school. I think the school's too small for proper ventilation.
By W.F. McNeill:

Do you think, Mr. Morgan, that we could increase the production of coal in this province by less stoppages of work?
Oh yes, very much. I think it would be increased about 40%.

Do you think we would give the people of Saskatchewan and Manitoba more reason to believe that when winter comes we would furnish them with coal?
I think so.

By J. Loughran:

But of course that's up to the management. The men have no say in that matter.
Not so far as I know.

By W.F. McNeill:

Take the last strike we had—3 months—was that the management strike or the men's strike?
Which do you mean?

The last strike.
I think it was the fault of leadership.

Do you think that had anything to do with the management?
No, nothing to do with them at all.

By J. Loughran:

But I think so far as you could go would be to say that the men employed at Rosedale, that it was the fault of the management—hence they didn't obey their instructions.
We were not instructed when the National came out on strike in the first place, and for another thing we couldn't find out what was the trouble. We couldn't get any data on it at all.
By W.F. McNeill:

I think we're all quite willing to agree that a strike don't benefit anybody to any great extent. It robs the market of the confidence people may have in us to supply them with coal regardless whose fault the shutdown may be? Yes.

By J. Loughran:

I think it would amount to that. Is it your opinion that if the men had more confidence in the management and some power between the management and the men—they would undertake to give them fair treatment. There would be less strikes?

Yes, if they were confident of their honesty.

And the strike being the only weapon the men can use, they use it when it fails?

When any committee goes to the management and they're rebuffed, it doesn't make for any better feeling in any case.

You can only strike?

That's all.

Although you know it's an unwise method to make.

By H. Shaw:

Don't you think that sometimes the miners are advised wrongly by leaders that perhaps have some business to maintain?

That's why I maintain we should know what's going on. We needn't have to leave it to leaders at all.

I don't think all strikes are justified.

By J. Loughran:

I put this question. Provided men were satisfied and quite content with their working conditions, would they strike on the advice of a Trades Union leader or an agitator, if they were already satisfied with the conditions they were working under?
I don't think they could carry it through if the men knew what was on the board. I don't see how they could strike.

By H. Shaw:

*If a leader called a strike, would you have to strike?*

I think the leader is only the servant of the organization.

*If it was put to a vote, and the bare majority said, "We'll strike," you would have to go along?*

Yes.

*Even if you knew in your heart it was wrong?*

Yes. If there's anything to fight for we have to follow the majority, of course, until it can be rectified. But there are too many discussions going on behind closed doors, that the public nor the people in the organization don't really know what is going on—many things that they could remedy themselves, if they were given the chance.

Evidence of A.P. Parker, Secretary, Newcastle Local, United Mine Workers of America.

By Mr. McNeill:

*Are the earnings of the men reduced by virtue of the fact of putting in machines?*

No, they're not. But the earnings would be more if they were paid on the mine-run basis.

*No doubt, if they get a screen coal rate for a mine-run basis.*

Then we get a dollar a ton with pick mining, and $1.35, take mining screened and unscreened, and we were loser by $1.00 to $1.50 a day. We must be losing that now.

By Mr. Loughran:

*You mean the screenings you have to handle for nothing?*

Yes. When the pan is down below, this slides into the pan. You get paid for what is in the pan, and not for the other at all.
By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

What effect would it have on the quality of the size of coal produced, if you were paid on a mine-run basis?
It would make a big difference, because a man wouldn't be particular about big coal. There would be lots of powder.

By W. F. McNeill:

It wouldn't tend to conservation of coal?

In other ways it would work out better for the practical miner to have that right now. He would have to shoot his coal for his own benefit. There are lots of men come down there into the mine, push about two days. "You make $10.00 load 2 car. He get $3.00 a day." He goes to some other mine. Sure, and he is put on the same basis with you right away. There's a man right down there pushed about 3 days, and come and sit and watch you to see how it's done, and look at the tally, and figure how many tons he has loaded, and quits and goes somewhere else, and he's a miner, not a labourer.

By J. Loughran:

Does any men own their own houses in the A. B. C.?
Not at the A. B. C. They have built 5 houses down there, and the men that live in them are working at the mines. But they're all satisfied. I saw them yesterday, and I inquired. They said they were perfectly satisfied.

The school accommodation differs from Rosedale?
They have to come to town. They have to walk two miles to come to school, and it's too far. And when it gets 40 or 50 below.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

The nearest school?
Yes.

By W. F. McNeill:

They have to come from the Midland down there, here too?
No, they have a school at the Midland. The river divides this from the Midland.
Could they go from the Newcastle to the Midland?
Oh yes, but they would have to cross the railway bridge or the river.

By J. Loughran:

Is there sufficient population to justify them having a school at Newcastle?
I couldn’t tell you that.

About how many children of school age would there be at Newcastle?
100 or more.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

And there are several other mines that would be supplied by the same school?
Yes.

150 a safe estimate, do you think?
Yes.

And all these children come down here?
Yes.

And they lose a lot of time?
There are days that they can’t come at all.

By W. F. McNeill:

I don’t suppose they have a high school at Midland?
No.

Estimate that when the children get a certain age, they make the trip with these little fellows of a lower grade. That centralized school district is quite a common thing, isn’t it?

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Yes. Suppose there was a walking place for them going across that bridge, would it be suitable for them to go to the Midland as far as the distance is concerned?
It would be nearer.
By W. F. McNeill:

They have accommodation at the Midland?
I can't tell you. It's not a very big school.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

It's just for their own requirements. The school question seems to be giving quite a bit of trouble to this district—so many mines.

Evidence of W. Clapham, president, Wayne Local, United Mine Workers of America.

By J. Loughran:

Isn't that one of the reasons why the men kick so much is the fact that the tradesmen in the mining camps are taking such an advantage of the high cost of living to more than make stuff double as dear as it is in Calgary and bigger cities? There's what the men think. On cigarettes, they have their old stock there and they're still 5¢ a packet more on the old cost. It don't cost them that. But when you say anything to them, "Suppose it has to drop, we would have to stand the loss by it, see." Of course that's all right on their argument.

By W. F. McNeill:

At different times during the last two years, there were certain increases granted on account of the high cost of living. Are you aware of that?
I can't see 'em.

How many showers have you?
I think it is 8 if they're in working order.

What is the size of the wash house?
About 40 ft. by 20 ft. maybe.

Would you prefer lockers to the chains?
Locks, you mean? Lockers. Sure, we've kicked for lockers. I've gone black in the face kicking for them.
Men at Bankhead went to strike because they can't get chains.
They can have those.

By J. Loughran:

That's not a fair way of putting it. That's the old-fashioned locker—3 feet high instead of 6 feet, and not sufficiently large to supply the clothes.
We kicked then for locks. Each man has to get his clothes locker or else after so many days the clothes would be turned out. So they issued locks at 50¢ a piece, and one of them keys would fit about a dozen locks—so they were some good!

You have applied to the company for lockers, have you? To put in a proper system of lockers?
Yes, we have been doing it every week over this wash house. We're getting quite a bunch of returned soldiers there, and they're studying sanitary conditions more than the foreign class would. We made a suggestion we give him this week to start on it to put some kind of improvement, or no man will change in the wash house at all and pay any money for it. They claim now they're going to start to fix it.

By W.F. McNeill:

What kind of floor?
A cement floor, but just the same as a concrete floor—rough.

By W. Smitten:

A rough cement floor, and no finish on the top?
No.

By J. Loughran:

Does the water run off, or stop in pools?
They have boards to stand on.

The water remains?
I will tell you how it is. I blame some of the men as far as the
water standing there. Some guys are used to nothing but a hog pen, and dump their lunch—and that’s a man’s fault. But as far as dwelling houses, we’ve got about 50 “chicken coops” down there—about 8 or 9 men sleeping in what we call “chicken coops,” that’s the name for them. If you go down there and ask for the “chicken coops” anybody will show you where they are. They’re for single men, maybe about 14 feet square, 5 or 6 men in each place. I think they’re just sleeping at these. Each man has to pay $1.50 a month, or 2 weeks, I just forget now.

By W. F. McNeill:

Put 5 men in one of these places?
Four or five. Before the strike they used to pay $4.00 for what they put up new last year. And now they charge them $1.50 a piece for 4 men—that’s 50¢ gone up there.

How big are these second places that they put up—that you term shacks?
About 12 to 15 feet square.

Same number of men in these that are in the other place?
No, not so many in those new shacks as the old ones.

By J. Loughran:

Whose property are these shacks?
West Commercial.

By W. F. McNeill:

Any other houses there aside from shacks?
I’m living pretty near some of them where there’s been a big kick. I think the Mines Act reads that there will be a dwelling place for individuals employed under each company. They did away with the bunkhouses, and put those shacks in, and they used to get free coal and nothing to pay on the bunkhouse. Now they’ve got the coal to pay for.

Are there any other houses there besides “chicken coops” and shacks?
Yes, right against there.
What are those houses?
There are 4 rooms in them.

Those are for the married men?
Married men—$9.00 a month and electric light with it.

Electric light is extra?
No. With electric light.

Any water?
They have to go and carry the water.

From a creek or water system?
You might as well get it from the creek as drink some of that.

Have they any water supply in addition to the creek?
Some pumps of their own—that's alkali water there's no depth to it. If you drink a cupful you lose a day's work or two.

You mean every time a man takes a drink of water he loses two days work?
They're all advised down there not to drink that water. I know I daren't drink it. I took a drink about a month ago, and it took the doctor two months to fix me up. I was just as weak as a chicken.

By H. Shaw:

Do you have to get the water from the well?
Yes, but there's no depth to it. Take a big shower of rain and water goes round down there. What are you drinking? Turkeys, chickens and kids around. That can be avoided if they will put something there to stop it. A cement block round it.

By J. Loughran:

What depth is the well?
About 20 feet.

Have you called the attention of the management to the well?
We have.
Do they refuse to put a cement ring or build something around it to prevent the surface water coming in?
Two or three plies of board on top of one another. If you pump about 3 to 4 buckets of water it's just exactly like a hog pen.

By W.F. McNeill:
Is there a chance of getting a water supply there?
There's a creek there, but it's not overclean anyway.

The creek wouldn't be a great deal better than the well?
You take dogs dying, and horses, in the creek.

What would you suggest in the way of water supply?
I think if they would sink the well deeper; they would get better and cleaner water.

Would you suggest a pump?
No. I would say put taps in the house, and we wouldn't have to carry it. If you go for a pail of water about 50 below zero, it will be ice before you get back home.

Have your pit committee suggested anything to the management about a system of water?
Well, they say you can't get better water than is in those wells.

By H. Shaw:
Any typhoid there this fall? Anything that might be attributed to the water?
No fevers of any kind, but lots of people have been off sick. Several people complaining time they were sick—blame it on the water.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
Have you satisfactory medical attention there?
Not bad.

A hospital?
Yes, there's a hospital and a doctor there. As far as medical concerned, we went up to him the other day—I'm on the
medical committee and pit committee—about a man I fetched him out; he got his ankle broke or strained. He has been off about 2 or 3 weeks. Someone went up to the doctor to come down. Doctor says, "What's wrong with him?" "Oh, he's sprained his ankle." He hands him two crutches. Wanted him to come up with them.

By J. Loughran:

How is the sanitary arrangements of the dwelling houses in regard to toilets?
I had a man in there last summer, supposed to be a sanitary inspector, and I went around with him measuring these toilets, house to house, and he gave in a true report. What I heard was he got fired. So they put another man round, and he put in a report to help the company, so I guess he didn't get fired.

How about the "chicken houses?" What accommodation have they?
No accommodation at all.

You mean to say they haven't a toilet connected with each?
No. There will be about 40 men entitled to go to one toilet.

By W.F. McNeill:

Where does the drainage from these hut houses go?
There's no drainage at all.

By J. Loughran:

Let's finish this matter of the toilets. That's something that can't be lightly skipped over. Do these men ever complain?
I guess with so many people going to the toilets, he got something the other day—got a doze of crabs from the toilet. There should be something to remedy that.

Is there anybody supposed to keep it cleaned?
No.

Any water connected with it?
No.
Was the attention of the management called to it?  
I guess it was. The same last summer—they kicked about the toilets being so close. There was one of two of them removed.

Have they a cesspool underneath?  
There's a big hole dug.

Any ashes put there?  
Just what people put there.

By W. F. McNeill:

I think you said they had the government inspector there last year in connection with this matter?  
He got fired too. That's been one complaint all the time about Commercial—the sanitary conditions.

Had some little trouble over the cook house once?  
Lots of them.

Strikes on account of bad coffee for breakfast or something of that?  
Over bed bugs being in the hot cakes.

There were several little stoppages of work?  
A lot of them strikes over the cook house. Last year there was people who never got a square meal in their life.

There were a great many stoppages of work?  
She was fierce. That's the worst place I ever struck for strikes, and you've got to stay with it. I've been there one year and nine months to my sorrow. I took a trip to the old country.

A great deal of the lost time has been over small petty grievances?  
There were some strikes as could have been settled up without striking. Got a bunch of guys here running your town. It took a regiment of soldiers to run them. I think we have a big majority of English-speaking class. As far as strike stuff goes, I think we can fix all that up.
By J. Loughran:

What is your opinion of strikes? Give us some idea how they could be avoided?
I've been in that many I could hardly tell you. Some strikes I think are all right, and some ain't.

Could they be avoided?
By arbitration, do you mean?

Before the men came out?
As far as arbitration, it may be all right on some questions. Take on one question in Wayne, on the bone question, was on arbitration for about 2 years, and after they had done the arbitration they was just making a whip on the docking clause, and they was using the docking clause now—8 or 9 men getting docked now every other day.

By W. F. McNeill:

Docked for what?
Loading bone.

By J. Loughran:

What quantity bone have you to have to the 100 lb. before you are fined?
If you have over 60 lbs. in a car of coal, you are docked 25¢. That will equal to 500 lb. you will lose.

By J. Loughran:

What light have you?
Naked light, carbide lamps.

I mean in the mine?
Open light.

By H. Shaw:

Three times docked and you lose your job?
Twice docked and you can be fired if the bosses want to fire you.
By W.F. McNeill:

In what length of time?
Inside of 2 weeks.

There's a limit?
Yes.

It wouldn't cover a year's period?
No, or else we would all be fired.

Evidence of J.F. Moodie, General Manager, Rosedale Coal Co.*

By Chairman J.T. Stirling:

Do you find any shortage of labour at present?
Experienced miners, yes. Speaking in a general way, the conclusion I have come to in connection with the mining operations is this; that as long as mines are operated, there will be two sides. It won't matter whether it is a private owner or the government; and until such time as the men as well as the operator realise that they must both be fair, there will be trouble. And the one thing that I believe would do more to make trouble impossible, would be to have an organization for the men where they worked under charter the same as the operators, so that any agreement that is made is a legal agreement that would be binding on the men as well as on the operators. As long as one side has to sign an agreement that is binding on them and not on the others, it's an unfair advantage, and there will be trouble.

At present the employees' organization has no charter?
Has no charter. I believe that would do more to solve the difficulty that any other movement that could be made. Our miners, as well as our other labouring men, are a decent class of men if they're shown how to play the game fair instead of being misled.

Is your experience that the men don't live up to their agreement?
They don't live up to their agreement.

*Oct. 20, 1919, session.
Has that been the case for a number of years, or only just recently?
More so recently, I believe, though it has always been the case more or less.

What do you think the reason is for it being more prevalent recently than former years?
I believe in former years the men thought more of their organization, and wanted to keep it in good standing, and made some attempt to live up to their agreement.

Has that been brought about owing to the unsettled conditions caused by the war?
Probably; and owing to the fact that on account of the war, men who have been allowed to go round preaching false doctrines, teaching them that the labouring class and the employer class have nothing in common. So long as you preach that sort of a doctrine you will have trouble.

By J. Loughran:

What is your opinion of an industrial committee? How should it be composed?
Usually the more you have interfering with the business—the more fingers you have in the pie—the bigger mess will be made of it. I don't want to be misunderstood and have you think I'm not in favour of co-operating with the men and meeting and discussing any questions that come up. If there was more of that done there would be less trouble. But that should exist in every camp or industry without having a commission to be appointed.

Is there any truth in the rumour that is often circulated, statements made that you are very dogmatic with the men when they come to meet you? Do you treat them civil, as though you wished to discuss the matter with them freely?
Well, you have probably seen as much of me as many others that hear these stories. Would you think that I would treat you that way if you came to talk to me?

I don't know. I guess so much would depend on the subject I came to discuss.
And the way it was handled. I've handled men; this is my 24th year. I never had a strike in my life until a year ago last
winter, and that was not brought about by any disturbance in our camp—that was forced on us from outside. I never had any questions come up that I could not settle with any men. I don't think that statement that I treat them in that way is fair or correct.

The general impression given by your men is that when they have a grievance you don't treat them as other managers treat them. You will admit there's two sides—your side and the wrong side?

My side and which?

The wrong side.
The other side.

And the trouble seems to be that you don't treat them the same as the manager of other mines. I've never heard so before.

They're always scared to meet you. If they have a trouble, it's allowed to smoulder until it's ignited, and they're scared to come before you. I don't know why they should be.

That's the impression. I don't know any mine in the province where the men come more freely to the office to discuss things with the manager, than they do with me there.

There's a misunderstanding somewhere—for that's the general impression, that you don't. I would not think so . . .

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Your evidence is that if the men have a complaint, you are always ready to meet them?

Always. Only too glad. As you know, you are usually in touch with what is going on, and who is doing the complaining. The one man in particular who was kicking, I asked him, in as friendly a way as I knew how, on three different occasions to come and have a chat with me in the office. For some reason he wouldn't go there.
Do you know of any cases where there has been discrimination by the management against anyone that makes complaints?
Never. Never has.

By W. F. McNeill:
It has been reported that there is considerable anthracite coal—some Pennsylvania coal, some bituminous coal—being shipped into Manitoba, where it might be possible that the domestic coals from Alberta fields might get part of the market. Do you think that is possible?
I can't see any reason why we should not get all that market. I was born and brought up on Pennsylvania anthracite, and I wouldn't give you a ton of Rosedale coal for using in my house for any ton of Pennsylvania coal I ever had.

How do you think we could get that?
One thing would be to establish a place in a city like Winnipeg, say, where the public could be shown how to use these coals. Take the slack that is being thrown away. If there was such a place in Winnipeg where you could demonstrate to the people that they could use that slack—there's just as much heat from it, less trouble, no cinder, and less ash to handle, and for half the cost that they could heat from the anthracite. Why wouldn't we get that market?

By J. Loughran:
Would that necessitate storage in a larger way to hold the coals during the summer months during the slack months when the mines?
On account of the long haul they would probably need to store the coal. We have stored this coal before. I can show you some that's been stored for 4 years, and there's no difficulty in storing it so long as there's a roof over it. And the furnace that I have in my mind is known as the Peg Williams Under Feed. The coal is fed up from the bottom. You burn the gasses before the carbon, and you get everything that is in the coal, out of it.
Can you give us some reason why they haven't erected some storage in Winnipeg that would be equal to hold this coal?
Certainly. Some of the Winnipeg dealers are connected with the American operators—agents of the American operators. They don't want to lose that market, and they can handle that coal perhaps with less trouble than they would have to go to to handle the western coal. That would perhaps answer your question. If they can make a bigger return or as big a return in handling American and not have to build storage, they wouldn't want to build storage.

Wouldn't that necessitate someone from this end building storage in order that we in the west might secure that market?
I don't think so. I think if steps were taken to demonstrate what can be done with this coal, I think the dealers themselves would.

I might say I have been through your place, and I must give you credit for taking a great interest in making your employees as comfortable as possible. There are very few complaints, and everything is clean, with the exception of the school. But the system of sleeping accommodation, the bunkhouses, is that the best means of housing your employees?
If our company could afford to do it, we would have built another 30 or 40 cottages and filled them with men with families; but we were not in a position to do that. And as far as the single men are concerned, you have to house them some way. You can't build separate houses for them, and we are not in a position to do so; I would like to have proper dormitories with separate rooms. We are not able to afford that. There's only one reason that I am at Rosedale, and that's my interest in the men there. As far as the operating of the coal mine is concerned, you could not keep me there five minutes if I was not interested in the boys there. Those boys to me are a part of my family. And sometimes I wasn't always easy to meet—I have to chastise my own kids at home—and the bigger family have to be done in the same way sometimes.

The pit committee, you have very sensible men on that committee, but they seem to think when they have a grievance that you treat them as if they were agitators. Where did you get that idea?
At Rosedale.
When? Lately?

Yes. It's a matter of temperament I think. You seem to be in a bad humour generally when those men call.
A man comes in and calls you a "son of a bitch" or a "cocksucker," naturally you don't care to have that sort of language used by anyone coming to talk business.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling

Your evidence is that you are always ready to meet them.
Always only too glad, and I would only be too pleased to meet them oftener, to talk to them in the hall oftener. I talked to them for one and three quarter hours last week, and tried to make them understand that I was ready and willing at any time to talk to them, so that there would not be these little misunderstandings, and I think they felt perfectly satisfied.

They're satisfied, except the sleeping accommodation; they all complain. There seems in the bunkhouse to be 11 camp beds on each side.
22 to the bunkhouse.

They're close together.
There's about 3 feet between each bed.

I would like your opinion on what would be the result if one of your boarders took his best girl into the bunkhouse for a night?
He would probably be discharged. Wouldn't you say that would be quite right?

And what would happen to the lady?
I don't know. She would probably be taken off the place.

By H. Shaw:

Don't you think contentment in the mine and the camp is a great salve for strikes?
Yes, but so long as we allow men to go through the country teaching the men that there is nothing in common between the employee and employers...
I'm not speaking in your case particularly, but in general, couldn't you disabuse them of that fact by establishing dormitories and a fit place to live, and build up the general tone of the men?

Have you ever been at our camp?

No, I've never.
You will see what we have done for the men.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
I think Mr. Shaw is speaking generally. He was not referring to your place.
Certainly everything that can be done that would make more content, would prevent trouble.

By H. Shaw:
It occurs to me that if you build up the tone and the morale of the men, they would not be so susceptible to the O.B.U. and I.W.W.
That's what we are trying to do.

From evidence we have got here, it wouldn't appear that way. It would either appear they're working at a great loss and can't do these things, or else they can't read the future.
Not any operator who is operating on a large scale. Of course, in our case, I expect Rosedale to be going on after I'm dead, and I want to establish a place where men could make their homes, and mean something.

It's a mystery to me how it has gone on for 10 years without a cent to the shareholders.
You may know more about the coal industry than I do, but I have spent a good deal more money to make conditions for the men than some of the other shareholders like, and naturally if people put several hundred thousand dollars in a proposition, they expect in 10 years to see something coming in.

By W. Smitten:
You said that the committee of individuals to go around teaching pernicious doctrines was a big factor in the
disturbances. Don't you believe that if the feeling of confidence could be created, the feeling that the management and the men were working amicably together, do you believe that they would be so susceptible to fall for this doctrine as they are with the feeling of antagonism between the two?

I have tried for the years I have been out there to establish friendly feeling between the men and the management.

By J. Loughran:

Do you think if men were satisfied and contented, that they would listen to an agitator, provided the conditions were such as to make them contented?

I will answer your question in perhaps a roundabout way. We have a store at our mine—very much like other stores in mining districts. And we supply meat from our kitchen to our camp—we used to. There's been a butcher shop established on the new townsite over at the station, and some stores that started there. The man who opened the butcher shop wanted me to undertake to help him in any way I could to get the trade of our camp, and to shut down on our selling from our own supply. I told him it wouldn't be necessary. It's awkward, as you may easily see, for the men to have to stop work for every man coming in for a few pounds of meat. It makes it more convenient for us, to trade elsewhere. As soon as there was a place they could buy elsewhere than from the company, they buy there. Even though they could go and buy in our own stores for less money, the same or a better article.

That wouldn't be important. They would go there to see for themselves whether they could not trade better. They would not walk ¾ of a mile or more, if they could buy within a few yards of their own door to a great advantage. But people have an idea they want to see for themselves and go round and try what the new store was like.

That's just why they're trying the other.

By W. Smitten:

Does that not demonstrate to a certain extent that there's a lack of confidence there?

Certainly that feeling has been established, and if you could
make some arrangement that can be done away with, you will be doing one of the greatest things that ever was done.

By W. F. McNeill:

Do you find—regardless of the feeling of the men at your camp—I am speaking now of the feeling as between the company and the men—regardless of any feeling, that when the district officers of this district crack the whip for a strike, out they come?

Out they come. I can show you absolute proof of just that thing with them. Our men in our own camp don't want to strike, don't want to see a strike, they're sick of it; but they made the statement that if a strike was called, they would have to come out.

By W. Smitten:

Is that due to a crack of the whip of the district officers, or a vote of the majority of men comprising the district?

If there were a vote taken today or tomorrow as to whether they should come out on strike in our camp, they would certainly not be in favour in our camp.

Wouldn't a vote of the management of the district officers having the power or the right for a strike—consequently there's to be a lack of confidence spreading over the district before they will vote for a strike?

There's usually enough agitation started to add to the lack of confidence.

By J. Loughran:

The fact that your men worked during the last strike would show your men were better satisfied than at some of the other places?

Probably it might; or it might be that I had been able to show my men the foolishness of going out on strike.

Provided a man is living under a certain environment, there's no amount of persuasion will make him believe that they're not as they really are. By making things cleaner and better, the men didn't think they could improve matters by striking, so they worked. If every other mine had done the same, the agitator would have a lot of trouble.
They often have a lot of trouble in creating a strike there.

Evidence of J.G. Gibson, Manager, Great West Coal Co. Ltd., Calgary.

By Chairman J.T. Stirling:

We got a little complaint when we were at Drumheller last week from some witnesses regarding the educational facilities at the Star mine. It's the Star mine isn't it? The Star mine. The first I heard of it, they said they would like to get a school there. I said I would see what I could do; and I spoke to Mr. Moodie about it at the Rosedale, and he said negotiations were under way to get a school at the Rosedale townsite, and trying to get a consolidated school that would accommodate all the children at the Star mine and the surrounding district. So I allowed the matter to stand to see what developed.

By W. Smitten:

No school at all at the Star mine?
No.

By Chairman J.T. Stirling:

Is there no school at all that the children can go to from the Star mine?
I know some of the children went over to Rosedale, and were sent home. The Rosedale school had become crowded, and they sent them home because there wasn't room.

How many children are there of school age down at the Star?
I couldn't answer that question. I don't know.

Are there other mines there?
There's Robin Hood mine a short distance from the Star, and another mine, the Moonlight, and the Shamrock mine is farther away. There's Rosedale, the Star, Robin Hood, The Moonlight and the Shamrock—5 mines within a radius of a couple of miles.
Would it be a satisfactory arrangement in your opinion to have a school—that is, the Rosedale Station, I understand? Yes, it would be quite satisfactory, I think. The children at the Star mine—it isn’t very far.

By J. Loughran:

How far?
From the Star to the Rosedale townsite would be a mile and a half, the way the children would have to walk around.

Quite a walk?
A mile and a half?

You have bad weather for little children.
Take country districts, it’s nothing to go three or four miles to school.

Evidence of L.A. Tupper, Secretary-Treasurer, Rose-Deer Coal Mining Co. Ltd., Wayne.

By J. Loughran:

What water system have you for the houses?
We have wells.

How far is your wells from the houses?
Well, the well on one side of the creek is about two or three hundred feet from any house, and the other over on the other side—one of them is near what they call the boarding-house there—is right close to the back of it; and another, that is about 20 feet from the cookhouse and about 30 or 40 feet from the river. We have to dig all our wells close to the river, otherwise we don’t get any water.

It’s practically river water?
Well, no. It’s never riley or anything like that; and the river is very muddy. All through the year the river carries a great amount of silt, but our wells are never disturbed. Our water is always clear.

Do you lift the water with a pump?
Yes. The wells are about 22 or 23 feet deep.
Practically underneath the river?
Yes, they're underneath the river; the water filters through apparently. We never had any difficulty with our water, that is, from any sickness or anything like that.

I happened to be down that way and had a drink on Saturday. I thought it was fairly good.
Yes, it's fairly good water.

Considering it was creek water.
Our water was right at the back door of the cookhouse. They used to flush the floor with brooms, and they used to send the water out of the door and it landed on the well, so we filled that up and dug a new one about 20 feet away from it, so as to make sure there would be no seepage of dirty water.

What arrangements to serve the water there—a large tank, a proper water system?
We would have to use the river water. There's no other water there. We have bored 200 feet there and never got a drop. When you get away from the river, there's no water so far as we know. If you took it to a tank you would have to pump the river water to a tank and that's an expensive proposition that the company has never been able to handle; then it would have to be piped across the river.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
Are your sanitary arrangements satisfactory? Do you get any complaints about them?
No, I don't know of any complaints recently at all, on our sanitary arrangements. We keep them as good as possible under the conditions.

Do you own your own houses?
Yes, the company owns all the property there. Practically all of our help lives in our houses.

Have any of the men opportunity to build their own houses if they want to?
They haven't on our property. The company has never sold any of the property.
What sort of houses?
We have several kinds of houses; some very good, and some not quite so good. The worst houses we have are some we built the first or second year we were there. We intended this year to tar them off and plaster them. There were three houses we didn't intend to rent or let anybody in, then there were a few families come along, and we told them if they wanted to clean them themselves we would give them some materials, so they fixed them up and are living in them. They're a good sanitary house, but not much use for winter.

What rent for these homes?
We get about $6.00 a month those low-grade houses. The other houses, $8.00, $10.00, $12.00, $20.00. I think $20.00 is the highest rent we have—furnace, plastered, 7 roomed houses.

Have you a bunkhouse there?
A very small one. It's divided into compartments, with doors into each compartment, and everything separate. We have no general bunkhouses—discarded those.

Do you have enough housing accommodation?
Always been short. The company spent nearly $100,000 building houses, and never been able to keep up with the demand. This year we have filled 4 or 5 four-roomed cottages, nicely plastered, good floors, and we put two men to a room. About 8 men in them. Most of those are occupied by returned soldiers—stoves in there, and kept in good shape.

Is it owing to the lack of labour you have not built any this year?
Lack of money? We didn't do a thing all through the strike. Up till after the mine started there was no building work whatever. In fact, the little building work we did undertake, why, the miners there tried to stop—the fellows on strike.

By J. Loughran:

What becomes of your men in the summer?
A great many of them seem to drift away somewhere—I don’t know where they go. Some go to the steam mines. We
have quite a lot of men who come back in the fall and after that they go to some other place—I don't know where they go.

*That seems to be the curse of that district. The men say that what little they can save in winter, the railway company gets it in the summer.*

Well, it seems to be quite a problem to have it continue as run there. Owing to strikes and lack of orders we never seem to be able to run in the spring.

**By Chairman J. T. Stirling:**

*Are there any provision stores at Wayne?*

Yes.

*Who are they operated by?*

There's two there. One operated by the Wayne Supply Co., a company we are interested in ourselves; and there's another up the Valley—I think they call themselves the Central Trading Company. I don't know what interest that is. It's at the Commercial mine.

*Are prices pretty much the same as they are in Drumheller and Calgary?*

I think they correspond very favourably with Calgary, as near as I can learn. We have quite a farm trade there. This last year there has been quite a number of settlers in the prairie judging by the business we get from them. They tell us they can do better at our point there than they can in Calgary.

**By J. Loughran:**

*Would it be true to say that 25 per cent more was charged at the store than at Calgary?*

No, it wouldn't.

*We've had evidence to that effect.*

Well, it would depend on what it was. You might strike bargain sales in Calgary where a man could save money but the regular price would correspond very favourably with ours.
Take boots, for instance. We have boots in our store we have had there three years. Boots we have had two years, and boots that we've had a year. Last year we carried a very heavy stock. The flu came on, then the strike November and December and carried until this year till the mines get in operation in August. Some of those boots, they're probably making a fair profit, but not asking any more than anyone else as far as I know.

Would the fact that they remained on your hands so long show that the price must have been greater than they could buy them anywhere else?
No. I don't think. You refer to miners' boots or boots in general?

Miners' boots.
I think we have one boot selling for $5.00 or $6.00, and the other I don't know what they're getting for it. I believe there's one high priced boot that they demand almost entirely. We are in the position there where all our odd sizes of boots are a dollar less, that is unless we can find some place to dump them; for we are not like other stores in Calgary that can mark them down to half-price and get our money back.

Seeing the population you have, all wearing boots, if your prices were reasonable, don't you think you could sell them at once?
Well, we don't carry ladies' boots to any extent. Men's boots is practically all we do carry. I'm not so familiar with the prices of boots there. I know we had a lot of miners' boots there that we carried over last year, but I don't know what he is selling them at today exactly. Our store manager would know more about that than I do.

But if a statement was made that the boots were sold from 25 per cent up more than what they could be purchased in the town?
I don't think that would hold good, that statement.

That's the impression. The statement, I don't think would hold good. In fact, I'm sure it wouldn't. Of course, they might dig out isolated cases of sales of a certain class of boots like right now is selling in
Calgary, in boots, clothing and all kinds of stuff. A man may select boots at our place at $9.00, and find them on sale here at $7.00. That wouldn't be a fair case at all. Our groceries, I believe, and that class of goods, compare with any store in Calgary—overalls and mittens and that class of stuff. It has always been our orders to our store manager that our prices should be kept on a par with those of Calgary or any other point, so that any business available to us, that we would get it, that the prices would never drive a man away, that a man cannot come to Calgary and make money on his purchases.

_The boarding house at Rosedeer belongs to you?_

Yes, but we don't run it. We rent it.

_I called in on Saturday, and they told me they had no sugar._

I believe on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with the exception of one other day, was the first time they had been without sugar in Wayne. We are heavy purchasers of groceries, and we have had a very good supply of sugar. I believe John Horne said his largest shipments were made to the Wayne Supply Co. at Wayne. We do the best we can: everyone gets their proportion. It's allotted to the best of our ability. But it did get short last week, I know.

_By Chairman J. T. Stirling:_

_Is that the boarding house with the Rosedeer Coal Co. you refer to?_

Yes.

_You own it?_

Yes, we own the buildings. We rent it to a man named MacLean. They run the boarding house and the cookhouse. When we are running short, he runs the boarding house. We have nothing to do with it except that we collect the board. He pays his own grocery bills, and buys his own meat and everything. We have nothing whatever to do with it.

_When the workmen have any complaints to make is the management always ready to meet them and discuss the matter?_

Always, yes, sir.
By J. Loughran:

So far as the boarding house is concerned, everything seemed to be in good order. Pretty good board there. I eat there myself often. It's clean too, nice tables—floor scrubbed.

Yes, it gave me that impression. The kitchen is clean. It's always open to anybody's inspection.

In fact, to be honest, Mr. Tupper, there was less complaints about your place than anywhere else in the districts. Yours was one of the places where there was very few kicks. We have certainly tried to give our men a good deal out there, and have got in trouble with our shareholders.

Evidence of F.E. Harrison, Assistant to W.H. Armstrong, Dominion Director of Coal Operations, Calgary.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

You have had some experience with the coal mining industry during the last two or three years?
Quite a bit.

More particularly with the regulation of wages?
And adjustment of disputes.

Can you give us some information as to the procedure adopted in connection with the increases in wages that have been given from time to time during the last couple of years?
The increases in wages at the time the agreement that is now in existence was made, was made to commence on the 1st July 1917, but prior to that, there had been a disagreement between the operators and the men with regard to the agreement, and a deadlock was reached. The government decided then, in view of the necessity of fuel production on account of the war, to appoint a Director of Coal Operations, and they appointed W.H. Armstrong of Vancouver. Mr. Armstrong devoted part of his time to this work. That was the understanding upon which he was
appointed; and he appointed me to carry on the work during his absence from Calgary. After he arrived here in June, he held a conference of the operators, and finally issued an order making certain adjustments of wages, about 7%, I think, above what had already been agreed upon between the operators and the men; and certain alterations in the agreement whereby instead of appointing an arbitrator, the government appointing an arbitrator to adjust these disputes, that he himself would be the arbitrator or appoint somebody in his stead; and also that there would be a sitting of the Cost of Living Commission every four months to adjust wages. That is, whatever the increase was found to be, the wages would be adjusted on that basis, provided that the wages would not be reduced below the minimum that was agreed upon when the men resumed work. Every 4 months, the commission, consisting of a representative of the operators and of the men, and of Mr. Armstrong, sat at 7 or 8 different points in Alberta and British Columbia, and took evidence in regard to the increase in the price of commodities. That was then figured out on the basis of consumption of a family of 5 people, father, mother and 3 children, and then divided into so much per day, and whatever that increase was, it was added on to the wages. That continued until the 1st December last. The agreement was to have expired on the 1st April of this year, and prior to that time, according to agreement, the operators and the men were to meet and discuss the advisability or discuss the terms of a new agreement. The men, however, were not in a position to discuss the terms of a new agreement, and requested that the old agreement be continued until the International organization had adopted a policy and reached a basis upon which they could base their demands for this district. The operators agreed to that, and at the request of the men, Mr. Armstrong issued an order continuing the agreement until the International had adopted their policy or reached a definite basis for their demands. But in May of this year there was a 3 months strike which was a violation of the agreement, and the men have now lately resumed work. In the meantime the International organization have reached a basis for the demands, and have presented them to the operators in the United States, and I presume in due course will present certain demands to the operators in District 18.
Is that Cost of Living Commission still in existence?
No, it was discontinued at the request of the men, at the request of the district officers of District 18. Of course it would only run to the expiration of the agreement anyway, that's 1st April this year. But it was discontinued at their request.

You took a family of 5 for a basis of your calculations?
Yes, a family of 5.

And if the statement was made to us, as it has been suggested here, that that basis of calculation was a family of one, you wouldn't say that was correct?
Not the basis of calculation of a family of one.

The increases would perhaps be satisfactory for a single man, but that they were not satisfactory for a family, would you say that was correct?
I would say that was not. I would say it was fairly based upon a family of 5. As a matter of fact, there has always been doubt in my mind whether a family of 5 would outlive what was fixed in the budget.

By W. Smitten:

You have fixed a budget?
Yes.

By J. Loughran:

Well, it might be fair at the price you got in towns such as Calgary, Lethbridge, and these places, to base your arrangement on that. Do you think that at the prices of mining camps it would be fair?
We took the prices at Bankhead, at Canmore, at Drumheller, at Blairmore, Hillcrest, Coleman, Nordegg, Mountain Park, Pocohontas, Brule Lake.

The general impression is that while it might be fair to those living in a town, it is not fair to those living in a mining camp. Why not?

Because they charge near double in the mining camp.
My experience, so far as my recollection serves me, the cheapest place was Edmonton; but places like Fernie and Blairmore and Coleman were cheaper than Calgary. Lethbridge was the most expensive place that I think we took evidence in.

I'm afraid they didn't give you the correct prices they charged. They might have quoted a fancy price, but those that live there know what they have got to pay. We know that in Bellevue and Hillcrest, you pay nearly double what you pay in Lethbridge.

In so far as anybody giving evidence before this Commission were concerned, they were given on oath, and they were checked up time and again. I have every reason to believe that the evidence given on the whole was substantially correct. It may be that occasionally a man might try to give a wrong impression, but I never knew of it. The fact should also be borne in mind, the officers were always particular to take the information concerning the same commodity at the same time. Take underwear for instance. We would insist that the Nova Scotia firm, Stanfield, would be the same each time, so it would show the advance that that article was entitled to. There's not a material difference in the cost of living in Calgary than in Blairmore or Nordegg. As a matter of fact the cost of living advanced quicker in Calgary and Lethbridge and those places, than it did in the mining camps.

Would you be surprised that a meal that would cost 50¢ in Blairmore, could be purchased for 30¢ in Calgary?
I would be.

If you lived in Blairmore you would find out.
I have lived in Blairmore.

If you go to a chinks—for they do all the business.
I never was able to purchase a meal that you could call a meal, for several years, for 30¢ or 40¢ either.

A better meal than they will supply for 50¢.
I had more in my mind the commodities that people buy in the stores. As far as my experience goes, Edmonton was the lowest, but towards the end the advances in Edmonton from one period to another, were much more marked and larger.
than in any other community; from which we would infer that they had larger stocks there and didn't renew them as soon as they did in some of those other places.

Would you be surprised that a pair of men's working socks that you could purchase 3 for a dollar in Calgary, had to pay 75 for one pair in Bellevue?
I certainly would be. For instance, you take bacon, Swift's Premium bacon. There's practically no difference in Blairmore to what there was in Calgary. As a matter of fact I have recollected that in some of the towns—Fernie was a much cheaper place to live in than Lethbridge. That can be verified by your representative. Yet freight to Fernie is more than it is to Lethbridge.

It's the smaller camps such as Hillcrest, Bellevue. Blairmore is fairly cheap compared to the others.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
During the time you have been looking after—been interested in the coal mining industry, has there been much trouble owing to cessation of work?
I think during that period I speak of there were 83 pithead strikes. I haven't got the exact number of days—work days—but it's quite a number. I have a statement of the number of strikes, which I will be very glad to submit to the Commission. The loss of wages, I would estimate for these pithead strikes (none of which were necessary), would amount to over half a million dollars on a moderate estimate. I think, if my recollection serves me correctly, the loss in days was over 100,000 working days.

Is that the province alone, or taking in Eastern British Columbia?
That's taking in Eastern British Columbia. I suppose you want only Alberta? I cannot exactly say. There's only 3 mines there, so the large majority would be for Alberta.

Would you care to suggest anything whereby that trouble could be overcome?
Well, it would be hardly fair to blame the men entirely for that state of affairs. At the same time, I think that the organization in District 18 must assume the major part of
the responsibility. In some instances they were badly ad­
vised; in fact, in most instances, and acted, in my opinion at
least, quite contrary to the general principles of the United
Mine Workers.

There's some form of arbitration existing at present, isn't
there?
Yes, during the period that I speak of. Besides, the Com­
mission, I presume, is familiar with the method of adjusting
disputes; Mr. McNeill was representing the operators.
There was 416 disputes of all kinds came up to Mr. Arm­
strong during that time. That, I presume, is more possibly
than during 10 years previous before District 18 put up an
independent chairman.

By J. Loughran:

There's an impression abroad that a commission or a com­
mittee composed of 3 representatives from the
operators, 3 from the miners' association, 1 from the
government, and 2 from the outside public, a commission
of 9, to investigate troubles before they really amount to a
strike, while mines are still working and before the
grievance has accumulated up to a pitch that a stoppage of
work takes place.
So far as the grievance is concerned, the agreement provides
the machinery. The trouble has been in the past that the
men whenever they had a grievance—not in very case, but
in many instances—walked out without taking up their
grievance according to the machinery provided by the
agreement.

But that would be after giving up any hope of settling the
matter with the present machinery.
No, before it ever came to the district officers. Before it ever
came to Mr. McNeill as representing the operators. Before
it ever came to Mr. Armstrong.

I don't know any case of that sort.
Let me give you an instance. In May of this year a dispute
arose at the Blue Diamond Coal Company mines at Brulo
Lake regarding payment for lagging. The agreement called
for payment for lagging where it was skinned tight on the
sides, but the ordinary lagging, such as wedging, etc., on
the roof, was included in the price for the timber. The amount of the dispute involved would possibly be not more than $10.00. The men, without referring to the matter to the district office, went on strike, because the company refused to pay for that lagging. The total amount involved would not be more than $10.00. There was about 300 men working at Brule at that time. Their average daily wage would be not less than $5.00 a day; which would amount to some $1,500 a day. That was some 2 weeks before the general strike took place in those days. Say at 12 days—$18,000 that the men had lost in wages for this $10.00 dispute. When Mr. McNeill called me up on the telephone and told me, I immediately got in touch with the district officers, Mr. Brown, and Mr. MacFagan was vice-president. He was in Calgary and I asked him over to the office with Mr. McNeill to discuss the matter. They came over and they asked if somebody would go up there. I asked Mr. McNeill if he would go. He said his wife had just had an operation and he didn't like to leave town; but in view of the fact it was necessary to adjust it quickly, he would go. And Mr. McFagan agreed to go. Mr. Jones was going, as representing the government. Mr. McNeill asked that the men resume work. Mr. Brown and Mr. MacFagan agreed that that was perfectly satisfactory, and that the men should resume work. They telephoned Mr. Christophers—he was down the Pass—to instruct the men to resume work and he said, "Let them stay out". That's only one of several cases that the men walked out without ever taking the matter beyond the superintendent. In fact I think half the pithead strikes in District 18 occurred without the knowledge of the district office.

Wouldn't that of itself go to show that there was a want of confidence? If they believed they would eventually get justice, they wouldn't sacrifice their wages in going out on a strike. I guess the pit committee would go to the management at the office. They would be told, "You get nothing. You signed an agreement, and if you don't like it, quit." And the men would quit.

I have only this to say in that respect. After I prepared a list of the cases that came before Mr. Armstrong—and I think there was some 400 cases—I showed the cases to Mr. McNeill and asked him how many he thought were in favour of the operators. I think he told me 3, of the 400. I showed it to
Mr. Christophers, and he told me that over 250 had been in favour of the men, about 140 that were neutral, say a split. So if the men got that proportion of the adjustments of the disputes, I cannot see where the complaint would be.

If the men were entitled to the whole and they only got half, you wouldn't think that would be a fair arrangement? What I am driving at isn't the decisions—what the men get or what they don't get after the dispute involves a stoppage of the work—but what I am trying to lead up to is some method for settling a dispute before it gets that far. For instance, in the case of the Brule matter, if the men believed they would eventually get satisfaction, they wouldn't stop, but it's because they have no confidence in the machinery that is in use for settling disputes. It is certainly not satisfactory.

At present there is an agreement between the United Mine Workers and the Government, which was apparently satisfactory to the United Mine Workers so far as disputes were concerned at the time the agreement was made. I presume that they would not have signed the agreement unless it was satisfactory.

Evidence of J. Martinos, President, Rose-Deer Local, United Mine Workers of America.*

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

What other suggestions have you?
A suggestion I will make, to take the matter up with the mine inspector to improve the ventilation in the mines. There has been considerable complaint. As we know, one personally came over and quit; he couldn't hardly eat breakfast on account of poor ventilation. The company is supposed to provide good ventilation into the miners' room and face cross cut through a pillar—and if a pillar happen to be too thick, they're supposed to brattice that.

Is ventilation bad all over the mine?
It was pretty bad a month ago, but they improved it. It's still bad in quite a few places.

*Oct. 17, 1919, session.
By W.F. McNeill:

*What causes bad ventilation? Is there any gas there?*
No gas as far as I am taking the cause of it. The cross cuts are not properly blocked — the air escapes there. As far as I consider, they ought to be blocked with a rock; as far as I understand the Mines Act, cross cuts shall be blocked up, so that the air gets a full current through the cross cut.

*Double thickness of boards, wouldn't that be better than rock?*
Anything that the air cannot pass.

*What causes bad ventilation?*
Powder smoke.

*Your contention is, there is not enough air working round the working face to take out the powder smoke?*
That's it. The simple reason, if you don't maintain the good ventilation in the mine, the miners can't put in a full shift as he ought to.

*Has that matter been called to the attention of the District Inspector of Mines?*
It has been brought up before the local, and we take it up with the management.

*The Mines Act allows for a committee among the miners to examine the working places to see the ventilation is proper?*
Yes.

*Is there such a committee at your mine?*
We have seen Mr. Tupper, but it hasn't been improved sufficiently.

*This committee found that on examination the ventilation was bad?*
Yes.

*Did they record that in the book as the Act requires, so that the inspector would see it when he came round there?*
It's in the minute book of the local.

*I don't suppose the inspector has access to your minutes of the local?*
Well, we can show him any time he wants the minute book to see the complaint was made by men that works underground. Many times when some dispute comes up, we show the minute book that it has been taken up proper.

If I understand the Mines Act properly, it makes provision so that the workmen themselves can appoint a committee to examine the mine and see that everything is safe and ventilation in proper order for the protection of the workmen. I think it makes further provision that where anything is found to be incorrect that it shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose in the mine—not in the minute book of the local organization. The object as I understand it, is this, that when the district inspector makes his visits, he must O.K. all inspection books to show that he has seen them. When he does this, it will be called to his attention that the mine committee have found such-and-such in bad condition, and then it's his duty to inspect that and see it's a true report.

That has been carried out.

And still you have bad ventilation.

Yes.

Might I ask, Mr. Chairman, who is the inspector of this district?

By Chairman J.T. Stirling:

Mr. Macdonald.

By W.F. McNeill:

Is it possible to get him on the stand this afternoon?

By Chairman J.T. Stirling:

Yes.

The Mines Act provides that any time the fire boss goes in the place and finds it dangerous for workmen to go in there, he is supposed to fence it off in order to give warning to the workmen, until the place is made safe for workmen.
By W. F. McNeill:

Let's take another condition. Say the workman himself ascertains that place is in a dangerous condition, what does the Act require him to do?
Requires him to do the same thing, if he's an experienced miner, to frame the place off in case shot fails to go off. He's supposed to fence that place. The same in the cross cuts.

That is, the Act, so far as the fire boss is concerned and the miner is concerned, with respect to the safety of a dangerous place, requires one and the same thing?
Yes.

Requires him to go home?
Until his place is properly fixed.

Do they do that?
I think most of them. When I worked in the mine, I did that.

It is quite possible for a place to become dangerous after a fire boss has been in and left?
That's the duty of the workmen to do that and protect the other work. In some parts of the States, the miners must have a paper. It doesn't exist here at all. In the State of Illinois, no man can work underground.

Did you ever know anyone to be barred from working on account of that?
In Illinois.

Is it hard to get a paper?
In many places I can prove it to you with any man in the State of Illinois unless you have mine papers; and you have to go before the board.

Quite true. I come from that particular part of the country. I worked in those mines a good many years; and we have a lot of different conditions than exist in this place.

By H. Shaw:

Are you not mining now?
Not at present.
What is your business?
Running the cookhouse at the Wayne, Rosedale.

By J. Loughran:
This is the gentleman who served us with the food.

By H. Shaw:
Made that good raisin pie.

By W. F. McNeill:
Can you tell us how the public can obtain coal, unless somebody goes in there and digs it when the experienced miner is on strike?
As far as the strike is concerned, each man ought to go on his trade. The farmer goes in there, and he only stays a few months, don't care for organization or camp conditions or anything. If you get experienced miners, they will care for the conditions, and better all around for the company.

I am asking you what the public will do?
It's up to the public to come to the terms of the miners, the same as the miners come to the terms of operators in a good many cases when they're forced.

By H. Shaw:
Are you a Canadian citizen?
I will be, next year.

What nationality are you?
American born, Greek descent. It requires five years to become a British subject. Practically when I filed for the homestead it was my intention to become a British subject.

By W. F. McNeill:
How much contention have you in your district with respect to the dual organizations known as the United Mine Workers, and the OBU?
That depends on the masses. I don't know either people's opinion and I'm not prepared to express.
I'm not asking your opinion as to which is the best. How much feeling is there, as between the two organizations?
That depends on the workers. We are under the United Mine Workers of America; and the majority decide more or less. We have to take that if they think it better; it depends on the majority of the workers.

Is there any feeling there that the men are not satisfied with the United Mine Workers?
There's some, because they haven't brought anything to the workers so far. The condition was 100 per cent better last year than there today. There's no agreement been drawn out yet. And the workman isn't contented. They don't know what they're working. A company can come tomorrow and say, "We won't pay those wages."

Have you the Order of the Director of Coal Operations to back it up?
Yes, we have. We have no agreement.

Have you had an agreement for the last two or three years?
Till the 1st November, yes, under the United Mine Workers of America, controlled by the Fuel Controller.

What would you term good wages?
Really, a miner ought to make at least $12.00.

$12.00 a day. You think that would be a fair wage?
Yes, I think it would; compare the cost of living. I mean contract miners; and I think the company men ought to get at least $6.00 a day instead of $5.00.

Do you think the contract miner works harder than the company man?
I think he does. He handles twice as much coal.

If you were working for me by day, you would only do half the work you would do on contract?
That's natural. Anybody would work harder on contract. It's common sense.

Anything else?
I recommend to this Board that law and order be kept in these mine camps. In several cases has occurred there, men
was guilty of some sort, was not turned over to authority, but the mob went and took him out and chased him out of the country. Canada is a free country—as the boys went overseas and fought for democracy.

By H. Shaw:

*What was this offence for, that he was chased out?*

During the strike, the strike leaders were chased out, the policy committee, and not long ago, just last week, there was some fight in the dance hall—an Italian cut up a returned man. The men that is guilty should be turned over to the law. As far as I can see, one man that wasn't in the dance hall at all, was taken out of his quarters and badly beaten up.

*A returned man?*

Yes, a returned man beat him up.

*The Italian was beaten up?*

Yes, and he claimed he wasn't in the dance hall at all, and fellows I know, they was run out meeting held there. We consider quite a few of us branded as agitators, just because we wanted to improve the conditions in those camps. Those agitators were, most of them, Canadian citizens and ones that were going to stay the future in Canada and make their homes. And the intention was to take all those agitators and chase them out of the camp.

*Don't you think it's bad form for you, me or Italians or Englishmen to attempt to tell Canada or the Dominion Government how to run this country?*

In a way it's not right, and in a way, if you have a good point that's advanced, a man really ought to take his opinion.

*But they never sent for us.*

No. Still we know this country has been populated by the foreign class people. There was nothing but Indians. Then we have got to say if we have any better conditions that will prove we can run our government in a better way, I think we ought to take his opinion.
They're having the same trouble in the States today. That's my opinion. If a man agitates wrong, give him the law.

If it produces revolution and strikes and so forth? Is it the proper time now to enter into these operations? If you have a democratic country as Canada, I believe that men allowed the freedom of the speech, and his opinion, and freedom of the press. Otherwise, you are going back to conditions in Germany. We are made with two ears, and if anybody agitates any good, put it there; or if there's any good, keep it in your head, if there isn't, let it go.

How practical are these Italians to tell us how to operate democracy? That's not a sign to treat him brutally. It makes no differences what country he is from, standing for those conditions. As I say, any man that has his opinion, not to prosecute him—give him right of his opinion. And that is opinion you are—when Bismark oppress the people in Germany, the more you oppress them, the quicker they separate. The only way to prevent those things is to doctor your system and have a clean system.

These foreigners who come over here—not very competent to prescribe for the Canadian condition, so I think they would have very little right to announce their theory. Who is to blame for bringing these foreigners to this country? It's really the capitalists. Most of these foreigners want to go back, but no, capital wants him here, to exploit the markets. Capital doesn't want him to go back, because as soon as they go out, the ones who have to stay here have to have better conditions. As you know today, if any market is flooded with labor, the wages go down. Open the borders and let him go. What will those fellows say when they go to that country? "Look how they treated us." That will give a bad name to Canada. But if we treated him as our class, as a workman, he is striving for the same thing. If we can't get a living by arbitration, we are going to get it by force. It will be less strikes by the government taking this in hand. As you know yourself, you have never seen a strike where the workers are contented—good living conditions, a good place to sleep, good libraries to read. Always find the strike where there's bad conditions. You naturally yourself will seek something better.
By J. Loughran:

Did you ever notice any immigration propaganda advising workers to come to Canada?
I have seen it just before Canada was populated. CPR brought the Scandinavians and Doukhobors. Now they don't want them.

This propaganda generally advises them to come to the "Land of the Free". Did you ever notice anything in that propaganda to lead you to believe that men wouldn't get fair treatment?
I myself was raised in European country. I can speak 6 different languages. I was in Egypt. I know the workers are misled on that side; and tell them when they go America they find gold and money on the streets. The workers are misled. Is it the workers or the large corporations, that propaganda? Sooner we clean these things out, we will have a better country, and there will be no strikes, better conditions and everything else. Strongly recommend to the government to open the borders and let each foreigner that wants to go back, let him go back.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

You said you were American-born?
Yes, sir.

How old are you?
About 29.

Have you ever been in Europe?
Yes, a good many years before, I went from the States.

Were you ever on military service in the Old Country?
No. In the United States Army.

During the recent war?
No. Discharged in 1914.

Ever in Italy?
Yes, I went to Italy.

How long?
Time I was working on the roads I went to Neapolis and Palermo.
Were you ever in Austria?
I was with the Baltic Company. I worked on a boat.

Were you ever in Britain?

By H. Shaw:
You were in the States when the war broke out?
Yes, I was practically Exposition guard, as all ex-soldiers given privilege.

But you didn't volunteer again?
No. That was just a job you could quit.

When they entered into the war, where were you?
In Canada. And I registered 12th September when the Americans was required to register.

Evidence of D. Macdonald, Provincial Mines Inspector, Drumheller District.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
We have had some evidence to the effect that ventilation in different mines in the Drumheller district is very unsatisfactory. Have you had any complaints to that effect?
Well, the last complaint I had was from a mine in Wayne in the beginning of 1919.

Which mine?
Western Commerical.

Whom did you get the complaint from?
It came from Edmonton by letter.

Did you investigate it?
Yes.

Was the complaint justified?
Well, when I investigated the condition of the mine, after the complaint, I found the condition of the ventilation fairly good. The biggest trouble at that time was the
number of inexperienced men using black powder. It didn't make any difference how much ventilation was in that mine. At the time, an excess of smoke by inexperienced men was polluting the ventilation all over the mine.

Was it remedied?
Well, that mine now, they have two fans.

Is ventilation good there?
It's fine all through.

Any complaints from Rosedeer mine?
No, none.

When were you in that mine last?
In some time in September.

About how often do you go to that mine?
I think I have made three inspections of that mine this year.

Is there a book kept, as required by the Mines Act, for reporting?
Yes.

Is it kept there?
Yes, sir.

Do you know if advantage has been taken of the provision made in the Mines Act for a committee of the men inspecting the mine?
No, they never have taken that advantage since the beginning of 1918.

Not in 1919?
No.

Are there any complaints entered in this book?
I think if I remember, there was a pit committee early in 1918 made an inspection but didn't enter it in that report book—Rosedeer men.

When you were last in Rosedeer, what like was the ventilation?
Fairly good. They have moved their fan to the north side
and connected up a new air way, and there are two spurs in that mine and the fan—up to 50,000 feet of air passing through the mine.

Now?
Yes.

How many men?
Two shifts. There cannot be more than 80 men in one shift.

What does the Act require? How much air?
200 feet per man per minute.

80 times 200?
Would be 16,000.

And there's from 40,000 to 50,000?
Yes.

Have you any trouble to get the manager to make any changes you suggest?
No, sir. Whatever suggestions I make are always carried out.

If you receive a complaint at any mine, what action do you take?
I have never received any complaint from a mine yet, since I took charge of that district.

You said you received complaints in 1918?
Well, that, of course, I investigated the complaint and then reported on the complaint.

And if you find that anything is required to be done to remedy the matter?
I take up the matter with the management, and always find, in the management, and always find, in the Drumheller district, whatever improvement I wanted made, they always were too willing to make the improvement right away.

Is there excessive amount of shooting with black powder in that mine?
Yes, there certainly is. I have found in the Drumheller
district where a man would be able to dig a small piece of coal; they would drill a hole—5 or 6 tins of powder—and make smoke that wasn't required.

What advantage is it to the man to do that?
Saves him digging a little bit of coal.

What effect has it on the coal?
It breaks the coal up. I know from myself; I am a miner by experience. I have seen times out of number I would dig it before I would blast it.

By J. Loughran:

We have had complaint about a month ago that the ventilation was rather bad in that mine?
Which mine was that?

I think there was some complaint from the Western Commercial; then from the Rosedeer too—complaints from both.
The Western Commercial are forcing about 100,000 feet of air into that mine today.

At that time the general complaint was shortage of brattice. Have you any information on that?
No, no complaints whatever. I've had no complaints from that Valley since the beginning of 1918.

Are you aware how they shoot? Whether in pillars or off the solid?
Pillar work. They don't shoot off the solid really. It's always on open end, a pillar, you understand. I don't consider it's solid off a pillar in an open end. If you are a miner you will understand that too.

I sure do, but if there's a quantity of bone, isn't it necessary to use a larger quantity of black powder?
Well, I don't know. It all depends how the man will place his shot, if he places it to advantage. If you get a good practical miner that knows how to place his shot, he will take half the powder that an inexperienced man will do, and get better results.
What is your opinion about putting inexperienced men to a job of that sort?
Well, we have it all over the Valley—during the war—inexperienced miners.

Would you be in favour of making a miner pass an examination, and give him papers before he would be allowed to dig in pillars at all?
I think you know, it would do no harm, because I don't think any Tom, Dick or Harry should be a miner right away.

And you think the system of compelling a miner to pass an examination before he be allowed to work at face should be enforced?
He should have a certain amount of experience underground before he should take a place.

More especially in pillars?
Yes, more especially in pillars.

Then if somebody said there was not sufficient brattice in the mine a month ago, to protect the ventilation?
Which mine do you refer to?

Rosedeer.
Well, I don’t know. The last time I was in Rosedeer it was pretty well ventilated.

That's how long since?
During the month of September. The conditions were good at that time.

Our information is that the conditions are satisfactory.
Sure, they have been satisfactory. Generally for the last three or four years in the Drumheller district with the class of miner I think everything has went very satisfactory in that Valley. At times, more especially driver—they're the men that uncontrols the system of ventilation by leaving doors open. That's what happens very often—drivers leaving doors open all through the Valley. I have practically had to educate these men to the fact that these doors were put in for the purpose of ventilation. They didn't know what a door was there for.
Evidence of J. Brodie, owner, Great West Coal Co., Brandon, Man.

By W. F. McNeill:

Do you know any instances where the Federal Government or Manitoba government or any city in the Province of Manitoba, asked for tenders on coal and stipulated American coal?

Yes.

Didn't even allow western operators to quote on it?

Yes.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Is that still being done?

Well, the season is pretty well over; they generally call for tenders. We had a tender here recently that calls for Western coal, that is, Drumheller slack. That was the Tuxedo Park Hospital—for 6,500 tons—due largely to our friend, Mr. Fitzsimmons.

By W. F. McNeill:

It's not a very fair deal when the governments of our own country will stipulate a coal from another country, is it? Not even allowing a quotation to be made.

No. I admit it's not probably getting down to the finest sense of economy. It should work out in everything. Find out which is going to be the cheapest. Take tests if necessary. Buy the cheapest product. The greatest handicap we have at the present time is uncertainty of deliveries. I am not referring entirely to the railroad services, but the operations at this end. Here's our position at the present moment. We who have the Manitoba territory well organized, went out in March, April and May last year, last spring, secured a very large tonnage for western coal. These dealers in the past have been buying the American product. At that time they always placed it early in the season, and on our assurance that we could supply them with this coal, they placed their orders with us. The result was they depended on the supply; and today we are not delivering the coal. If you were a dealer in Manitoba and found that
you were left high and dry without any coal, what are you going to do next year? Take a chance again, or going to make sure where you have always been able to get it in the past?

Is the shipper in the United States able to supply the coal now any better than we are?
If he had placed his order for United States coal at the same time as he did with us, he would have had his supply of coal today.

In other words, you infer they will stock United States' and not our's?
They're prepared to stock our coal. These men were prepared to fill their sheds, but we couldn't supply them with a pound of coal.

This year happened to be on account of the strike?
Yes, but this condition refers more or less for a number of years back.

Your contention is, on account of the uncertainty of the delivery from the western fields, that the jobbers and retailers don't look very favourably on this field as a place to get their coal for a steady supply?
Because they can't depend on it. If you were in a business and they fell down on you and left you high and dry, you would be looking some place else next year?

Can you suggest how that may be overcome?
It's a question of operators and labour as far as I can see, getting together on this question. They have both heavy injuries through it. One reason I came up here, there we had a press dispatch from Lethbridge on Friday stating that the operators appearing before this Commission stated they had to have the Manitoba market. Well, gentlemen, it's adding insult to injury to come out with a dispatch of that kind and at the same time we are not supplying them with the job and not supplying them with the coal we agreed to.

Your opinion is, that the first thing that should be done is to be able to guarantee the supply as it is wanted?
Yes, sir, that is all important. That had been one of our greatest handicaps in the past, and this year more so than
any other because we never made such great inroads on the American market as we did this year.

Do you anticipate we are going to lose market for our coal on account of what has happened this year?
No doubt about it.

Replaced next year by American coal?
Absolutely. It will take some time to recover that position. It will take steady service to recover it, over a period of two or three years possibly.

How long do you anticipate you will keep running to full capacity?
1st March at least.

Well, it's a difficult problem to settle, isn't it?
I admit that it's a question of stabilizing the situation up here so that you can produce.

You object to the statement of the Lethbridge fellows that they're trying to get the Manitoba market?
Absolutely, when we find ourselves in a hopeless position. We have already got it, and can't take care of it, or a large portion of it. I think it's a very serious state of affairs for the whole industry to be in that position. It's going to be quite harmful for future operations, future market; and if anything can be worked out to get relief immediately, I think it should be done just as quickly as possible.

Evidence of M.B. Morrow, General Manager, Canmore Coal Co. Ltd.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Can you give us any suggestions with reference to improving the coal mining industry?
Well, I haven't anything in particular to announce, except that it seems obvious that some course should be instituted that would increase the stability of the coal industry in particular, and perhaps all others in general. Inasmuch as private negotiations have seemingly failed in that connection, that is, I mean the negotiations that are usually
carried on between the operator and the miner—that sort of warrants the suggestion that the government might institute some form of commission or board, or whatever title they might wish to apply to it, that would be given very elastic powers. That’s one thing perhaps essential—would be their ability to investigate that would stimulate a healthy condition of the industry from the standpoint of reasonable market, or a reasonable price; and then assisting in the adjusting of wages and working conditions that would be conducive to making the best of the health condition when once created, namely, market and price. In connection with the plans and scheme of placing your coal, consisting in maintaining it, the condition might be that of prohibiting undue development. One of the things essential to make it possible for a number of coal producing companies to meet the requirements that are made upon them in seasons of the year when the demand is the greatest, is that their business is protected to the point that they can afford to make such development that will not make it unprofitable to produce a large tonnage when the consumption is large, and then to endure a slack season when the consumption is small. I might illustrate that. If an excessive number of mines are allowed to be opened and operated at the minimum expense at the time of the year when the demand is greatest, they take, you might say, the cream of the business with a minimum of obligation, and it’s just that part of the business that might be absolutely necessary to justify the development of the responsible mines up to a point of being able to meet the requirements adequately. Such a commission, of course, would go into all the various phases of the business, perhaps of grading the coal and zoning of it, etc., but perhaps what is the most essential of all is that the development for production purposes is kept somewhat in harmony with the demands of the consumer.

*If a man owned coal mines and wanted to operate them, would there be any justification stopping him from doing it? How would that work.*

Well, of course, there are conditions of the law of tenure and personal liberty that may seem to come into conflict
with a governmental procedure that tends to restrict a man developing his own property. But his personal injury might not be nearly as important as the suffering of hundreds and maybe thousands of people in the dead of winter by reason of their inability to get coal, which reason may be chargeable to the present scheme of government and rights to develop which we find in process today. The spirit of law and government is usually to protect perhaps the greater number rather than one man's individual liberties. Every man belonging to a society gives up certain rights in order to participate in other rights and benefits. I don't believe that any suitable quantity of the people would object to a law prohibiting a man from developing a property when in the judgment of a commission competent to decide and appointed for the express purpose of determining just that point, would say that it was not conducive to the best interests of the commonwealth.

How would you suggest that that Commission should be made up? Whom should it be composed of? Representatives from the employers and employees?
I think it should be representative of perhaps each group of people at least, who are most directly interested or accepted, in order that each group would feel that their interests had been looked into and understood and decided, so that it could not be of too small a number. I would not favour a board or commission of unequal members either. I prefer it to be of equal number, the same as just mostly likely to cause unanimous decision. Whereas with an uneven number and a chairman, it almost invariably resolves itself to two sides, taking opposite positions, and then runs down to a one man judgment, and then each of the sides—one concurs and the other dissents, and the person who has been decided against feels after all it was just one man who decided his case. A board of equal numbers who undertake to make unanimous decision would be more likely to decide justly and their decision would be accepted by the people in better faith.
Evidence of W. Shaw, Provincial Mines Inspector, Calgary District.*

By H. Shaw:

In your opinion, this division of two elements in labour—what's the ultimate outcome going to be? We say the operators are just simply as they are today—employing both factions. What's the ultimate conclusion?

It's a very difficult thing to say, because one cannot tell what is going to happen when these factions are warring one with another. Because the elements that go to make up those factions—you take the foreign element, the Poles, the Italians, the Finns, the Austrians—these men are very easily led. They don't think for themselves, and if a labour leader goes up who can talk fairly fluently, he can influence those men; they will just follow him like a flock of sheep and never raise any questions. Now there's an element of men in the different mining camps who are level-headed and think for themselves, and don't always follow these leaders. But when it comes to a matter of voting in the union meeting, this reasonable element is swamped by the majority of the other.

Will that mean that organized labour will be broken up, that is, disorganized to such an extent that it will be wiped out? Or will this Bolshevist element be the stronger in the end? Will the public stand for that?

The public won't stand for the Bolshevist element. It seems to me that before any system can be worked out, there's going to be trouble, and serious trouble too.

In the ranks of labour?
Of labour itself.

Or the country throughout?
And of course affect the country throughout.

By J. Loughran:

Did you ever consider what would be the result if the miners had a closed shop under the present conditions?

*Oct. 20, 1919, session.
Well, haven't they had a closed shop for the last ten or twelve years practically?

*Practically, yes.*

I don't think that by declaring a closed shop it will make one little bit of difference, because they have had a closed shop for the last 10 or 12 years—only not in name.

*Did you ever form any idea in your mind, your personal opinion, as to what is behind all the friction?*

Yes, I think that most of the friction has been caused by bad leadership in the labour ranks. I beg to withdraw that term "bad leadership", but inefficient leadership.

*It would be equivalent, as far as that is concerned.*

No, if you use the term bad, then there are many different meanings to be put on that word. I would term it inefficient leadership.

Evidence of A. Ross, Member of the Legislative Assembly, member of the Calgary Trades & Labor Council and of the Bricklayers & Stonemasons International Union.

*By H. Shaw:*

*In your opinion, Mr. Ross, is the cause of unrest in England the same as it is here?*

Yes.

*And that is what?*

The cause is because the working class are not getting what they consider their share in the pursuit of their labor. That's the principal cause. Then we have others which are incidental to that—for instance, the living accommodation, particularly in the larger centres, and I understand in the mining centres. I cannot speak from first-hand knowledge, but they had a commission some time ago in Great Britain to inquire into the housing condition of the miners, and the report of that condition is in print; but I would say that is the principal cause of unrest, as I see it. It's not a new mental condition at all. It has been growing. The war has accentuated it and the feeling has reached a condition
where the working class feel they have to have more of what is produced.

By H. Loughran:

Isn't there also a feeling that if the present system of operating cannot provide more reasonable conditions, that the government should take over the utilities and nationalize them?

Yes. That's a growing feeling, and developing into a political controversy now. At one time it was simply an industrial controversy. I think the working class generally, in Great Britain, are going to make a determined effort, either industrial or political, or both, to try and persuade the people in Britain to nationalize all the industries, particularly the mining and railroad, and banking, and land.
Evidence of W. Cummings, miner, Star Mine, Drumheller.*

By Chairman J. T. Stirling

Do you wish to give evidence?
Round the Star, there isn't a school at all. There are 67 names here to show proof. Some of them hasn't been to school for 3 and 4 years. This petition here has been sent to Edmonton by me on the 3rd April, 1919.

This year?
I won't swear to the same list; there are people coming and going. I'll guarantee 36.

How far is the Robin Hood mine from the Star mine?
About a quarter of a mile.

*Oct. 21, 1919, session.
And the Shamrock—a mile?
About a mile.

Moonlight?
About 2 miles.

Riverside?
Chances are, a little more than 3. The inspector came and he selected that townsite, showed it in a satisfactory place. He left the Star mine and went to Moodie’s mine, and the next letter that come he said the school had got to be built in Rosedale mine. We got this position; we’ve heard very little since. The school here has been passed by the Minister for Education right here. This school inspector cancelled this school site without consulting the trustees of the school. Is that just? Is it allowed?

Of course, you go and give your evidence. We will take it down, and consider it. We are not in a position to say whether it is just or not.

Another thing has cropped up—as this school is bucked. Mr. Moodie wants a school on his townsite. He has bucked us since this went on. I learn in the course of 5 years Mr. Moodie and Mr. Henderson has been talking this matter over. They said Star mine was done. Today there are 7 mines on one side of the river, and one on the north side, which are waiting to be developed. There must be some show, some way, when one particular man can buck those like that.

These children are not going to any school at all?
No, sir. I went to Mr. Moodie several times, and he promised to allow my boy to go to school. He didn’t do it. He said, “Send your boy to the night school.” My boy was 12 years of age. That was all that was said. It come that we had a meeting of the inhabitants of the mines. He would insist to buck us, to have that school there. We asked him to meet us halfway. The two railway bridges, there’s an average of about 2 feet between the ties. I don’t see that we can be forced to send our children across two railway bridges. I would like to point out at the present day there’s a footbridge across the creek now, but while we were advocating this school, there was no road bridge at all.
Across the creek?
Yes. The bridge, I believe it's about 10 months since that bridge was erected.

By J. Loughran:
Is there a bridge besides where the cars go over? Is there a second bridge?
Coming from Star mine there are 2 railway bridges, and there's a bridge now on the road allowance, built since we advocated this school.

Does that obviate them walking over one of these bridges?
If they insist on the school being built in the camp, they have to go over this bridge.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
Have you any suggestions to make with reference to improvement in connection with the mine?
Yes. As regards to the slack time in Alberta field during the summer season. If there were some way making a clause for those novice diggers that come in off the farms and railroads here. They come down to these mines—in some cases they ain't asked if they can dig coal. They're partly foreign element. They get tools; they bore a hole; if it shoots, they load it. Where in the majority of cases a miner picks that out. And that's my whole belief; that we're idle in the summer time, is those novice diggers coming in atop of other men; and these men coming in and shipping dirty coal.

You mean that the fact that the coal isn't being loaded clean, is having a bad effect on the market?
That's my idea. If there were some clause put on. But give the experienced digger, make him go and serve his time as at any other business. People has the idea that coal mining isn't a trade, but where I come from you have to go over and take the course and learn it. And by a man coming to these mines here and getting a set of tools and loading whatever he shoots—I believe that's to blame for loss of time.
You are referring to the old country? I'm referring if they had to do the same in this country before they got a place.

They have to work 2 years at the face. I went as a boy with my old man and 18 is about the age before you can control a place.

Evidence of W. Bowman, miner, Star Mine, Drumheller.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
What is your position? What are you doing? I'm a miner.

Have you anything to add to what Mr. Cummings has said? No, I think he has said about all. All we were sent up here for was about the school.

The school is the principle question? Yes.

If you have the school taken care of you think the conditions of the Star mine would be satisfactory? Good.

By H. Shaw:
You are at the Star mine? Yes.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
How long have you been there? Eighteen months.

Married man? Yes.

Children? Five.
Do you live in one of the company's houses?
No, my own.

Built it yourself?
Well, I bought it when I come in.

You own the land too?
No, squatting.

By W. F. McNeill:
Pay any ground rent?
No.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
What is your position in that respect? Are you liable to be turned off that property?
I suppose they might take the notion some time to turn me off, but I'm on the side of the hill, and I don't think they would bother me.

It's land owned by the government and not leased to any person?
Yes, by the government. If they turn me off, they couldn't use it for anything.

Have you anything else to say?
No.

Evidence of J. G. Coward, Managing Director, Hy-Grade Coal Co. of Drumheller Ltd.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
I have a letter here from one of the Winnipeg dealers. It does not refer to your mine, but we get them all the time about the coal. "Some of the cars of lump coal contained large pieces of rock or shale weighing as much as 75 lbs. and in addition two cars at least appear to have not been cleaned out before loading. One of the cars of lump coal after being unloaded, showed a considerable quantity of short straw, which utterly destroyed its appearance, and
another car contained several inches of sand and gravel under the coal. We are making an effort to have this car re-weighed after unloading so as to determine the actual difference between the tare as shown on the bill of lading and the actual tare. This is a serious condition, as you will appreciate the necessity of having the cars clean before the coal is put in. Car No. 64958 is reported as containing very little lump and Car No. 57700 is reported as follows: ‘Half of this car was delivered direct to customers, from which 3-1/8 tons pure slack was screened out. The balance of the car was put in the shed, and considerable trouble is being experienced in getting a decent load of lump coal. In my opinion 15% would be the average for the total quantity of lump and egg contained. The remainder would be mostly pea and slack. We had to shovel about 3 tons of pea and slack out of the way to get some lump coal.’” That’s from Drumheller mine. This is not an isolated instance by any means. Whether the complaints are justified or not, I don’t know.

Speaking for foreign matter in the cars, it's just a question, in my mind, whether the railroads are responsible for that, or the mines. That would be in the car before it got to the mines, and it wasn’t cleaned out, and that car was weighed light. And it seems to me it was negligence on the part of the railroad itself in not having it cleaned out.

Do you have the cars cleaned out if there is any dirt in them? That’s the orders, and sometimes they’re considerable to clean out.

By W.F. McNeill:

And you lost that weight in the coal?
Yes. I do say it would show up very bad in the coal if the foreign matter was to get in their, as you say, which no doubt is the case.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Have you had any experience in that respect in Winnipeg, Mr. Fitzsimmons?

By Mr. Fitzsimmons (a member of the audience):
Just what causes that? Sometimes cars go down there, especially in the winter, cattle cars, the manure has been frozen in them, and they haven't picked it out at the mines, and they've run it through and loaded it with coal; and then there's been a thaw and the coal would be in an awful state up against the manure at the bottom and it looked very bad. There were cases like that last winter.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Does it happen often enough to cause further consideration?

By Mr. Fitzsimmons:

It happens at odd intervals, and one car like that makes a black eye on a whole district. Some years ago at the Crow's Nest Pass, where cases happened like that, those cars were dropped from the tipple and not loaded. But here they have been short of cars and had to load them. And I have given orders at Crow to have the cars cleaned out and charged up for it, and got the money for it.

Evidence by W. Donlevy, Canadian National Railways agent, Drumheller.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

What is the policy of your company with reference to cleaning cars that come in for to be loaded with coal? Has there been anything done in that respect?

We scale our cars before spotting and where it is evident that cars are a great deal heavier than the marked tare, we immediately place them on a rip track for inspection and the car inspectors tag them all, "Clean", "Repairs", or whatever it may be.

We get a large number of complaints, principally from Manitoba, with reference to dirt in the bottom of the car, manure, straw and one thing and another. Now we are liable to overlook cars at times, but I know for an absolute certainty that the mine operators in the Valley are watching that matter very closely.
Well, there seems to be quite a number slipping through yet. There are yet? Well, it's not to our notice.

And if a car is exceptionally dirty, you clean it? Yes.

And if there is not much difference in weight, you don't? What we call a car being dirty, the floor would be littered with broken brick or rock, or anything that would have an effect on coal after it was unloaded. But such as bark, and small pieces of paper, straw and something like that, we don't clean those cars out.

You don't examine them? There's supposed to be an inspector examine them. I can assure you that personally I don't take the opportunity.

You have men for that purpose? Yes. They do let cars go by them. I know that, but that happens everywhere.

Evidence by William B. Hetherington, Mine Manager, Western Commercial Co. Ltd., Wayne*

By J. Loughran:

What system have you for housing your single men? Single men? Some of them board among the married men, and others of the single men have smaller houses, which 2 to 3 get into; but when there's ever more than 2 in, it is with permission of the others, as a general rule.

Are you referring now to the bunkhouses? No. Small houses along the edge of the river.

You also own houses down along the creek? Yes, they belong to the company.

What is your general impression, as to being suitable for men to live in? Well, they measure up pretty fair, I think. Of course in this

*Oct. 22, 1919, session.
housing proposition, there's a responsibility devolves upon the workmen as well as the company. The short time I have been here, I have seen improvements that were given to the men that were not appreciated, such things as coal bins, and little things like that they don't take care of.

*Do you supply the coal there?*
No. $3.00 a ton.

*By Chairman J. T. Stirling:*
*Is that lump coal?*
Yes.

*By J. Loughran:*
*Do you consider it fair that a man who is going to stay for a short time, to charge him for coal?*
I certainly do; he charges us for digging it.

*What rent do you charge the men?*
I think it is about $3.00 a month. It is according to the size of the building.

*Take the row facing the creek, what number of men do you consider should occupy one of them?*
These buildings—you are referring to the terraces? Well, there's room in there for two—no more than two.

*And if there was 5 or 6, what would you consider they were?*
Five and six don't go into those houses other than they agree among themselves to do so. It is purely optional with the men.

*But if there is no place else to go—isn't he forced to go in?*
Not necessarily, because we are all short of accommodation through this district. It reacts on the men themselves, for the men themselves stopped the building during the strike when the companies were prepared to go ahead and do this building. Now it is coming back. Carpenters are scarce. We could use more carpenters if we could get them.

*What form of bunk?*
A wooden bunk, with a mattress, made of boards.
Do you consider it fit for a man to sleep upon?
I have slept on them greater part of my life.

Don't you think if a man wasn't tired before he went to sleep, he would be sure tired when he woke up?
I have slept on springs, but now sleep on boards and feel a whole lot healthier.

A mattress similar to what you supply to the bunkhouse?
No, it is not so thick, the mattress I sleep on.

I might give my opinion. I have seen various bunkhouses, and I consider the worst I have ever seen. You have double-deckers in some of them?
Those have springs, double-deckers.

Do you consider men are crowded? I noticed five and six in these small places?
They are undoubtedly crowded in some places. In regard to this it has been the policy of the company to erect an hotel and this hotel erection was part of the building program which the men stopped this summer. So it is hardly fair to jump on them all of a sudden, when at the time of doing these things they were stopped from doing them, as the men themselves have admitted themselves to me. And as regards the springs, the men are not taking care of them.

But you could not say a spring was abused if you don't put it in?
It was the regular custom, I believe, before I came here, to give them springs.

Do you supply blankets?
I believe the men bring their own blankets.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
The Commission has received evidence that would lead them to believe that the sanitary arrangements and the housing conditions at this mine were in a rather unsatisfactory condition.
Well, I have taken that matter up with the men. They have come to me and I asked the men for suggestions from themselves. So far as any criticism which I have ever
received has been, "It is no good"; but absolutely nothing constructive to it. They couldn't give you a point. So far, I have failed to receive any definite point on which the sanitary arrangements were at fault. We offered to provide the carbide cans at the mine temporary for use as garbage cans and told them we would make provision for the collection of these. So far we have received no applications for garbage cans. That is one experience.

Were you going to charge them for these cans?
No. That was to be free service to the men.

There are complaints about the water supply for domestic purposes. We had evidence that the water was rather unsanitary—all kinds of dirt and refuse and one thing and another go in there. The men say it was suggested to you that something should be put round the top of the well to protect it. What about that?
There was no suggestion as far as I am aware came from any of the men in that regard. The wells are all planked. What we have in mind now, and what would have been done if it hadn't been getting the water rights, was to pipe that spring, which would have given us a water supply for the camp, but that has been held up through the irrigation department some way or other, and they're temporary held up. The water isn't the best water in the land. You can't get good water here.

Is the water that you have available, properly taken care of?
I think so.

It's water you have no objection yourself to drink?
I use it myself.

By J. Loughran:

Don't you think if you built around your pump with cement, it would prevent the surface water and the overflow from getting back into the well?
Of course, building in with cement is not to be recommended, for this reason, that the silt is somewhat thick set. We have to go near to the river to get water and if you go down too deep you get near the coal.
I am referring to the surface. When the water falls on the boards, instead of running off, it soaks back into the well. I think those wells are double-planked to prevent that as much as possible, and a sort of slight pitch put on top.

Provided it was cemented outside the planks—leave the planks as they are—would it not improve it?
Oh, it might. A thin coating of cement might improve it. Another thing about cement is, you would always have to leave a hole round the pipe to get it up in cold weather.

Evidence of T.H. Lancaster, Hy-Grade Coal Co. of Drumheller Ltd.

By J. Loughran:

Did you take any means to improve the bunkhouses before you converted them into sleeping dormitories?
I don't quite understand your question.

When you intended to use those terraces for the men to sleep in, did you take any steps to repair them and make them sort of fit for human beings?
We cleaned them all up, put new windows in all of them, repaired the partitions and repaired the roof, put new roofs on them—and cleaned everyone of them.

I don't know what was done then, but at present they don't show much appearance as if they had been ever repaired. They are single board to a great extent.
Only the partitions in the centre. The wall consists of studding lined inside with shiplap and the outside with rough lumber, paper and siding.

But the partitions, for instance, I noticed in the partitions, they are quite open.
Those are common lumber. But those terraces were built for families, being 4 rooms, each room 10 feet square. We had five families in each one of those buildings but as we built larger houses, the families moved out; and the men have been using them since the bunkhouse was turned into a cookhouse.
Do you consider them suitable places for men?
Quite satisfactory.

You have seen the bunks they supply there?
Yes, I have seen them all.

And as a human being you would consider they were good enough for any other human being?
Yes, so long as they look after themselves.

If you don't give them a bed to look after, they can't look after it.
We have given them all who didn't have it before a new bunk and a new mattress.

It's the bunk that they put the mattresses on.
The bunk is new in most cases, with the exception of half a dozen iron bunks were there.

I don't know that it's relevant, but you take the district around, and the average bunkhouses, we find a spring mattress in the others. A spring mattress, a spring bed; where you have a rough board, the others supply a spring. Could you not supply a bunk as good as, say, other mining camps around here?
We possibly could, but in 1917—I have looked up the invoices—we bought 300 cots, and I am safe in saying from one year from that time there was not 100 of them left. They were carried away by the men themselves—the same men who are complaining today. We decided we would not buy any cots unless men were charged for them. They are available today if any of them will pay $3.00 per cot. If we don't do that, they are never returned.

By H. Shaw:
Where would they take those cots—off the property?
They disappeared. They can't be found on the premises. We built them coal boxes and they used them for firewood. We built them bunks, and they used those for firewood.

By J. Loughran:
I quite understand a good deal of that. If a man doesn't
intend to stay and has to pay for his coal, he has to have a
fire of some sort and will burn up the first thing to his hand.
If you could arrange to supply the coal on the rent. It’s a
common thing to have to sleep in their clothes. I have done
it myself. I slept in a bunk and worked in the same clothes
for 3 weeks, without blankets. It is going to take something
out of a man unless you made arrangements with those
people to get their coal to heat the place. If a man goes to
work, he will sweat, and then he sleeps that night in the
same clothes; he is not fit to go to work next day. If he’s on
tonnage, it means the man cannot earn sufficient to get him
out of the place.

By W.F. McNeill:
The matter of supplying coal is a matter of a contract of
agreement?
It’s an agreement with the men. We supply the coal to them
at $3.00 per load, and today we can get $5.00 for the same
thing for putting it in the box cars. But our idea in charging
men for the coal is, when we gave the coal free, they abused
the privilege. The married men drew all their coal from the
supply bunks of the other men.

By J. Loughran:
Would it be possible to arrange so that the coal is charged
for in rent, and let everybody get free coal?
You might do that. I don’t think the men would stand for it.
They would have to pay a higher rent in the summer when
they don’t need coal.

Do you think that it is to be wondered at that these men
have intentions to join a revolutionary society such as the
OBU when they’re treated in this manner?
In which manner? It is an unfortunate condition at the
present time that we are compelled to keep our men in those
terraces, and we would not have been compelled to keep
them there except we had a fire there; and we were not
permitted by these men to build.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
Do you think that any scheme that would compel or provide
for proper housing accommodation round any mining camp would be satisfactory? I mean to the interests of the industry to require that an employer before investing money, should show he could take care of his men—living conditions, etc.—satisfactorily?
Well, I would not like to answer. I would not like to be compelled to build accommodation that would suit the men.

I don’t say, suit the men. I say, satisfactory living conditions. I am not questioning your conditions at all.
I believe that it would be all right if it were made general throughout all the province.

By W. F. McNeill:

That is, so that it applied to all industries, not only the coal mining, but the Hudson’s Bay in Calgary and provincial government and all. I quite agree with you.
As soon as the weather got warm last spring, we started and raked up the camp from one end to the other, cleaned the ashes away from the back of the houses, moved toilets from one place to another, and we got just about the middle of this job when the strike came on. They wouldn’t even permit us to finish that work until after the mine started work. The same thing applied to the building of a new cookhouse. The men who are complaining today would not permit us to go on and get this work done.

By J. Loughran:

Who are the people that prevented them?
Mr. Clapham, he was secretary of the Union, and John Kent.

I only know they would not have any instructions from the district officials. Anything that didn’t tend to put coal on the market would not be interfered with. The only action the district officials took was to prevent the coal being put on the market and the building of houses would be rather encouraged.
By W. F. McNeill:

Who took your fire bosses out here?
The same people.

Who took your firemen out—pumping men?
The same people.

They were not producing any coal for the market?
I can safely say if those men hadn't been pulled out, we would have produced ten to twelve thousand tons more coal, had we just been able to keep our mine.

By J. Loughran:

Do you believe that if the men were satisfied with their conditions, that they would listen to anybody that would ask them to stop work, if the conditions were such as they were satisfied and comfortable?
It is rather a hard question to answer.

By W. F. McNeill:

Do you believe that your men knew why they stopped work?
I don't believe 90 per cent of them knew why they stopped work.

By J. Loughran:

Are you aware that each had to mark the ballot paper—the secret ballot—on the question whether they would strike or not?
No, I was not aware of the fact.

Do you know there must be a two-thirds majority in favour of the strike before the men could stop?
I wasn't aware that that was the case.

Well, that is the case, and where the men are satisfied, it is impossible to get a majority in favour of stopping work; and I would like your opinion on this. If conditions were such that the men were satisfied, in your opinion would any agitator or any Trades Union official have power to induce
them to strike, if the conditions were already satisfactory to them?
It would depend upon the persuasive powers of the agitators.

*And not on the conditions under which the men were living?*
Not at all, because I find that our men who have the best of resources and earn ten to twelve dollars a day, every day, will strike just as well as the man who is living in the poorer place or making the lower wages.

*I would wish you to recollect that the money that a man earns is not always the inducement. The man isn't a horse or a mule: he's a human being and he expects a certain amount of comfort while he's working; when he is not working, he expects a place where he can lie down and rest. The question of making dollars isn't everything to a working man and unless the man has some sort of conditions that's fit for a human being, he is dissatisfied and he listens to the agitator.*

*By W.F. McNeill:*

*I think you will quite agree, Mr. Lancaster, that all workmen, whether for the mining industry or any other industry, should be properly housed?*
Yes.

*And have proper sanitation, proper water, proper light and so on?*
I quite agree, yes.

*It is nothing more than what is essential to get efficiency out of men to give them good accommodation.*
We are quite aware of that.

*If you rent a house in the City of Calgary, you don't go in and find very many blankets on the bed, do you?*
Not very many. I have found in cases too, where we rent men absolutely new houses, houses we built last year—we built 20 odd, plastered them all—before three months they were so filthy no one else would go in them. We have to clean them out.
Would that be due to the fact that the men were not settled—didn't intend to remain?
Well, we never can tell. Men will move in and say they are going to stay, and next day they may be gone. I think it's the class of people who rove from camp to camp, that are the cause of it.
Evidence of W. Hutchinson, Secretary-Treasurer, Lovett local, United Mine Workers of America.*

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

*Have you any suggestions to make?*
I have a lot for Lovett.

*All right, let us have them.*
Take the housing problem first. There's 25 four-roomed houses and 5 five-roomed houses, all fully occupied. There's no porches to them either; no coal sheds. They use open boxes for coal preservation. There's no covered ashpits—all open—and refuse piles is allowed all over the street. One of those houses is converted into a bunkhouse, occupied by 8 men and 1 woman and 1 child—the same house. And they have got one closet. One woman and one child occupies one room; her husband is in Japan at present. And the closet, of course, I don't know when it was dug or fixed, however, it's

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running over now, over the top. Pretty bad odour. They figured it up that there was just about half, roughly speaking, enough houses for the married people, which I will qualify after a while, through some shacks that have come in, further on. There's a number of shacks up there which has been condemned—something like 20 to 25.

*Condemned by who?*
The health inspector. Twice since I went up there, since February.

*By W. Smitten:*

*Still in use?*
Still in use. Last time condemned they were threatened to be burned down by the health inspector if they were not cleaned up in three days.

*Who owns them?*
The company, and they charge up to six dollars a month for some of them, two or three dollars for others.

*By W. F. McNeill:*

*You say the company own them now?*
The men who were there before and when they left the mine the company appropriated them. They were on the company property, you know. That was on ground that was allowed the company for the coal mining operation.

*By J. Loughran:*

*Do the company give them permission to build the shacks?*
Well, I think so. I don't know definitely, but I think they would, or they wouldn't build them. I know they give some men that privilege this last summer to build same.

*Has a man the privilege to sell the shack if he is leaving?*
There's no possibility of selling unless there is a man there to take it up. As a rule they have come into the hands of the operators, because there has been no buyers to get them. There's odd one sell here and there, but not at a big price. Shacks are occupied principally by half-breeds and foreigners—Austrians mainly. And there's a number of
shacks, I don't know where they are for certain, whether they're on the company's property or the Grand Trunk. They are down on the level. They're occupied mainly by batchers, excepting about two, and they're occupied by families. In the midst of these shacks that's occupied by the foreigners and half-breeds, there's a bunkhouse in there, occupied by returned men. The other night when I visited there, there was 14 of them in it, and it was a very dilapidated structure for men—mainly paper and logs. Very small for the amount of men in it. Poor ventilation and very dirty, as there was no janitor had anything to do with anything of that kind. Now come to the bunkhouse, that has been in use since I went in February and previous to that. This bunkhouse it holds from 60 to 70 men. It's divided by a thin partition and the door opens in it too. Heated by three open stoves—two in one, and one in the other. That's where the bulk of the men has principally been housed since February. It is just a shell, unplastered, two ply of lumber on the outside, two by four, open on the top, never had any ventilation in it. It was demanded by the Local to have ventilation cut in the top. The single beds, a lot of them in one room, and some double beds, them beds are practically old beds bought from the company. I understand, by the man that rents the cookhouse, and he finds the mattresses, which is, of course, only a poor grade of mattress, because they only bide one lying down and they come to pieces.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

*What is the furthest that anyone living in a house has to carry their water?*

About 150 yards. When I went into the camp after the snow went away last February, it was just after the flu disappeared. There was a lot of grumbling and talking about stopping the mine to have a camp clean-up, and we went to the manager and asked him if it wasn’t possible to have the camp cleaned up. He was a new man there, and I believe he was trying to meet the men as well as he possibly could, under the circumstances. Finally he agreed to have two men and two teams to go to work and clean the camp up. There was 64 wagonloads of tins alone, hauled out of the rows of houses, and from the bunkhouses, so that from the origination of the camp I don’t think it had ever been
cleaned up. When we had it cleaned up a second time, that was the latter end of August, there was only about 10 loads altogether, with ashes and everything combined. That is fresh—the old ash piles was levelled down among the stumps. There was 16 deaths of the flu in there and there has been one or two deaths from other causes.

What causes, do you know?
I don't know specially. I just know this last one, a child of 5 months. I think it died from this summer complaint as far as I could learn from the doctor.

By J. Loughran:
Would the unsanitary condition of the camp have anything to do with the deaths?
I'm not open to pass an opinion on what anybody died of. On that flu, I don't know whether the conditions would do it or not. There was a lot of deaths where there was good sanitation, so that I wouldn't say that would make any different to the flu deaths. Now for the washhouse at the mine. I have figured that it is, for the amount of men we have working there and the amount of men using it, just about one half the size it should be. We have 5 shower baths there in little box cages where we go into; and they have from four to five wash basins on a wood bench, practically never cleaned from one year's end to another. Simply the water runs over it. And inside of this washhouse 60 by 24. Now they have two rows of closed cages in the middle.

By W. F. McNeill:
What kind of lamps do you use?
The electric. This is the condition. There's a lamp window and a check window. You go round here and get the check. This place is 7 feet wide. There's no heat at all in there. It's just one shell of wood—rough lumber and protection from the wind. Before, it was all open. We had to stand outside. You get a lamp and of course you have got to come out here; there's such a big crush, and so long to wait. We have to come out here and put a lamp on outside. You go in and call your check number. It takes him quite a while to find it, and for your number for your lamp, and afterwards you go out.
By J. Loughran:

The lamp has to be tested?
The electric lamp, you know.

Oh, the electric light.
Now we will take the men on the top. Conditions at Lovett was a surprise to me when I went up there into the camp, of the conditions with the men working on the outside. There's only the powerhouse men that’s protected from the weather, and the men in the mechanical shops, blacksmiths, carpenters and machine shops, and the two weigh men on the top of the tipple. That’s about the bulk of those protected. And we have got there quite a bunch of men working, that is, absolutely right out on the bridge. It's not protected at all in any way—right open to the wind, the tail rope men and the men that couples up. And that's one thing. There's 58 of them. Practically about 15 or 16 of them are protected from the weather, and the balance is open to the elements. I asked for a shed—at least the pit committee did—to cover these men that was right out on the open. Have a house so that they would go any time they were running the sets, any spare time they had. He said he would try to get one on there as soon as he got his lumber in. Now, conditions on the part of—I don't know whether I should go into this or not. Conditions on the part of the engineers. We feel up there at Lovett, that the wages are pretty low for this sort of labour.

By W.F. McNeill:

Do you think if the company owned its own store the situation would be better?
Well, it depended on the company and what control had the government or the man had, of this company.

Can you suggest how that could be improved?
Why, I think it could.

What suggestions have you to make?
I think if the government had them stores and the mines too, I believe we could manage better.
If the government had them?
Yes, I think they could put up better managers than the method that they have now.

By J. Loughran:
What is the system? Do the company rent them?
No. They lease them, I understand; lease them land and they build those stores.

By W. Smitten:
How do the prices of those stores compare with say—if you bought in Edmonton and had it shipped in bulk?
Well, we shipped $1,000 worth in during the time of the strike and we saved on the $1,000 about $272, after paying freight and everything.

By J. Loughran:
As compared with prices here?
Prices in Lovett.

By W. Smitten:
Twenty-seven and a fifth per cent?
Yes. And we bought our stuff at Hudson’s Bay.

By W. F. McNeill:
Did you pay for the handling of your stuff when it got there?
We handled it out of the car to each individual.

Each individual handled his own?
Well, it was handed out in bulk to each individual, and one horse took the material to the houses it belonged to.

No charges excepting the material in Edmonton, and the freight?
That’s the only charges you had.

Of course, a storeman can’t get a man to work for nothing?
No. That’s a fact.
By H. Shaw:

There would be no objection to that same course being taken now if you wished to, by any arrangement that the mine had with the stores?

I guess they couldn't possibly object to it in a free country like this. It would bring us then really under the category of a prisoner if they did object to that. If the company objected to us bringing that stuff in there, it would bring the rod on their own backs.

By W. F. McNeill:

There's no objection to you buying your goods any place you see fit, by the company?

Oh no, not by the company.

By J. Loughran:

But wouldn't that necessitate you keeping a store for the distribution of these goods?

Yes, it would necessitate that all right.

Would the company permit you to run a store?

I don't know. I never were asked yet.

Provided typhoid was in the camp, what prospects would there be of the people becoming infected for want of proper drainage?

I don't know how they would start to fight an epidemic of that description. Anything spreading, of that kind, I think would come in something like the flu. It would be just left to run its course. Because I think that the way the men was housed up there, they couldn't possibly help but be infected.

Have you toilets? Proper closets?

We have toilets. There was one I described belonging to that house that was taken for a bunkhouse and there's one closet there for a woman and child and eight men. And the closet of the bunkhouse—cookhouse. A three seated affair which is in a scandalous state, but he promised three weeks ago to have a new one immediately put up, and they would burn the old one down. That's the second one they were going to destroy, but they have not destroyed it yet.
Do they use disinfectants?
No. They never use disinfectants up there. It's a complete stranger.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
Does the doctor live at Lovett?
Yes, he lives right there. He's tied down by his contract to live there.

He can't take on any other man?
No, because they had tremendous friction with the other doctor, and we tied him down.

Have you a hospital?
One of those houses converted.

Does it make a satisfactory hospital?
Not very good.

What's wrong with it?
It's better than laying around in the bunkhouse. We had a suspected case of smallpox—he was a foreigner—and we forced him to the hospital. But it didn't turn out to be smallpox when he was medically examined. We have serveral cases of venereal disease up in that country every now and again. And we have conditions that should be stopped in any coal camp. I consider that all prostitution should be abolished from any camp.

By W. F. McNeill:
Can you suggest how that can be done?
Why, yes. I think it could be done all right. We can do without it. Easily get along without it.

Are you speaking as a married man?
Immaterial about that. I speak this way, that I consider it is a source of danger to everybody. Now I'll draw you a nice little picture. There's a man come in there. They go to bath. Five basins. 6 or 7 men bathing. They come out. And they're practically using the same wash basin, never cleaned or disinfected. Why, there's possibility there could be three or four of them men have that disease, and if a man come
out of the mine with a skin scrub, there's a possibility that man could contract that disease immediately. He couldn't help himself, and he wouldn't know what he had for a while, so you see we could eliminate that thing by not allowing it.

By H. Shaw:

Do they come in periodically, or do they live there?
They come in periodically. We have a sort of animal, runs around that gets a rake-off on this business, and he generally hunts them out so that he gets his rake-off. He has been reported to the police, but they don't seem to be very effective on that. But I consider that is one of the most damaging and dangerous things we have today in any of these mining camps.

By J. Loughran:

Especially where there is a bunkhouse.
Yes, or a washhouse. The operators seems to be hopelessly beaten with it. They don't do anything anyway with it, and I think there's laws enough in this country to protect the mines. If they want them, why of course they had better have them in the cities practically where the men is that makes the laws of the country and enforces it more strenuously and has it more collectively to look after and manage.

Evidence of J. Carberry, miner, Cadomin Mile 22 Mine.

By Chairman, J. T. Stirling:

Conditions in the mine are satisfactory?
The conditions in the mine; there's no complain to make of it.

What about the bunkhouse? How many men are in the bunkhouse?
This bunk is 21 ft. 6 in. by 23 ft. 6 in. in size. Bunks 16. Double bunks, 2 high. 32 men. Just two wash basins about 1 foot in diameter; 1 water pail, no cover; floor very dirty; no ventilation in the roof; very dusty; 1 door; 1 stove; windows
are nailed; very hard to open, very close. In fact, that particular bunkhouse is so full that it's very hard to go through.

Just a new place?
No, sir, it's an old one.

It can't be very old. It wasn't there two years ago.
Yes, it was there two years ago.

The mine only started two years ago, didn't it?
We started before 1917.

Two years ago last August, I think it was started. It may be three—I think it's two.
The smaller one, 13 ft. by 17 ft. 2 in.; 4 double bunks: 8 men, floors very dirty; has never been washed in the memory of any person there.

Just one room?
One room, no partition; one wash basin; one water pail, no cover; one door; one stove. Bunkhouse, under one roof there's 3 apartments. the first is 21 ft. 2 in. by 18 ft. 8 in.; 12 bunks single, 2 high, 12 men; 1 water pail, no cover; 1 wash basin; floor very dirty, coal all scattered over the floor; no ventilation in the roof. There's another one, the centre apartment, 21 ft. by 19 ft. 4 in.; bunks 14, single, 2 high; 16 men; 2 bunks holding 2 men each—that's owing to lack of space. 2 single bunks they have to put 2 men in each of those single bunks. Wash basin; 2 water pails, no cover; floor very dirty; no ventilation in the roof; 1 door; 1 stove. That's the next apartment in that same building 21 ft. 4 in. by 18 ft. 6 in.; bunks 12, single, 2 high; 12 men; wash basin, 2 water pails, no cover; no ventilation in roof; floor very dirty; one building. And above that, where there's three apartments on the ground floor, above that there's one man batching there in the attic. Then on the end of that there's a little lean-to about 10 by 10. There's one man batching there.

By J. Loughran:
You mean cooking his own food?
Yes.
By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

How many dwelling houses are there?
I haven't finished the bunkhouses. Here's another one with a ground floor and attic—8 rooms. On the ground 6 by 5 ft. 6—just room enough for one bunk and one man in each—one man in each room—6 to 8 men. And it's little space for stove and bench where they wash 12 ft. 9 by 10 ft. 4. Just one wash basin, water pail, no cover; one can to hold water; and the windows are nailed—they're put there to stay there, they can't be opened very quick. The attic of that same building is 23 ft. by 15 ft. 2 in. There's 5 bunks and five men—absolutely no ventilation in the roof; floor is very dirty; one door; one stove. And the cause of very much dirt in the attic, they claim is that men wash, the water falling on the other fellows. They can't sleep because the seams are very open.

By W. F. McNeill:

What is the construction of this bunkhouse?
Lumber—just a frame building.

By W. Smitten:

Two ply of boards, or just one ply?
In some rooms it's two ply, that is, the ceiling; but some of the men did that themselves; and some more places it's just one ply board. Here's another one here. Bunkhouse with ground floor and an attic—8 rooms 6 ft. 7 in. by 6 ft. 1 in.—one man in each room. Just room enough for the bunk and not room enough to dress yourself.

By W. F. McNeill:

Any doors to these rooms?
Just the one door going into it and most of these doors lead through this one kitchen.

They open out or in, those doors?
I don't think they can open in. Well, let's see now, I believe some of them open out; I think a couple will. And the space where the stove is and the bench is 12 ft. 8 in. by 12 ft. 4 in.
You state that building had an attic. How many men are in that attic? This one that you are talking about now.
I didn't say the size of the attic.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Are there any men in this attic?
Yes, 6 men. 6 single bunks, no ventilation in the roof and the floor is something like the other one. It can't be washed, because the water would all go down on the men below.

By W. Smitten:

What is the floor? Common board?
Yes, an ordinary rough board.

By W. F. McNeill:

You have given us 107 men.
Now, there's just one closet for them 107 men. One closet 12 ft. long by 5 ft. 6 in. wide and it has been dug just one year, never moved. The hole was dug about a year ago, 4 ft. deep, and it has been used ever since by that bunch of men. There's no door to the shed over it, no door that will open or shut, and only once in the memory of any person that I could talk with there, has it been disinfected in any way—some lime or something thrown in there once.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Is it cleaned out at all?
No, never cleaned out.

It's been there about a year?
There for one year, and used at the most, say, by 107 men.

By W. F. McNeill:

What water have you?
Sanitation of houses, in the case of the company's houses, which number about 29, no sanitary methods are used in disposing of refuse. In fact, it isn't disposed of at all. The same applies to the toilets that's around the company houses. Refuse is thrown out of doors on the street, a
collection of empty cans, potato peelings, ashes and slime, and greasy and dirty water being the result. Toilets are earth closets and are let go too long without new holes being dug. The holes in many cases are about 3 feet deep, and has been used for one year without any change being made. Disinfectant was known to be used once, only once, and then at that time they were just handling a package of some kind of powder they used themselves. The water supply system in vogue at the present time is just one well for 24 houses; and it was found they didn't go deep enough at that well. It was too shallow. Consequently they abandoned the well, and now they have to draw most of their water from the main river. At this time of year it's very difficult, because the river in places is a long way from the houses, and that part of the river gets very shallow; it very nearly dries up.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Do the people carry it from the river themselves?

Carry it themselves.

How far away is the river?

For a few houses it's very close, that is, within two or three hundred feet. Then as they go down a ways it gets further because the river takes a turn. The sand gets very heavy there. It's open to the winds, and it drifts there.

By J. Loughran:

When the river freezes, how do they get water in the winter?

They have to chip a hole in the ice. It's very difficult, because the river gets very low.

Don't they dig a well along the side where it would be handy to get down to?

Well, I say they dug one well and didn't dig it deep enough. They could dig a well there, but they don't do it anyhow.

You haven't told us anything about the boarding house. What is the board?

The boarding house, it's about 125 and 150, between that number eating at the boarding house—one dining room. The food is very, very bad. The same man is running that, is
running the restaurant at Lovett, in fact, we haven't had sugar for over a month.

By H. Shaw:
None whatever?
None whatever.

Brown nor . . .
None whatever.

By J. Loughran:
What do you use as a substitute for sugar?
For a few days, or probably a week after the sugar was gone, some fellows used syrup; and now we have no syrup for little more than two weeks, so we have absolutely nothing to use for a substitute.

Nothing to sweeten the tea or coffee at all?
No, nothing at all.

Apart from the sugar, what is the food otherwise? Plenty of fresh meat?
We just get the one kind of meat, and it looks like roast. We were very near two weeks without any potatoes, but then we just had some beans and meat. And we get eggs sometimes, but they're always boiled, boiled, boiled. There's no limit of time given to them. They're as hard as eggs can be boiled. We got after him why he didn't try to fry them. He said he couldn't fry them on the stove. The whole thing is, he don't want to. Then we had a general investigation of it, because you simply could not work on the food, because everything is put up in such a way that there seems to be no substance in the food. We have damaged flour. Seems to be damaged. It's coal oil in it; there seems to be for quite a long while, there's coal oil in the flour.

Does that improve the flour?
We get no toast in the morning. Just that bread, as it's cooked. Sometimes it isn't good. We got Mr. Hammond, the owner, to investigate and this man, Mr. Powers, said he had to buy all his stuff from the store, that he wasn't allowed to buy elsewhere.
By W. F. McNeill:

*Who owns this store?*
A Mr. Burnett. I believe he's a brother-in-law of Mr. Hammond. The company did own it, but I believe Mr. Hammond is.

By H. Shaw:

*Do you have butter?*
We have butter, yes sir.

By J. Loughran:

*Any cakes or doughnuts?*
We get no cake and absolutely no doughnuts, at all. We had a cake made in big pans—black—looks like molasses; it's more of a bannock nature and coal oil flavoured—only cake that I've seen for a month.

By W. Smitten:

*What do you pay for board?*
$1.35.

By J. Loughren:

*A day?*
Yes.

By W. F. McNeill:

*How much has the board increased for you? What was it a year ago?*
$1.00, I believe. Yes, $1.00—I'm almost sure. I know it wasn't $1.35.

*Was it ever less than a dollar?*
Last winter, I believe they did raise it to $1.25.

*Was it ever less than a dollar?*
No, not there. It has never been known to be less than a dollar. I was saying we get Mr. Hammond and Mr. Powers together and told Mr. Hammond, "Mr. Powers says he has
to buy all his stuff from that store," and Mr. Hammond contradicted him, and said, "No, he can buy his provisions any place he chose, Edmonton, or anywhere." The morning I left there, Monday morning, there was a very great disturbance in the cook house. The men came in for their lunches, to go to work, and cheese and bread was all they had to put in their lunch pails—no cake, no sugar, no syrup.

By H. Shaw:

That was absolutely all—cheese and bread? There was nothing else. There was some ham, but that was all I could see. I heard the men kicking on account of it. I could see nothing more on the table than the cheese and bread, and several men I saw put that in their can, that was all there was for it. Some went to the dining tables and took some of the ham. There was a little ham left from breakfast. And Mr. Powers said at that time that he would go out. Of course, we told him it was either him or the men. The men can't work on that. We give him time and notice of it to get better food, and he don't seem to want to do it.

By W. Hutchinson (a member of the audience):

Do you get any fruit up there? They get something up there, but no fruit dished up. They get it into a pie. There's no sugar in it. I couldn't swear it was fruit. I know it's yellow. It has coal oil flavour.

By W.F. McNeill:

Where does this coal oil come from? He said it's in the flour when it came there.

By Mr. Hutchinson:

Coal oil or gasoline? Coal oil, I believe.

They took some flour we couldn't use at Lovett, but where he took it we don't know. He took it on the speeder. In that kitchen where they cook they have a hole in the floor where all their dish water—that's generally slopped—they
never take it outside—simply take it and pour it down the hole and all goes down the cookhouse. About a month or so ago in the warm weather, it fairly stank there, and flies everywhere. Right under the cook shack there's only one barrel—no, there's two—outside of the cook shack, to put cans and stuff in. It is naturally filled with swill, and it's left laying there for days and days. The rest of the swill goes under the cook shack.

By W.F. McNeill:

Who owns the cook shack?
The company.

They rent it to this man Powers?
Yes, I'm not sure whether he pays rent for it. In any case, he's running it.

The company isn't running the cook house?
No, the company isn't running the cook house.

And within the last week or ten days you have called the company's attention to the cook house?
Yes.

And it has not been remedied?
No, except Monday morning, Mr. Powers, the man that's running it, said he would quit, he'd get out. We told him something had to be done. There was nothing definite done more than that.

Did you ever call attention to the cook house to anyone else beside Mr. Hammond up there?
Mr. Hammond is the owner and the attention was called of the mine manager, Mr. Scott, up there.

You never called it to anyone else two months ago? You never complained to anyone?
Two months ago there was complaints, but they were local complaints. There was nothing taken up definite with the committee. They were more a grumble and a kick. Well, then, the men seemed to go on. They grumbled in the cook house. Drew their attention to it and it went on and it kept getting worse; finally they had to get the pit committee on it, and get down to do something on it.
You never called anyone's attention to it except Mr. Scott and Mr. Hammond?
And the cook and Mr. Powers. There was no other person who could do anything, no one of any authority.

By J. Loughran:

Do you believe that the living conditions have more to do with making men either satisfied or dissatisfied than the amount of money they earn?
Yes, sir. I know for a fact, my experience myself, it's not exactly the money that counts so much, but if a man gets bad food and lodgings, there's trouble going to follow. It makes no difference how high the wages is at that particular time, there's trouble going to follow. In fact, we welcome trouble of some description for it. Now here's a can of food such as tinned milk. That tinned milk according to directions you are not supposed to dilute it. That milk is taken in these camps like 22 last winter. It is watered, I am quite sure, 95% — simply coloured. In the winter time I've had it in the morning for breakfast with the ice round the pitcher; and if the coffee was good and take that ice water and pour it in the coffee, it has no taste.

Evidence of C. Burrows, President, Brule local, United Mine Workers of America.

By W. F. McNeill:

You are connected how with the miners?
I am President now of the Miners' Union.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

All right, Mr. Burrows.
They think that the sanitary condition might be improved in the town. That is, there's a cesspool from the hotel, that's right in connection with the lower end of the houses in the town and sometimes that overflows. It's kind of disapproved of; it should be removed further.
By H. Shaw:

The cesspool is located right in the residential part of the city?
Yes.

How far from the hotel?
Between 75 and 100 yards—round about there approximately.

That's underground system?
Underground pipes and this cesspool is a great deal lower than the hotel is; at times it clogs up and flushed over the top. The hotel is higher than the top of the cesspool.

The cesspool—have you any idea of the size of it?
Probably about 10 feet—probably bigger than that. It's a big cesspool; it's covered over on the top.

By W. Smitten:

How deep would it be?
16 feet—probably round about there. I couldn't say.

By H. Shaw:

What filters away?
Through the ground.

By W. Smitten:

How far down from the top of the ground is the drainpipe?
Down about 6 feet. It's covered up, below the depth of the frost.

There's nothing to take care of the overflow in that direction?
Well, it seeps through the ground. It's an open sort of ground, but sometimes it gets covered with a liquid. The old one flushed, and they have a new one that they have put there now, and seem to think it will go the same way again.
There's no overflow pipe to drain it further back any? No.

The usual custom is to have an inlet and overflow. No, there is none.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

How are conditions underground?
They could be improved by having more efficient light than the safety lamp, the Wolff lamp. We would more approve of the Edison lamp, the electric lamp. In some places it's very hard, on the pitch back and forward. I think it would eliminate a great deal of the danger and make it safer. They could see better.

There are no electric lights there?
Not that's used by the employees.

Anything else underground?
There's a resolution here. Some miners think it would improve the safety of the mines had the miners the power of electing a mine inspector in the province that they could have—to be at their discretion—and investigating the mine at different periods, to see that everything was in a proper condition.

Have they not got that now?
Well, they do have the power of electing two of their own men to do it, but they never can get what they term a satisfactory report. The men do this thing, think they're kind of under the battle-axe—afraid to make those reports in case they get discriminated against.

By W. F. McNeill:
The idea would be to elect some men paid by the government?
I guess that is actually the size of it.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
Have you a school there?
Yes, sir, we have a school.
Is it satisfactory?
No, it isn’t. It’s one building. One room. And it, like the houses, is high up off the ground—no furnace beneath it—heated by stove. It’s cold for the scholars; about 50 in attendance, with one teacher to teach all the different grades.

Is there accommodation for all the children?
They all appear to get in, but the master himself tells me he can’t do justice to the scholars; he has so many different grades at the school. They kind of object to paying $4.00 tax to that. They think that should be free; they shouldn’t have to pay that tax.

Evidence of C.M. Taylor, miner, Mountain Park Coal Co. Ltd.*

By J. Loughran:
Any trouble in settling disputes?
No, we haven’t had anything serious. There’s a little matter about a daily statement, but I think the district will fix that up. We had a daily statement up there at the time, that a man’s time is posted next morning, but the company stopped it. Well, the manager suggested a better system, in my opinion. I have seen so many different ways of keeping time. The fire boss kept his time book and posts the time before the men next day in the mine, and then afterwards no argument or complaint. That fire boss is really the man that’s responsible.

By W.F. McNeill:
You mean five or six men keeping time instead of one?
The fire boss comes out of the mine and posts the time of the men. Mr. Darbyshire suggested this be posted in the mine by the fire boss.

When you get to work in the morning, do you go to the office and check in?  
Oh, sure.

*Oct. 29, 1919, session.
You check out at night?
Oh, yes.

Simply a question of checkboard?
As I say, we had this statement there, and the number of hours that you worked the day before was posted on this sheet.

By J. Loughran:
They don't give you a typewritten statement previous to the pay, say, 3 days before the pay?
Oh yes, you get that, but the idea is that by the time you get your statement for the money that was coming to you, that there would be some shortage, and then it took a lot of jangling to fix it up, because both parties would have to remember about the work was done. I tried to get the boys to see this, about posting the time in the mine, between the fire boss and the miner. Whereas the overman would take it up in these sheets and post it up there. The thing is all right, but so far as I could see, the company was making out that sheet, whereas the miner and the fire boss could settle their argument in the mine.
Evidence of R. Peacock, Secretary, Galt Local, United Mine Workers of America.*

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Are there any questions you would like to take up? The first one is re the Coal Mines Act, the 8-hour law. It hasn’t been lived up to by a long way by these mines, the Galt mine especially. We have men working from 8 to 20 and 24 hours a day.

Underground?
Yes, underground.

Does that apply to both No. 3 & No. 6.? No. 3 and No. 6.

What class of labour is doing that? Is it all over?
Loaders and drivers.

*Nov. 12, 1919, session.
Is that a regular practice?  
It seems around here all the time. The reason we are not taking the case up, it costs the Local too much, and I don't see why we should spend money on such things as this when it's a government act. It costs from $40.00 to $50.00 every case we take up. We get a lawyer to prosecute, and in two cases we have lost out. One time it cost us $70.00, the Local. And then we have to pay men wages to watch the men go down and come up at nights. We don't think it is necessary for us to do that.

Have you taken any other action? From what you say, you have prosecuted. Have you taken any other action besides that?  
No.

Have you reported it to the inspector?  
I have been away for three years, I don't know whether it has been reported. I was secretary before I went overseas and since I went away I don't know what's happened.

Since you came back?  
It has been going on since I came back, since 1st April. We only worked 22 days since the strike.

Have you reported it to the inspector at all?  
No.

What is the objection—or is there any objection—to reporting them to the inspector?  
No, there is no objection at all, but we don't know whether it will have any effect or not by reporting. We are supposed to have a witness to prove that these men are doing this work. We have to put men on to watch, and pay them wages for doing this. That's the only objection we have. We can't get men to do that work gratis; they want pay for it.

You say two cases taken into court?  
There were cases taken into court, and prosecuted and one time we lost a case here, to my knowledge.
By W. F. McNeill:

Do you suggest now, Mr. Peacock, that during the time when by the newspaper reports there seems to be a shortage of coal all over, that the hours of work be curtailed?
No, I don't suggest that; but I don't see it is necessary for the men to work 16 or 18 hours a day in order to make a living. But I have proof of one man—189 tons of coal for 2 weeks. It is impossible for him to load that in 2 weeks and work 8 hours day by day.

I wouldn't think it would be necessary for him to load 189 tons in order to make a living. I would think that that man probably, under the present situation, was probably helping out considerably in the production of coal. This man has a big family—13 children. Whether he is doing it to keep his family or what, I don't know. He has no wife. I am led to believe this man works his 8 hours and quitting time, the driver checks him 8 or 10 cars, and he stays and loads these cars before he comes out.

By J. Loughran:

You told us you were secretary of the union. What effect had the discrimination of these men by management on the OBU on the union? Had it any effect? Did it affect your local union?
Yes, quite a bit.

What has been the result of it?
The result? Half of the men are one way, and half another.

Half belong to the OBU?
Yes, and until the men are given back the work it will always be that way, in my opinion. It seems to be the trouble all along, until the discrimination is eliminated.

Has any appeals been made to your local union for the support for the men that are discriminated against?
Yes.

On what grounds?
That the families are in need of support on account they can't get work any place.
Have you known any of these men personally?
Yes.

What is your opinion? Would you consider that these men have revolutionary tendencies, or are they discriminated against because they were officials of the union?
My opinion because they were officials of the union. Time I came back I saw no revolutionary work done. I had a brother discriminated against, and he made the statement if he thought there was any revolutionary work he would withdraw from the OBU.

By W.F. McNeill:
Did your brother make application for work? At the mine?
No.

He was not discriminated against?
He was by the International at the first place.

Not by the company at all?
He knew what the result would have been if he had gone to the company. We understand the officials had advised the men to do away with Peacock and Logan.

By J. Loughran:
In your opinion, if these men were re-instated, what effect would that have upon the other members of the local?
I believe it would have a good effect on them. I believe they would all come back to the union, and all fall one way.

We have heard a remark that this man Charlie Peacock didn’t make an application to the company for employment. Is it within your knowledge that all men were given to understand unless they signed the check off the United Mine Workers, that they wouldn’t be employed?
Yes, we were given to understand every man would have to sign what I call a “hustling card” before he could get a job.

And the fact he wouldn’t be allowed to sign that card was the reason he didn’t make the application?
Useless. He was permanent secretary of the Miners’ Union at the time of the strike. He wasn’t paid by the company.
By W. F. McNeill:

Where did you receive this understanding? From what source? That all men must sign the check-off before they would be employed?
From the International Commission. They brought cards round there and said every man had to sign this card, and the majority of the men did. The ones who didn't take the cards, didn't join the union; the company signed them on without any card.

Would that be strictly in accordance with the agreement they have?
Yes, it's not a closed shop.

By J. Loughran:

Any other suggestions, Mr. Peacock?
We were under the impression that Mr. Armstrong made a statement when the last agreement was signed, that he would look into the high-cost-of-living every four months, which has never been lived up to, in my knowledge.

In your opinion does the 92¢ that's now allowed to cover the difference between the cost of food, clothing and other necessities today, meet that?
No.

Evidence of R. Livingstone, Manager, No. 3 Mine, Galt Mines.

By J. Loughran:

Your men organized?
Yes.

Do you have any troubles with the local officials?
We used to have considerable. We haven't had since the strike. We have committee meetings. I had one tonight. But there was a time, for a couple of years, you couldn't do business at all.

How did you account for that?
Well, if a man will look at it properly, I will explain it for
them. And if you pay a man to look for trouble, he will always find it.

*Do you consider the present methods of settling disputes satisfactory?*
Generally, I think it is. That is, if they approach it in the right spirit. And that has been the spirit of our men since we have resumed work. They have come to settle the thing, and we have had no difficulty in settling it.

*Have you noticed in the press or otherwise, a report from a Mr. Lovett, when he suggested a committee, something after the style of the Whitley Conference Committee, should be appointed to investigate and settle disputes?*
No, I haven't noticed that.

*In your opinion, would a committee that would handle all that sort of questions be an improvement on the present system? Or have you considered the matter at all?*
In which way? That is, a general committee to handle them over the whole province?

*Well, the Whitley Conference suggested that a committee with equal representation for miners and operators should be appointed to investigate all sorts of little grievances that would crop up, and to investigate them and if possible settle them, with a view to eliminating strikes or doing away with them altogether.*
Well, if it did that, it would be all right. But we have machinery for settling disputes now in our agreement. If it was carried out there should be no strikes. I think we have plenty of machinery if we would only work it.

*Seeing that that machinery has been in existence so long, and never has prevented strikes, is it working satisfactory, in your opinion?*
It's probably a question whether you will get anything to work any better. Have you any guarantee that the Whitley settlement will work.

*If we take the last strike, for instance, according to the composition of the board suggested by Mr. Lovett, the chairman of the North American Collieries Company, they would take evidence from the men affected, not from the*
district as a whole, but from the men actually affected by an alteration in work, and they would decide on the evidence of the men affected, not on the opinion of the men that were not affected.

We have machinery for handling just that sort of dispute now. If these men who were affected would adopt it, it would reach the source all right. But it would appear to me from my observation of last time that the men were dictated to too much and didn't do enough thinking for themselves. I don't think anything would have prevented that last strike unless they were able to concede absolutely what the union officials demanded.

Seeing that they're a very moderate class of men, never ask for anything that's unreasonable, don't you think you should concede what they ask for?

Of course, there's two points of view as to what is reasonable and what is not reasonable; and there's a point a man may be asking what he's entitled to, and the probability the industry will not be able to stand that. I think our present agreement provides for arbitration to decide that, and if it was carried out I cannot see any reason for strikes.

Would you be surprised to learn that the cause of most of the strikes is want of confidence in the present machinery? Well, I believe a great many of our strikes would be prevented if the men were advised as their leaders absolutely see the thing, not as they put it up—as they right down at the bottom believe the thing is. I believe if the union officials were honest with their men and led them in the right direction, there would be less strikes.

Evidence of John Mack, Managing Director, Federal Coal Ltd., Lethbridge.*

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Under what names are your different sizes of coal sold?
I'm selling lump and stove. The stove is over a 2 inch bar screen.

*Oct. 13, 1919, session.
Stationary screen?
Yes.

And the lump is over what?
Lump is over the 2 inch.

I think you said stove . . .
The stove is through and the lump is over.

From 2 inch down to what? Or is it everything down to 2 inch?
My coal first goes through the miners' screen.

What size is that?
Seven-eighths. That makes my nut slack.

It goes through that?
Yes, and then the coal goes over the 2 inch bar screen. The coal that goes through the 2 inch bar screen is my stove coal, and the coal that goes over that 2 inch bar screen is my lump.

By W. F. McNeill:
Practically means your stove is from 2 inch to seven-eighths?
Yes.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
What do you do with that that goes through the seven-eighths.
I sell about two-thirds of it locally. That's nut slack.

What about the other third? Do you dispose of it all?
I've been piling it up. During the strike I shipped all I had on hand, and an old supply that had been there 7 years—shipped to Calgary to the power plant. After the strike troubles were settled, I could not compete with Drumheller and pay $1.00 to have it hauled up to the cars.

I suppose you think when you are doing it, that it's more satisfactory? You are practically the same as the other mines, only they are 1 3/4 and yours is 2?
By W. F. McNeill:

It depends whether it's a round perforation or bar screen.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

You have the same system as the other mines so far as the sizing of coal goes?
I'm trying to, only I've not got a perforated screen like the large mines.

Any suggestions to offer for the improvement of the coal mining industry, if improvement is necessary?
I would like to see the different grades of coal standardized in this district.

The screens standardized?
Yes.

You mean if a man is buying lump coal he knows what size he's buying?
Yes.

Could you apply that all over the province—make lump coal the same size: or would that just apply locally?
I think it should be over the whole western district. This is looking forward to the Manitoba market, so that all the western coal would go on that market a standard size. Don't you think that's right, Mr. Crawford? The dealers in Winnipeg told me last winter that they would receive an order—I visited all the retail dealers in Winnipeg—they told me they would get a telephone call for a load of Lethbridge lump. If they didn't happen to have the Lethbridge lump, they would send a load of Drumheller, which they got cheaper than the Lethbridge. The consumer don't know the difference and they advised me that if we're not careful in our preparation, that the Drumheller would take our market away from us in Winnipeg, although they preferred the Lethbridge coal if they could get it.

By W. F. McNeill:

With respect to the standardization of screens. I think you said there would be the same standard throughout the
province. Is it not true that there is a difference in the breakage of the coals in the different sections?
I am speaking of the domestic coal.

I am too, including anthracite. There may be a difference in the breakage, in the handling say of your Lethbridge field coal to my Drumheller field coal, or the Edmonton field coal. In your opinion, should there or should there not, be an allowance made on account of that breakage, in this screening arrangement you speak of?
I believe that would have to be worked out. I could not give an opinion on that off hand, because I haven't been long enough in the country and able to study all the different fields.

It might not be absolutely fair to say to a man who had a very friable coal that he put this coal over say 1½ inch screen, and say the same thing to a man who didn't have a friable coal. That is, the coal wouldn't reach the consumer in the same shape at all?
To reach a standard grade we would have to draw the line somewhere.

By Mr. Crawford (a member of the audience):

I would like to say on the standardization of screens, the public might take some of the smaller sizes in with their lump coal. That was what I referred to when I said the matter of standardization might have to be looked into or it might affect our storage coal. I see no objection to the present preparation of storage coal as made in this field here.

Evidence of R.J. Brown, President, Federal Mines Local, United Mine Workers of America, Lethbridge.

By J. Loughran:

Are you married?
A widower.

Are you a householder?
Yes.
Got any dependents?
Three children.

Would you tell us what you pay for rent?
$14.00.

A month?
Yes.

We notice you have deductions for powder and doctor, and that leaves you a balance—you had on one statement you had $57.04 for 13 shifts; and when you deduct $14.00 from that, then you have $43.00 left to keep yourself and three children.
Lights and water outside of that.

What does water cost?
I pay $4.10 in three months—about $12.90 a year.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:
Shade over $1.00 a month?
Yes.

By J. L. Loughran:
Do you consider you can live on that comfortably?
No, sir, I can't.

I guess you will have to wear boots. How long will a pair of boots last?
Just as long as they hang together.

What would a pair of boots cost at the present time?
About the cheapest ones that would wear any length of time are about $6.50.

And you average $4.00 per day for how many months in the year?
I would hate to say it was over 6 months here.

Have you sufficient balance saved to keep you the other six?
No, sir.
By W. F. McNeill:

*What do you do the other six?*
Whatever I can get to do.

*Just odd jobs around town?*
Yes. I have hung it out down there during one or two summers, but it was no good. I have drawn as low as $3.00 in a pay down there in the summer time. Last year, last summer, I wasn't in a position to go any place. I couldn't leave the children, to go outside of town to get work.

**Evidence of M. Johnston, Provincial Inspector of Mines, Lethbridge District.**

By W. F. McNeill:

*What percentage of recovery of coal do you think they get from this field?*
An average of 75%.

*What is the matter with the other 25%?*
The other is lost around falls, etc., due to stoppages of work. From the pit bosses' reports at each mine in the field which I investigated immediately after the strike. I would estimate a loss of 50,000 tons pillar coal and room coal, through the strike.

*Due to ground caving?*
Due to places not being attended to and caving. 35,000 to 40,000 — that will be the absolute loss irrecoverable: the other may be recovered through extra expense.

By J. Loughran:

*What is your opinion of strikes as a whole?*

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

*Mr. Johnston has been too long out of the operating game.*
Well, I tell you, they're unavoidable with such men as those who have been leading the unions. I was out at Diamond
City to investigate the preparation of coal at that mine, and I was on the picking belts for some three hours; there was one car of coal dumped there contained over 40 lbs. of rock. I stopped the picking belts, and we took it all out, and one piece contained over 100 lbs. pure shale. I called the manager's attention to it and the foreman's attention to it, and sent down for a member of the pit committee, one of the members of the union, to come up and talk the matter over with him. Person named Shannon came up, and I understand he was secretary of the union. I took the matter up with him that we had had several complaints from the dealers in Manitoba with regard to dirty coal, and kept a lot of money out of the market. This was last January and we wanted to try and keep it. Would he impress on the miners of the local union to try and keep their coal clean, for the benefit of everybody in general? And he turned round and cursed me for all he could lay his tongue to, and he said, in the presence of three witnesses, that if he hadn't sufficient coal in his room, he would put rock in his coal to fill his car. Also if they were not getting sufficient cars, he would put rock among his coal to weigh heavier. In view of such men as that leading the union, it's practically impossible to avoid strikes. That's the treatment I got.

By J. Loughran:
Do I understand you to say that man was secretary of the union?
He was at that time.

How long since?
Last January. That's the treatment I got when I interviewed him on gentlemanly lines. And it was all right there for him to see. I said, "What will you do if the mines have got to go on short time on account of no markets?" He said, "I'll move where there is markets." I said, "I presume you are a single man. What about married men?" He said, "Well, it's up to them to move as well."

Is he secretary for the union now?
No, the mine's closed out—closed in the beginning of February. Where he is I don't know.

By W. Smitten:

You said a little while ago that you believed the public were the sufferers on account of the belligerent attitude as between the operator and the miner, which brought on a strike. Do you know of any method that might be brought about that would have a tendency to do away with that?

I would suggest that efforts be made— that more harmony between the two ends of it— that something along the lines of the Whitley Council in the old country, whereby there is a sort of democratic control of the industry shared by both the operators and the miners themselves.

You belong to an association that has less strikes than almost any?

I think that is correct.

What is the reason?

Well, perhaps, as a rule, we have a little better chance at education than the average worker, and they're generally willing and anxious to meet bosses at the basis of justice and fairness—not on the basis of actual co-operation irrespective of right or wrong. I would say that that to a great extent explains the lack of strikes on the part of the International Typographical Union.

In other words you all meet in round table talk on all matters?

Yes.

A mild application of the Whitley Conference?

Virtually, yes. I believe the printers have more to say in the control and the conditions under which they work, and the remuneration they receive for their labor, than any other labor body at present.

By J. Loughran:

Has that something to do with bringing about the industrial peace you have spoken of?

No. So far as industrial peace is concerned, there are many
of us who realize that industrial organization alone does not spell the solution for the present industrial problems. Industrial organization only spells a proportional ability on the part of labour to procure a proportion of the amount their labor produces.

_I think you have heard evidence since you came in, from a practical miner, who tells us he can only work at best 7 months in the year and that his average earnings during that time is about equal to $4.00 per shift. From that he pays $14.00 per month for rent, $1.00 for water, 50¢ for car fare, and about $7.50 per month for coal—from earnings of $4.00 per day. Do you think that man has any cause for complaint? He surely has. He has my sympathy. $4.00 a day today with a man with three children, is nowhere near commensurate with a decent standard of living._

_Do you think if the association of which you are a member had that to put up with—you think there would be complaints? I certainly think they would; and implemented by action._

_Think it would take a very eloquent agitator to tell him he had a grievance? His agitator ought to be his own horse sense._

_Evidence of A. Bryant, Recording Secretary, Commerce Local, United Mine Workers of America._

_By Chairman J. T. Stirling:_

_The Commission is taking evidence for the purpose of finding out if anything can be done or should be done to improve conditions of the coal mining industry. Well, I think I was misinformed, because they sent me here with a bunch of resolutions to bring before this Commission._

_It is perfectly all right._

I don't know whether it will be in order. There is some of this, no doubt, that this Commission can deal with, and some probably they can't. The best thing for me to do is
present the whole and draw your own conclusions. The first one is for the safety and welfare of miners in the Province of Alberta. That we as miners have the privilege and right of electing our own Inspector of Mines.

That's a resolution, is it?
That's a resolution. Clause No. 2, Resolution No. 2—it's all one, but different parts of it. That the management post up signs to guide miners to roads of safety and also danger signs on dangerous roads.

By W. F. McNeill:
That refers to underground?
Yes, underground. Clause 3. Where electric lights are used in mines, the main travelling roads should be electrically lighted, so that the lights be a guide for the miners travelling said roads. 4. That the miners be supplied with cap pieces for setting props. I might state in connection with that, that another resolution dealing something with the same, that is, that the shortest prop supplied is 6 foot, and in the majority of cases they have to cut 1 foot off of 6 feet prop and make their cap pieces for nothing. So this part, with the little I added to it, will cover that. Clause 5. The sanitary condition where the outside toilets are used. That boxes be furnished for some and cleaned out monthly or oftener by the town, and also that the health inspector see that those instructions are carried out.

By J. Loughran:
Does that refer to the private houses?
That refers to company houses, I understand. Probably that would take in the whole of the camp.

What system of toilets have they?
Just cesspool. Clause 6. That each tenant be supplied with a coal shed that will hold 2½ to 3 tons of coal. That is, to keep the coal together, and keep it from getting all slacked up before they use it. Clause 7. That tenants be supplied with garbage cans, same to be cleaned out once or twice a week by the town. Clause 8. Water barrels are not sanitary, therefore every house should be supplied by water by tap. In connection with that I might state that the water from the
river has been analysed at one time. There was a hole cut through the ice and water taken out and sent to Edmonton for analysis. At the same time water was taken from one of the barrels and the result showed that there was 50% more typhoid in the barrel water than there was in the river.

Do you find it healthful to use the water just as it comes from the barrel—fit for human consumption from the barrel—without boiling or any treatment?
It's a very dangerous proposition to drink it. I have been living in the adjoining camp for this last 10 years, and it's a thing I would never do, drink any of the water without boiling it. But it goes to show that the water after it stands in the barrel, the typhoid germs increase.

By W. F. McNeill:
Are the barrels covered?
Yes, they're quite covered, at least most of them.

By J. Loughran:
Have you any solution for that? In your opinion, does the germs find suitable living place in the wood and breed and multiply when the fresh water is put in?
The water in the barrel would be more or less stagnant. If you had a tap, you would be getting it drawn fresh. You get the water delivered three times a week, whereas if you were drawing it straight from the tap you would get it fresher.

By W. F. McNeill:
Have they any water supply in the town besides the barrels?
In some of the houses.

Where does that come from?
From the mine's supply. The water tank—I might state there is a main through the town.

By H. Shaw:
Have you ever had a typhoid epidemic in your district?
We get one every year. One in the spring and one in the fall.
An epidemic?
Yes. During my time residing in Diamond City (Commercial and Diamond City is one), I have seen as many as 80 cases of typhoid in the spring between the two camps; so that's quite a lot.

By J. Loughran:

In your opinion would the bad water have anything to do with that epidemic?
Every time it has been analysed they find typhoid.

Would it be possible to put up filtering tanks that would remove the bacteria from the water?
The company puts in chloride of lime, I think, in their tank.

How does that affect the system when you drink it?
I don't say anything about the effect, but it don't taste very nice.

Have you any idea of how they pay for bone in Commerce?
So far as I understand, they get no pay whatever.

For bone over any thickness?
I don't quite understand. They don't get paid for bone at all.

By W. F. McNeill:

Ever see the contract?
No. I'm not acquainted with the underground work at all. But that's the instructions given me.

You have never seen the contract—you don't know?
No. The shortest timber we get is 6 feet long and no cap pieces. In fact, most of these places are lower than this. And we have to cut at least one foot at least off each timber, and cut cap pieces as well. Therefore be it resolved if the company would furnish us with 5 foot timber and cap pieces they should pay for the extra work what we use for fitting. That is, if they don't supply these timbers at the right
length, they should be paid for cutting the others off and making cap pieces. Miners apparently have to do that for nothing.

What the miners ask is that the timbers be supplied at the proper length, and that cap pieces also be supplied? If not, that they be paid for cutting the others off to the proper length.

By J. Loughran:
It's much easier to prepare it outside than inside—before the timber comes in the mine. We have to lay tracks through also.

Are they paid for laying tracks? Not according to this, but I understand this was gotten out by a miners' committee.

By W. F. McNeill:
I presume that refers probably to the track laying in the rooms—that's covered by contract. In the rooms, I think your contract provides for payment of track in that case.

It happens every day that the miners will go to the bottom 20 to 25 minutes before 4 o'clock. Even if they have no coal on the bottom, they will not let miners up until 4 o'clock. A Resolution—therefore be it resolved if there is not any coal at the bottom when the miners come out, that they should be let go up as they come out. Might state some of them are wet through.

A request that the men be hoisted before quitting time? If there's no coal.

By J. Loughran:
It will often happen a man loads his last car perhaps half an hour before the time. He is anxious to get out of his wet clothes and get a wash. Is there any good reason why they should prevent the man? There's where men get rheumatism.
By W.F. McNeill:
The only thing I can suggest is he loads another car.

By J. Loughran:
But if he loads all the cars the driver gives him, and he's anxious to get out of the mine as quick as he can.

By W.F. McNeill:
Were you ever in a working place that you could not find half an hour's work to do?

By J. Loughran:
Oh yes. Unless there was some good reason. If the matter was simply a question of cussedness to keep him there for spite, there's something wrong.
Here's another resolution. Pleasant surrounding help to make life happier and more worth living, be it resolved it will be for the best conditions and more healthy life to have each house or lot fenced in so as to permit the lot to be cultivated, and have a healthy and remunerative recreation can be enjoyed.

By W.F. McNeill:
The men themselves don't want to fence in their own houses?
If the company would supply the lumber perhaps they would.

By J. Loughran:
Have you been to Coalhurst or any other of the mining camps?
Never worked there.

If you have been lately you would notice the company gave them fencing posts and the people put the fences in, and considered they have been a wonderful advantage. Perhaps that encouraged the Commerce people to ask for something similar?
I think if the company would do that at Commerce, the tendency would be the men would fence it in.

*Have they ever asked the company?*
Well, now, I could not give you any information on that.

*By J. Loughran:*

*What percentage of foreigners have you got?*
A very big percentage. Possibly a dozen white men belonging to the local, that is, men that works below ground.

*All the others are foreign speaking?*
A big majority is foreigners.

*By W. F. McNeill:*

*You sit here this morning, and tell me on three to five different occasions that you don't know. Wouldn't it be to your advantage before this Commission, if you did know it? Or before the body of men who are taking up a dispute, if you did know it?*
In that case it would be up to a local to send an experienced miner, but in this case I was spoke to to bring these resolutions before this Commission.

*Are you on the pit committee?*
No, just recording secretary.

*By J. Loughran:*

*I think perhaps the reason—seeing you have a pit committee—that one member of the pit committee should have accompanied you. You were able to deal with the intelligent part of it, but the other man would know the practical side of it.*
Well, really, the right man to attend this session would have been the check weighman, that is, the secretary-treasurer. Of course, he would have been conversant on the conditions of the contract and the agreement.
By W. F. McNeill:

The only reason I bring the question up is, in a number of instances we seem to run across the same thing—lack of knowledge of the contract and also lack of knowledge among the locals as to what is being done by the district officials and what has been done.

By J. Loughran:

What, in your opinion, was the cause for the split between the O.B.U., causing part of the members to divide themselves into factions?

Well, any leader or agitator always has a bunch of followers, in my estimation.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Whether it is right or wrong?

Yes.

By W. F. McNeill:

He changes his views and his followers change with him?

That's the idea.

By J. Loughran:

He does the thinking for them?

By W. F. McNeill:

That's candid enough. That's just the point I have been trying to bring out—that these fellows don't think for themselves.

Well, I will give you an instance. I don't know as it's evidence. There was one local decided to stay by the International, passed a vote of confidence in the International. Two weeks after, they passed a resolution in favour of the OBU. About three weeks after that, they passed another resolution in favour of the International—in one local.
By W. Smitten:

Was that after hearing the talks of the people in front of them?
The people in front of them. The same class of people that listened to the different speakers. Of course, they passed a resolution after the one speaker. If he was International—pass a resolution that they would stand by the International. Along came an OBU, and they pass a resolution that they would stand by him.

By W. F. McNeill:

Doesn't it depend largely upon the man who makes the most rash promises?
Apparently you are right, on some of it.

By J. Loughran:

Wouldn't it be a fact that each party had a following, and when they got to know that their champion was coming they would attend the meeting? Hence you would have two classes of men in the same local, holding divergent opinions and each following a different leader; and that would account for the carrying of different resolutions?
That would account for some of it no doubt, but I might state there was some of the same men there, and they voted both ways.

Evidence of D. L. Hardie, Mayor of Lethbridge.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

What would you say about the mining industry as a whole? In the province. I suppose you have kept in touch with it fairly well? Is it satisfactory?
What do you mean by that? Do I consider it's a good place to put money?

Yes.
I certainly do—right in the Lethbridge district.
Of course, you cannot give the same opinion regarding other districts?
I don't know them. By all reports I hear—if they're true—mining coal in the soft coal districts isn't a profitable business. There are too many operators; they can't command sufficient price to give them a reasonable return. That can't be said of the Lethbridge district.

Approximately there has been about 700 mines opened in the province since 1906. About 300 in operation now. That is, about 400 have been closed in 14 years. Our output is approximately 5 million tons for these 300 mines. What would you say about that?
It's a case of the survival of the fittest. There are lots of people go into the coal business got no business there. They didn't know what they were about when they went into it, and after they got into it, they didn't know how to take care of it. I don't believe any person who has gone legitimately into the coal business has regretted it.

Would you suggest any means to protect the investor from going into these illegitimate concerns?
No, you can't make any suggestions. No. A man will get a tinhorn engineer to advise him, and spend what he wants.

Do you think that question could be controlled in any way?
No. He has a right to spend his money as he pleases.

Has he the right to use a false report?
That's the difficulty—to prove it's a false report. A man's opinion may be honest, although he's incapable.

There's a number of reports issued. A man told me the other day that he was going to open up a mine—in three or four years he'd have three to five hundred tons a day. He could get the market. Supposing he gets someone to report on that and sign himself as mining engineer—which he probably can get—do you think that should be allowed?
No, there should be a qualification for a mining engineer, but there's not. And everybody comes along, pump handles an engineer, and consequently the respectable man wants a decent fee, and say he's asking too much, and they go to the other fellow, and they know no difference. He has no special qualifications and nobody to dispute it; and why
shouldn't you consider that man's report as good as the fellow who wants a thousand dollars?

By W.F. McNeill:

No reason why any man in this room could not sign his name as engineer. Since 1906 forty-four million dollars have been invested in the coal mining industry in Alberta. That investment is producing an output of about 5 million tons. Would you say that was a very healthy condition, from what you know of other countries—making comparison? Is the investment heavy for the production?
I don't see what that has got to do with it. If a man makes a food investment, why should it be charged up to the industry?

It's all right for the man himself to make a food investment; but if he, with a misrepresentation of facts say about market, induces 200 people in Winnipeg or Ontario, to invest money?
There was a time when the investment of the whole British Isles was something like two billion dollars—wasn't paying 2% on the money at certain periods of the year. Now the same investment is paying nearer between 6 and 8.

I have a case in point—a man in this country—where 2 million dollars were put into it and abandoned and closed up.
That was probably advised by one of the most highly recognized engineers in Canada too.

I suppose it was.
You take the Diamond, for instance. They have spent about a million and a half in stock—probably spent somewhere between four and five hundred thousand dollars in cash there. It was squandered. Do a little and stop, and do it all over. But that wasn't legitimate. That was what they call speculation. It was a stock market proposition.

The leasing regulations of the Federal Government were amended in September last year, making provision for any man commencing a mine to submit to the Minister of the Interior, who is in charge of the Mines Branch, plans of the proposed workings before he was allowed to go ahead with
prospecting. Do you think that thing has been put into operation? Do you think if that was carried out—looking at it from the point of view of conservation of natural resources?
What could you do? If I came along and had $500,000 I want to spend on a coal mine somewhere in Alberta, who's going to stop me? Are the government going to be foolish enough to say "That man has no sense. That's his money." You cannot control that. You might have a recognized condition that a man must have some standing as engineer before he can make a report. That, after all, isn't guaranteeing anything. They will say you are making a closed shop.

By J. Loughran:

Seeing there's a class of people who make a profession of company promotion and only want some authority to give them an opportunity of floating a company, for the sole purpose of fleecing the public, should there be any check upon these people?
I don't know. God bless the promoter. He's the highest type of mentality that there is in the world today. The most visionary of men have been the most productive of results. Take this man Clarke at the Soo. Nothing but imagination could have built that plant, and it's one of the most progressive plants in this country. He was the originator of it.

But is it fair to the public that they should be induced to put money in concerns that were only wildcat schemes?
If you are foolish enough to put money into what I advise you, where have you any kick? Use your judgement.
Evidence of G. Christie, Secretary, Blairmore Local, United Mine Workers of America.*

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

Do any people in Bellevue own their own houses?
Lots.

And is there plenty of ground available for building more?
Yes, the company have a townsite of their own, and there's a colony townsite where the people buy their lots and build houses there.

On what terms can you obtain land from the company?
I just forget now. We get the land, but we can both buy houses and ground from the company. I think it's pretty reasonable—charge about $15.00 or $20.00 a month if you were buying it from the company.

*Nov. 18, 1919, session.
Do you know what they charge for the lots?  
I think the company's houses run around $900, and that takes lot and everything. The house I've got was originally bought from the company. I got it for $800.

The terms on which a workman can get land to build on are reasonable?  
Far more reasonable than we would get if we had to pay for building one of the same dimensions.

Now if a man wants to build a house, will the company build it for him and then sell it to him?  
I don't think so. There are only a few houses that men like to buy off the company. For most of the houses on the company townsite were built just on rock bottom—gravel, where no garden could be made; except on the main road to Maple Leaf they're surrounded by gardens. That's practically the only place. Where the most of the houses are—built on gravel.

By J. Loughran:

What is your opinion on the question of old age pensions and provision for compulsory insurance?  
Well, in fetching the matter up before the local on Sunday, I told them that I was in favour of the compulsory insurance.

How did your local feel on the matter?  
The men that was there agreed with it. And I think today it's absolutely necessary that we have compulsory insurance, for we have cases in Bellevue where we have five men right in our own local, that are taking $40.00 a month out of local funds; and there are so many men that never bother, and just wait till they're sick and wait and say, "Oh, if I'm sick, somebody will provide."

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

That is, compulsory insurance against sickness?  
Yes.

By W. F. McNeill:

Mr. Loughran said old age and sickness.
By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

You refer to both sickness and old age?
I want it, yes. As regards the old age pensions, we have an old Scotchman in Bellevue at the present time. He has worked in the mines pretty nearly 60 years—worked for this company 15 years, I think, between Lille and Bellevue. Some time ago, on the picking table, something happened to his eye. He was a pretty expert man at picking rock. Something hit him in the eye. He went on to compensation for a while, but his eye seemed to get better again. According to his report to me, the doctor came to him with a note to ask him to declare off under compensation, and he signed this note and went off the compensation. When he went back to work a while, he hadn't been very long at work before this eye went blind altogether, and that eye going blind, is gradually affecting the other eye. He doesn't want to quit work. The company have told him he can go to work any time he can make it to go down there. But now at seventy odd years anyhow, he's too old to go down that hill to go to work.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

When did the accident happen?
Four years ago, under the old compensation law; and now he's practically up against it. There's just him and the old lady his wife, living together. He used to have a grandson, but he was killed in the war.

Is he getting support from the local?
No, no regular support from the local. We have taken collections for him.

By W. F. McNeill:

You are just pointing this out as a case which this compulsory insurance would cover if it were in existence?
Yes, this old age pension. I have written to the government asking the health board. That's the only Act whereby we could do anything for him at all, and they sent me a paper to fill in to send back to them, but when that goes through, if he gets anything from that, the most they get from that is $15.00 a month.
By J. Loughran:

Do you consider that there is anything wrong with the system whereby a man works 40 years and isn't capable of saving enough to make a provision for old age? Did you ever go into that matter?

No. There are cases where some men may be able to save, but don't want to; there are other cases where a man couldn't save.

Your evidence is that this man is depending upon charity and that is a system that should not exist?

Should not exist, no. As regards the compulsory insurance, you take some of us. Take myself, for instance. I belong to two life insurance and one fraternity, and I keep myself in my union dues. Well, I think when I try to do my own by my family, that what I can do, everybody else can do. It's a pinch for myself. But still, to protect those I have got, I try to pinch myself to give them protection. Others should do it. If they can't, they should be made. I guess there's not hardly a meeting comes in our local than what there's some appeal comes up for help. Take this last meeting. We had two cases up for help. Already a collection from the mine for one man, and then two cases came up to the local for help. We have a case here in Bellevue of a man; to be quite candid with you, he scabbed during the big strike in 1911 through this district. I think he went back for a year or two after the strike was over, to work. Something happened to him, and he lost his eyesight. He had a wife and four kiddies. That man is living in Bellevue today. Now to go and ask a union miner for to take a collection for a man that was directly opposed to him, couldn't hardly be thought of at the time. They wouldn't have it at all. According to some men, he reaped what he sowed. Well now, that man today is still living and his family are there—have to be fed. I was asked to be on a committee with my dad, to take up this case. And in fact, the doctor mentioned it to me first. He told me had gone in there, and the pantry never looked any different at any time, and he never once seen them eat. I took the case to the superintendent. The company find that man in house, light and coal—have done since his affliction. I couldn't handle it myself, not with the feeling that was in it. But the superintendent couldn't handle it, but he said if I would take it to any of his officials under him, and
they would go ahead and make a collection, he would chip in with the rest, but for him to say anything about it, his officials would practically take it as an order; and he didn’t want that stuff pulled off. A committee of us went—the minister was one, and an official the other. Practically every man has paid to it, except just one man. It was over two years since he had any collection made for him round the town and the most they have got from the government in that case, just through determined efforts, is $25.00.

By H. Shaw:

What’s his nationality?
An Englishman.

By Chairman J. T. Stirling:

A young man?
Well, just 40 odd, I guess.

By H. Shaw:

Totally blind?
Yes. In fact, now he is. Days or weeks will finish his case. But the hardest part of it is if he is dead tomorrow she gets $50.00 to $75.00 a month. She will come under the Widows’ Pension Act; but because he is alive that Act doesn’t cover that case.

By J. Loughran:

The general impression is that a union is just to provide funds for strikes and pay agitators. From the evidence you have given us, it serves other purposes. What would become of these people if there wasn’t a union in the district?
I can ask it another way. In the cases we have on hand at the present time—five cases that we are paying $40.00 a month to. Into that fund we pay 25¢ a month. The payroll has been 400. That brings us in $100 a month, and we are paying $200 out, and the reserve we have got will be eaten up. The union—by a lot of men they get away from the fact that what it’s for is a defence fund for ourselves. They think it’s a charity organization too. Because there’s no other body in the town where they can take their claims to, they take them
to the union. There was a movement made that we increase this 25¢ to 50¢, but when it came to the meeting on Sunday, they turned it down. Simply because there are so many men that are paying the other insurances to help themselves. It takes them all their time to keep going in this insurance without having to pay for these people that won’t protect themselves.

*Did it ever come to your notice about men—that in the country they lived when they were young, joined all those fraternal associations, benefit clubs and that sort of thing, and then left that country and removed into another at an age when they were too old to get a transfer? Wouldn’t that be one of the excuses? For instance, I know men that belonged to three. The thing would apply to myself. I belonged to three societies in the old country, but when after paying in one of the, 16, 18 and 20 years, I was then past the age for a transfer when I came to Canada—I was over 40. Now the provision I made with the best of intentions in my younger days, was all lost. Wouldn’t that apply to others?*

Yes, it would. Still, we have cases right here in our own country where young fellows, they could be insured now for practically very little, but simply because they don’t see the necessity, they won’t do it. They have got to wait till they see the necessity arise, and then it’s too late; whereas if it was compulsory, it would be paid—that’s all there’s to it. There would be provision made.

*That the only remedy?*

That’s the only remedy—compulsory insurance.

**Evidence of J. Hoggan, miner, Bellevue.**

**By W.F. McNeill:**

*There has been a sort of a dual organization, you might say, among the workers of this province. One, what is known as the United Mine Workers and another the O.B.U. Do you think that split is conducive to the best interests of the workers?*

No, neither for the workers or the public at large. I don’t think it’s any benefit to any party, the one union trying to
affect the other. I believe in a Canadian union, but not this OBU business. You can see the evil that has come out of that party. There are certain people in this country think they're union men, and they're nothing but a hold-up to the country. They will neither work nor want—and that the meaning of the IWW—that's the condition of your OBU.

They don't want to work, or allow anybody else to work. Yes, I have seen that before the country since I come to it. Union is a good thing if it's all right. It's a help to both if you have good men at the head.

That is, it's much better to deal with an organized body of men than it is with an unorganized mob? Oh yes. The United Mine Workers—it's a good institution, but, as I said before, I don't think that the locals has held up the obligations that they come to. The principle of the union, it's all right, but they break the constitution; and there's where the mistake comes in. That was partly the cause of the last strike, and pretty near all the locals around these parts have broken the constitution. The constitution is all right, but they don't stick to it. That has been the trouble with the men.

On account of bad leadership? Yes, on account of bad leadership. I don't think we have a good leader in the Crow's Nest Pass, as a union leader.

By Loughran:

Did you ever consider whether the system of electing officials was the best system that could be devised, or could you suggest any better form? Take for instance, we have 8 presidents in less than 8 years, and every man of them finished up in disgrace; but there was a time when we looked upon those men as good, sound, genuine men, and they have all went wrong inside of a short time. Would the system under which the men worked have anything to do with it?

We have had some good men with principle before we got into this United Mine Workers, but they're not contented with the union principles but they get into radical socialism, and that's what kills the labour organization and the capital or the business at large in the country. The majority of them
want something for nothing, and there's where the country is tied up today. There was never a better time for the working man than today. It looks to me that the more he gets the more kick coming.

*Have you kickers in your local?*
There's no mistake about that, but the local now I think it is working pretty smoothly in a good sociable way. And this One Big Union that they talk about, it's kind of working in Bellevue and the whole of the Crows' Nest Pass. And if they get the rule over the United Mine Workers, they will fetch destruction on the government there—no good for themselves or anybody else.

*They don't apply any constitutional methods?*
No. If you look at the leaders in the old country, they come to this country to give them advice, but they can't take it. They go right about it in the old country. It's not a lot of humbug stuff as we have here, trying to reach things they can't grasp.

*By H. Shaw:*

*Who are the main movers in that OBU?*
It's a pretty hard question.

*Are they foreigners largely?*
No. But the rank and file of them is foreigners, and they're the main financiers of the business. That's what's keeping up the English-talking man—the foreign element financing the talk.

*By J. Loughran:*

*You mean the officials play to the foreign element?*
Yes, in order to get support.

*Are they Canadians?*
All kinds of nationalities. Partly all radical socialists—radical ideas.

*It strikes me that a good many of them are English?*
Yes, the majority of them are English. You can look at this Joe Knight from Edmonton—there's a man making a
fortune—he's a great socialist. Now whenever you hear of a man trying to run down his own nationality, I think he's making a hell of a break.

By J. Smitten:

He isn't through the west now, is he?
He's all over. He talks about no money, but he has a collection everywhere he goes. Nothing but a lot of humbug stuff he talks. I never heard sense in anything he talked about yet.

He has removed his residence to Toronto.

By J. Loughran:

We had him round here not long since.

By H. Shaw:

He may take tribute.
These people never accomplishes nothing. They ought to be removed to where they come from.

By W. F. McNeill:

I take it your criticism is that instead of some of the leaders having sound union principles, they got politics mixed up into their organization?
Yes.

That will pretty near happen in any organization if you get politics mixed up in any organization that's not a political organization.
I say the United Mine Workers' main constitution is to spend no money on politics; that's one of the principle conditions of it.
To His Honour
The Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The undersigned Commissioners appointed by Your Honour by
Commission bearing date the fourth day of June in the Year of Our
Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen, in accordance with
the powers contained therein, beg leave to report that they have held
sessions at Edmonton, Calgary, Drumheller, Wayne, Edson, Lethbridge
and Blairmore, and have examined 74 witnesses being, in the
estimation of your Commissioners a fair representation of all persons
interested in the Coal Mining Industry, including the general public.

Your Commissioners have made inquiry into and upon all matters
pertaining to or concerning the Coal Mining Industry of the Province of
Alberta and have considered various resolutions, correspondence and
exhibits, which have been submitted bearing on the questions under
investigation. All of these are herewith respectfully presented for your
consideration, together with a copy of the evidence taken.

Your Commissioners herewith submit their Report, which has been
made from the evidence submitted, and are of the opinion that the
following matters have an important bearing on the Coal Mining In-
dustry.

1. Extension of Markets
Many mines only operate one half of the year or less. If more con-
tinuous operation is obtained, the result will be a reduction in the price
of coal to the consumer and steadier employment to the workman.
2. Working Agreements and Method of Handling Disputes
Provisions for making working agreements, the settling of disputes
and such matters that employer and employee deal with are not
satisfactory.

3. Housing Conditions and Sanitation
At many mines the living and housing conditions and matters per­
taining to health and sanitation are not in a satisfactory condition.

4. Educational Facilities
In some cases the educational facilities are inadequate.

5. Loss of Capital Investment
Much capital expenditure has been lost on account of failure to
obtain reliable information about properties and marketing conditions
before operations are commenced; and also owing to lack of sufficient
capital being provided to carry on operations to a successful issue.

6. Loss of Market
A considerable loss of market has been sustained owing to:
(a) Cessations of work.
(b) Shortage of railway cars.
(c) Misrepresentation as to size and quality of coal.

7. Sub-Leasing
Sub-leasing of coal leases issued by the Federal Government has the
effect of unnecessarily increasing the cost of coal to the consumer.

8. Freight Rates
Existing freight rates militate against the marketing of Alberta coal in
Manitoba and the United States.

9. Purchasing, Mine Equipment and Power
Mine equipment and power, under the present system are too ex­
pensive.

10. Conservation of Coal
Large quantities of coal have been and are being lost through im­
proper mining methods, as well as through cessations of work.

11. Hospitals
In many mining camps the hospital facilities are inadequate.

As the natural resources are not vested in the Crown in the right of
the Province, but in the Crown in the right of the Dominion, or in
private ownership, it is difficult for your commissioners to determine
what should be done with many of the questions which have been
brought before them. Your Commissioners are of the opinion that for
the best interests of the Mining Industry in this province, steps be taken at as early a date as possible to have the natural resources vested in the Crown in the right of the Province.

Your Commissioners further submit for your consideration the following recommendations and unanimously recommend that the same be provided for, as far as possible, by legislation at the coming session of the Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. (a) That employees be required to use every effort to see that all coal is mined properly and free from impurities, so that the best product will be obtained from the working face.
   (b) That employers be required to see that all coal is properly prepared and graded before shipment.
   (c) That railway cars are properly cleaned before being loaded.
   (d) That better facilities for more prompt dispatch of cars from the mines to the point of consumption be obtained.
   (e) That all invoices for coal sold, either by owners or dealers, shall have inserted on them the size and kind of screen over or through which such coal passes, and the name of the mine from which the coal is supplied.
   (f) That in order to get correct weights better provision be made for the taring of railway cars.
   (g) That steps be taken to establish testing stations in different provinces, particularly in Manitoba, so that the buying public may be given information as to the uses and values of different coals.
   (h) That a complete system of advertising Alberta coal be undertaken.
   (i) That attention be given to the question of storage of coal by both consumer and dealer.

2. That a permanent Commission be appointed and given power by legislation to make working agreements and provide for the settlement of disputes.

3. That living and housing conditions and matters pertaining to health and sanitation be dealt with by the said Commission.

4. That the said Commission co-operate with the Department of Education with a view to seeing that satisfactory educational facilities are provided for all children of school age.

5. That before mining operations are commenced the question of the advisability of opening a mine in any particular field, as well as the question as to the amount of capital required to open in that field, be referred to and approved by the said Commission and that the administration of the Regulation passed by Order-in-Council P.C. 2303, by the Federal Government, a copy of which is herewith attached, be vested in the said Commission.
6. That all matters pertaining to loss of market be placed under the jurisdiction of the said Commission.

7. That sub-leasing of coal lands leased by the Federal Government, be prohibited.

8. That the services of an expert be obtained to investigate the question of freight rates, including the question of a preferential rate on slack coal, and a reduced rate on coal during the summer months previous to the movement of grain, and that the Report of such investigation be submitted to the said Commission, with a view to bringing the facts before the Railway Commission for adjustment.

9. Your Commissioners are of the opinion that considerable saving would be attained if owners would establish some central purchasing agency, thereby standardising equipment; also that a considerable saving would be attained if the power used were obtained from central power plants located in the various fields. The carrying out of these suggestions, in the opinion of your Commissioners, would decrease the cost price of coal, and would not only be a saving to the consumer but, in addition, would tend to increase the market.

10. As this province has within its borders the largest known coal resources in the world, the conservation of this heritage should be zealously guarded. Your Commissioners therefore recommend that you obtain authority from the Federal Government for the said Commission to be given full powers for the safe-guarding of this national asset.

11. That districts be formed, and proper hospital facilities be provided in the various mining fields.

12. That legislation be enacted at the coming session, making provision for the appointment of a Commission which would be representative of:
   (a) Owners.
   (b) Workmen.
   (c) Consuming public.
   (d) Provincial Government.

That such Commission, in addition to the matters above mentioned, have such authority as may be given to it from time to time by Regulation.

That such Commission also be made responsible for the proper equipment and running of mines to ensure safety.

Evidence has been submitted with respect to Old Age Pensions and Compulsory Health Insurance but your Commissioners have not obtained sufficient evidence to reach a final conclusion, and recommend that the matter be further investigated.

Dated at Edmonton this twenty-third day of December, A.D., 1919.
EXTRACT from ORDER-in-COUNCIL, P.C. 2303, dated the twenty-first day of September A.D. 1918, (referred to in Section 5 of the Recommendations).

"The lessee shall, before opening any mine on the lands described in the lease, and before extracting any coal therefrom, submit to the Minister plans and specifications showing in detail the manner in which it is proposed to open up, develop and operate such mine, and if the location contains more than one seam of coal, detailed information shall be furnished as to the particular seam which it is proposed to develop. No work shall be commenced for the recovery of coal, and no coal shall be extracted until such plans and specifications have been approved by the proper officer of the Department. The procedure to be adopted in opening up and operating a mine on the lands leased, as well as the particular seam of coal which shall first be operated shall at all times be in accordance with the provisions of regulations duly approved by the Minister, and failure to comply with the requirements shall render the lease subject to cancellation in the discretion of the Minister."
APPENDIX II

INDEX of WITNESSES

ANDERSON, H.C. — Managing Director, Twin City Coal Co. & Marcus Coll.
*ALLEN, P. — Mine Manager, Rosedale, Drumheller.
*ATTWOOD, E.J. — Assistant Secretary, Trades Council, Calgary.
*BOND, W.R. — Edmonton.
BOWMAN, W. — Miner, Star Mine, Drumheller
BROWN, R.J. — Miner, Federal Mine, Lethbridge.
BRODIE, J.R. — Operator, Great West Coal Co. & Star & Rosedale Mines.
BRYANT, A. — Miner, Commerce Mine
BURROWS, C. — Miner and President of Local Union, Brule.
CENTAZZO, S. — Miner.
CHRISTIE, G. — Miner and Secretary of Local Union, Blairmore.
CLAPHAM, W. — Miner and Secretary of Wayne Local.
CORSE, Mrs. G.S. — Trades & Labor Council, Calgary.
COWARD, J.G. — Managing Director, High Grade Coal Co., Drumheller.
*CRAWFORD, H.W. — Accountant, Chinook Coal Co., Lethbridge.
CUMMINGS, W. — Miner, Star Mine, Drumheller.
CUPPLES, W.S. — Managing Director, Great West Coal Co., Edmonton.
DONLEVY, W.C. — C.N.R. Agent, Drumheller.
*DOWNING, A. — Chief Engineer, P. Burns & Co., Calgary.
DRUMMOND, L.E. — Manager, Mountain Park Coal Co., Edmonton.
*EWAN, J.G. — Mayor, Blairmore.
*FERGUSON, B.C. — C.S. Lott & Co., Calgary.
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FITZSIMMONS, E.T. — Trades Commissioner for Alberta.
*GIBSON, J.G. — Manager, Great West Coal Co., Calgary.
GOUGE, J. — President, Newcastle Coal Co., Drumheller.
*GREEN, R. — Manager, Bellevue.
*GRIFFITH, G.B. — Drumheller power plant.
HARDIE, W.D.L. — Mayor of Lethbridge.
*HARDY, W. — Chief of Police, Lethbridge.
HARRISON, F.E. — Assistant to Director of Coal Operations, Calgary.
HETHERINGTON, W.B. — Manager, Western Commercial, Wayne.
HILLARY, J. — Miner, Bellevue.
HOGGAN, J. — Miner, Bellevue.
HUTCHINSON, W. — Secretary-Treasurer of Local Union, Lovett.
*KELSO, J.A. — Provincial Analyst, Edmonton.
KINGDOM, G.H. — Vice-President, Trades Council, Lethbridge.
LANCASTER, T.H. — High Grade Coal Co., Drumheller.
LAVOI, F. — Engineer, Hudson's Bay Co., Calgary.
LIVINGSTONE, R. — Manager, No. 3 Mine, Lethbridge.
*LOVETT, H.A. — President, North American Collieries Ltd.
*MACAULAY, B.A. — Manager, Newcastle Coal Co. & A.B.C., Drumheller.
MACDONALD, D. — Mine Inspector, Drumheller.
MACK, J. — Manager, Federal Coals, Lethbridge.
MAHAR, E.J. — Mahar Coal Co., Edmonton.
MACKAY, W.C. — Mackay, Fraser & Mackay Coal Co., Clover Bar & Edmonton.
MARTINGS, J. — President of Local Union, Rosedeer, Wayne.
*McCALL, J.F. — City Engineer, Calgary.
*McCONKEY, H. — President, High Grade Coal Co., Drumheller.
*McGUCKIE, T.H. — Manager, Hamilton Coal Co., Wayne.
MONTGOMERY, G.S. — General Manager, Alberta Coal Mining Co., Cardiff.
MOODIE, J.F. — General Manager, Rosedale Mine, Drumheller.
MORGAN, D. — Miner and Secretary of Local Union, Rosedale, Drumheller.
MORROW, M.B. — General Manager, Canmore Coal Co.
*MURPHY, J. — Librarian, Mine Library, Lethbridge.
*O'DONNELL, T. — Manager, Rosedale Mine.
*ORMSBY, A.W. — Superintendent, Electric Light, Edmonton.
PARKER, A.P. — Miner and Secretary of Newcastle Union, Drumheller.
INDEX of WITNESSES

PEACOCK, R. — Secretary of Galt Union, Lethbridge.
*PEAT, G.L. — Toole, Peat & Co., Calgary.
*PURCELL, P.H. — General Manager, Jewel Collieries, Drumheller.
ROBI, W.S. — District Manager, Coal Sellers Ltd., Calgary.
ROSS, A. — M.P.P., Calgary.
SHELDON, C.G. — General Manager, Humberstone Coal Co.
*SMITH, J.E. — Sales Agent, Western Canadian Collieries, Bellevue.
TAYLOR, C.M. — Miner, Mountain Park Coal Co., Edson.
*THOMAS, A.C. — Coal Dealer, Calgary.
TUPPER, L.A. — Secretary-Treasurer, Rosedeer Coal Co., Wayne.
WHEATLEY, F. — Miner, Bankhead Mine.
*WILSON, A.E. — Salesman, McGillivray Creek Coal Co.

*Evidence from this witness was repetitious with other testimony and was not included in this volume. However, it does appear in the original manuscript.
APPENDIX III

LIST OF EXHIBITS*

Tender for American coal for Manitoba Agricultural College.
Tender for American coal for Dept. of Militia & Defence, Winnipeg.
Specification for coal for use in the Winnipeg public schools.
Analysis of sample of McGillivray Creek coal.
Schedule of prices to accompany tender for coal, 1919-20, City of Winnipeg.
Complaint of Red Deer Valley Coal Operators Association re freight rates on coal from western Canada.
List of children of school age at certain mines in Drumheller Valley.
Table showing output, labor, development, and capital investment in mines in the province.
Table showing comparison of tonnage of coal in areas and tonnage recovered from these areas in the province to December 31st, 1919.
Table showing average number of days in each month on which lignite coal was drawn during 1917.
Table showing average number of days in each month on which bituminous coal was drawn during 1917.
Letter to the chairman of the Commission from Midland Collieries Ltd. re switching charges dated 24th Nov. 1919.

*The remainder of the exhibits, not listed, were various laboratory samples and analyses of coal from different parts of Alberta.
Contract miners faced many problems underground trying to earn a steady living. Many of their difficulties were caused by the contract system itself because lack of timbering, a shortage of rails for mine cars, poor ventilation and other problems often made it difficult to work regularly underground. When a miner was not loading coal, he couldn't earn a living. The following testimony, taken from an inquiry into mining conditions in the Crow's Nest Pass prior to World War One shows how miners' wages could be affected by underground problems. The examiner, Mr. Stubbs, was the miners' representative on the Commission. — Editor's Note.

Evidence of Charles Garner, International Board Member, District 18, United Mine Workers of America.

By Mr. Stubbs:

Do you consider it is good practice, either for the company or the men, when the men have to handle the coal more than once (i.e., by continued shovelling)?

No. It reduces the earning power of a man, and it makes the output of the mine less.

And it also spoils a considerable quantity of the coal, and makes it less valuable?

Yes. It makes smaller coal, shovelling it three or four times; I would not say that it reduces the value of the coal, because maybe they would use it for coke ovens.
Have you had to take cases up, during the life of this agreement, where men did not make $3.00 per day on that account?
Yes.

Any trouble in getting the makeup?
Yes.

Have you had cases where men were not made up on that account?
Well, yes.

Have you had any grievances while you were secretary as to shortage of material?
Yes, there are lots of grievances in regard to shortage of material.

That also affects the earning powers of the men?
Yes, the men have to go home on account of no timber, no rails, and so forth, shortage of material used for driving their places.

Going back again to the question of shovelling coal, Mr. Garner, if a man ran his crosscut right through, what would be the farthest he would have to throw his coal to his cart?
The farthest position, that is, counting the room, would be fifty feet.

Supposing he ran his room up, and then his crosscut, he would have to carry that coal 50 feet before he got it to his cart?
If he drives his crosscut right through to the adjoining room. I would not say definitely 50 feet, but between 50 feet and 40 feet, anyway.

And supposing this thing had been managed according to your understanding with Mr. Hurd, meeting your partner halfway, that would reduce it?
It would reduce it, the maximum distance he would have to shovel it then would be 20 feet, but the average distance would be about 12 feet.

You would not object to that?
No.

By Mr. Stubbs:

In connection with shortage of material, have you known men to go home continuously on that account?
Yes, that is a continual grievance about every month, with the coal company.

You have lots of grievances of that kind to take up?
All kinds of them.

That also militates against the men?
Yes.
Do you consider that is a condition that could be avoided?
Yes, by a clause in the agreement stating that where a man goes home through shortage of material, he shall be compensated for the time lost going and coming back to the mine. That would do away with it.

By the Chairman:

What material is the shortage in, mostly?
Timber, rails, ties, cars.

We had this matter brought up pretty fully at Fernie. I suppose the same conditions apply here as at Fernie, in regard to that?
I cannot say about Fernie; I can only speak in connection with Michel, though I have heard men state that that was the condition there also. In connection with Michel I am speaking of what I know to be the case.

Your suggestion is that there should be a dockage on the company for loss of time to the men through shortage of materials?
Yes, there is a clause to that effect in some agreements in the States, by which a man is compensated. Down here a man has got to go to work and put on his pit clothes, get his lamp, and go up to the mine. The fireman blows his lamp without saying anything to him, and the man goes into the mine and wastes maybe an hour or two and then gets no material. He goes to all that trouble, and walks a distance of a mile or two, and gets nothing for it.

By Mr. Stubbs:

Have you known men to lose much time on account of ventilation?
Yes.

Gas in the place?
A place being fenced off on account of gas.

I believe you found yourself in that position, when you were working for the company?
That would not be under this present agreement.

I am just taking you back now?
Yes.

As a matter of fact, that was often the case with yourself?
Yes, it was, more especially on Number 5 side.

All this loss of time means that while the mines might possibly work a considerable number of days in the course of the year, a man did not have an opportunity of working that number of days?
Yes.
It would not be altogether his fault that he could not follow his em¬ployment regularly?
No, it would not.

By the Chairman:
On the whole, is there, in general, complaints about the ventilation in these mines here, or is the ventilation good?
On the whole, there are complaints about the ventilation.

But these cases of loss of time on that account, you say, would be where a man would perhaps run up too far ahead of the other man?
Well, in some instances. In other instances, if the mine was bratticed off, and good stoppings put in, it would do away with it. In some instances it is impossible to move the gas, and in other instances a practical man could rectify it with little expense.

That is a complaint against the management, then, Mr. Garner?
Yes.

By Mr. Stubbs:
Now, the custom, some time ago, was that shooting was allowed in all those mines?
The agreement was based on shooting, on a shooting coal basis. The first agreement made was that a man should fire his own shots.

When he wanted to do so?
Yes.

And just how?
Well, according to the rules.

According to the Coal Mines Regulation Act?
Yes. That was in Number 8 side. In Numbers 3, 4 and 5, shot lighters used to fire the shots, that is, shot lighters used to be employed on the day shift, and they came around at least twice a shift. Then conditions got so that the shot lighting was done away with on the day shift on that side, and they used to fire the shots during the night time. Afterwards, it was cut out altogether.

There has been no change in the price since that time?
In number 8?

Yes?
There has been no change in the mining rate.
What was the practice in Number 8, during the time you were the secretary at Michelt?
The practice was, in the first two years that I was secretary, that men used to get their shots fired in the day time, in some sections of Number 8 mine. In some sections they used to get them fired in the night time, and afterwards it was cut out altogether and the men had to get the coal with the picks.

Do you consider that that makes a considerable difference to the earning powers of the men?
Yes, a man has got to get it at the point of the pick, whereas, he used to get it with shooting.

What percentage of difference do you consider it would make to him?
It means a reduction of twenty per cent, at the very least.

Practically the same conditions exist in regard to Number 3 mine? At Number 3 they used to shoot when they wanted to?
Well, in my opinion the abolishing of the shooting of coal in Number 3 mine has reduced their earning power still more, for the simple reason that the coal in that mine is harder, as a whole, that it is in Number 8 mine.

In that particular seam, your idea is that it makes a greater percentage of difference?
Yes.

What would it amount to there?
I consider it would be at least 25 per cent, in Number 3 mine.

By the Chairman:

And you are remembering, Mr. Garner, that in Number 3 mine a man could not shoot whenever he liked, but had to wait for the shot lighters?
Yes. But you must take into consideration that the coal in Number 3 is of a sticky nature, and it sticks to the roof. A man knew approximately when the shot lighter was coming around, that is, when he had worked in the place for a shift or two. He would make his round maybe at nine o'clock. Well, you would go in and mine your coal and drill your holes (one or two holes as the case may be) and about nine o'clock you would be just about ready for him. You would clean up the coal and he would come around maybe between twelve and one o'clock, it all depends; he reaches different parts of the mine at different times, and you would judge your work according to the time the shot lighter would get around.
So that, if the shot lighter was up to his job, he would not lose very much time?

No. Of course, there are cases where maybe the shot lighter might have some trouble with a shot in a certain place, and there are cases where the man would have to wait for him, but take it as a whole the miner works his place so as to get his shots ready in accordance with the time the shot lighter comes along.

He can calculate that time?

Yes.
At the 1921 Special Convention of District 18, called to reconstitute the district after the failure of the One Big Union revolt, the following discussion took place. It centred on efforts of the miners to exclude unskilled workers from the collieries of Alberta and eastern British Columbia by a clause in the district constitution which established higher dues for unskilled (non-practical) miners. The discussion points to problems created by the unskilled and the efforts of the professional, or "practical" miners to assert some control over the composition of the underground workforce. — Editor's Note.

Delegate Wheatley:

(Reading) Article 4, Section 1. The members of this district shall be men employed in and around the mines, living in the territory comprising District 18. Any man working in or around the mines or coke ovens may become members of the local union where they are employed when accepted upon the following conditions, viz.: by paying an initiation fee of ten dollars ($10.00) for practical miners and fifteen dollars ($15.00) for non-practical men.

(Seconded).

Delegate Clarke:

Mr. Chairman, before that is put to the meeting I would like to understand it more fully. For instance I don't think it necessary to have non-practical miners $15.00; they make it read if a man does carry the necessary qualification, in B.C. we have got to have a certificate as a practical miner, and if a man doesn't carry a certificate he has got to pay five dollars more than the man that does carry it and I would like to make an amendment that the latter part be struck out.
Let's explain; in nearly all of the districts of this country, we have been menaced by the surplus of men who don't follow mining for a livelihood. Sometimes they farm their farms in the summer and farm the mines in the winter and who do not maintain the organization permanently but let their memberships lapse after they do become union men. They just come to do what they can for a time and are gone and come back again in the fall and crowd you out who are depending on that industry for your livelihood.

The International law leaves the initiation fee for non-practical miners to each particular district to determine what the initiation fee shall be for those members. In some of our states the law qualifies practical miners and issues certificates of competency and of course it is very easy in those districts to qualify non-practical when they can't pass the examining board. Consequently they must go to work at some other occupation outside of the mine and in that event the payment for initiation is $10.00, but when as practical miners and working underground they must qualify by working in the mine in a subordinate position for a number of years under the supervision of a practical miner. The law in our own state and in many instances, recognizes the necessity of protecting the miners' lives by providing such classification of competency so that disasters that occurred heretofore will not be so frequently forthcoming by inexperienced men handling explosives or coming in contact with the rules covering gaseous places. It is not necessary for me to go into that because they are the milestones to every miner of this country.

Aside from that it is desirous coming at this time with the mines starting up more to guard against the introduction of the surplus amount of inexperienced men that crowd the mines with such people and particularly the introduction of mining machinery which lessens the skill of the experienced miner and brings less skill for the inexperienced. It is because of those two outstanding factors the United Mine Workers has left that question to each district.

Now the old law as you laid it down here you had a qualification along this line; nothing substantial for non-practical miners. If he failed to make $2.50 a day that would be his qualification for the lesser initiation fee. Now a miner having the best experience might be given a place in these mines where all his years of experience and his skill and proficiency he couldn't make the wage yet he is practical and you classify him as non-practical. By virtue of the constitution there was such a thing as giving the best miner a place where he couldn't make his subsistence.

If you have any necessity in this district at all to protect yourselves from unjust invasion of impractical men, the clearest way is to express it in language something like this, but the way you had it before you could give the practical miner who had been performing mining many years a bad place and he couldn't make above the special pointed wage and it qualified him as a non-practical miner; simply through the physical condition of his working place.
I understand in British Columbia the law qualifies him accordingly; in that course it is very easy for the men to protect themselves because the mines are the most dangerous mines in the world, as I understand. Consequently the government itself and the operating companies recognize the necessity of protecting those mines from the inexperienced men who have no knowledge of their danger.

Now we feel we have really protected ourselves to some degree against the invasion of our workshop; against the men who maintain no organization; who take no interest in our affairs that are so vital to us who depend on mining for our livelihood. They come from their several occupations, shipped into our midst and enjoy all benefits of our organization, that we have spent our lives in defining and we must continue to provide all the regulations for bettering the conditions. Then they leave us in the summer and come back in the fall; they are shipped into our midst. Now that is all; that is the story and we believe this law is much better. It will have two objects—the men coming from the farms in the fall of the year to work in the coal mines, this will give them the privilege to work there and if they are inexperienced the $15.00 mentioned in this particular district they will be more apt to keep up their membership when they do go back to their regular occupations because they will recognize it has cost them something to belong to the organization.

Delegate Carter:

Mr. Chairman, it is a fact we do want to protect against non-practical; while not agreeing with every word still the fact remains we got no protection even by this constitution that affords little on protection from the evils you have spoken of. We would like to have had the reading of a section that does protect where a man comes into a camp intending to work in the mine. Again in that case that a man comes in with a ticket, he don’t have to pay. He comes in on a transfer so it would work very much of a hardship in his case but this is no protection against the non-practical men. The farmer, the apple picker, the sheep herder still come into the mines and will pay the $15.00 and work there as a practical miner; the management reserves the right of employment of whom they like and we have no redress. I know for a fact men without experience are frequently put in the mines on the same plane as the practical. He could well afford to pay and isn’t it worth the difference between $10.00 and $15.00 to him, but the other point our getting protection against the non-practical man is the bigger question and except we have something more effective and satisfactory than it is at the present time it will be the same because in the mining industry there are a vast number of men and there is great competition. Take any other trade, the machinists' union, with the machinists you can work, learn the business and show the other fellow how to do it but you can't get the money and you can't qualify in the machinists union unless apprenticed. So what we want is to place time as a qualification and put your initiation up to $75.00 and you would be doing something then and perform some slight protection to your practical men.
By the Chairman:

Of course every skilled trade, that is the fight of the employers, against organization of the skilled trades because they will not allow a fellow to take a position of supervision. They do, however, allow journeymen in those unions. Where so many apprentices are, they have so many journeymen employed, so the boy of today may become the machinist in a few years. But the employers are hammering those unions in the same way as indicated and trying to break down the rules so they can put into the skilled shop, men who are handy and have the journeyman tradesman see his work is done. That is the great evil in the United States steel trust brought out in the Stanley investigation. I recall working in a steel mill many years ago in South Chicago, as a young man where they were so skilled we couldn’t touch a hammer. We were common labor workers until qualified to assist as apprentices but the great amalgamation of the powerful trusts have driven nearly all the organization out of the steel industry and they now have what is known as the Taylor system. With the introduction of machinery, men with little special knowledge now substitute for the skilled craftsman and every seventh man is a spotter. He sets the pace to drive the sweat of the other six and you can’t get a foothold because of the spotter system developed over there.

But in your particular case you are evidently aiming at legislation to have examinations of miners. That is the aim of the union, that is the intent of your preamble, to strive for those things that will raise the standard of your craft, these steps being incidental to the scheme for the whole thing. What do you do when you appear before the legislature? We say we want qualification for the miners because it is necessary to protect the lives of the practical coal miner but the coal mining interests are perfectly willing to allow you to take the chances as long as you or I supervise and take the responsibility for the incompetent individual unfortunately put into our midst. We have been compelled to take men as working partners, and share our allowance, that never saw a coal mine. They don’t know the dangers of explosives; no knowledge of gaseous seams of any kind, and no knowledge how to protect themselves. In the past we have been the fellows that have been doing that and when we seek legislation of this kind the reason we couldn’t do it in our International law is because every state has legislative bodies and different methods of handling mining matters. Now that is all; the whole question. If you haven’t such law and think it isn’t necessary, that you are not troubled with impractical men, you should strike it out and go ahead. But as we were working together, your committee, we were of the opinion this was the better way and that is why we brought in that recommendation.

Delegate Lynch:

Mr. Chairman, I approve of this; the unemployment of the practical miner at present is because the farmer comes in at certain seasons of the year and gets employment or lives off what he gets working in the mines.
I think it is quite a simple matter to get protection against them coming into the mines. All over the country workmen are organized pretty well and if a man comes to work underneath the ground he should be charged $15.00 anyway for not being a union man.

Delegate Thompson:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to move an amendment to this; that is all as it is here, and $25.00 for non-practical men. Now our local has had this up for discussion lots of times. We feel the need for some protection in the latter end of October.

Delegate Potter:
Second the amendment, Mr. Chairman.

By the Chairman:
The motion is to strike out $15.00 and insert $25.00.

Delegate Peebles:
You are choking off all discussion.

By the Chairman:
No, I am not choking off discussion. I recognize the evils of the situation and you will have debate, of course, on the amendment. The amendment is before the house and the mover has the floor.

Delegate Thompson:
Now in making the amendment, $25.00 for non-practical men, I spoke of the need we have for some protection. We have men coming into the Drumheller field the latter end of October, November and December. We only work a certain number of months and we have to save our wages to make it hold out all around but in those mines there is a limit to the different classes of machinery and when these fellows come in, consequently the numbers of cars around the mine are considerably reduced. In the summer months, a miner is getting sixteen and eighteen cars a shift; when these fellows come they are reduced to ten and eleven.

It is not only the effect of reducing the number of cars but the question of safety. These fellows come in; this is the kind that are introduced in the Drumheller valley. The boss will say when they go to work, "Oh you can go and fix up a set of timber," and I am satisfied you will find most of them don't know what a set of timber is. I know a fire boss that told a man to put a set of timber up and when he went back on the second round he says, "You didn't put up the set of timber." He says, "I didn't know what you meant." We have also cases of men going into places machine mined; now this is a fact, that a man went into one of these places and he sat down. The fellow in the next room happened to go in to see who he was and this new fellow said, "When is that fellow coming around to shoot the coal? Isn't it the fire boss that comes around and loosens the coal up?" Not only that, in blasting, we get them in places
where they use powder and they load up the hole and then lit the whole length, fifty feet, of fuse at the one time; used the whole length and I have know men digging coal in those mines using three pick blades on one handle. (Laughter).
In the summer time when the mine work is slack we have to go to town and work as laborers; whether carpenters or masons we only get laborers' wages. But I have had carpenters come right in along with me and they presume they are entitled to get all we get.

By the Chairman:
But in the States in many instances we have qualification acting through competent boards that provide for holding examinations. You will see in the *Mine Workers Journal* boards are sitting giving the applicants examinations and if they qualify a certificate of competency is issued to each one and that enables the man to enter any mine in that state. That makes it simple because no one is employed unless possessing a certificate of competency. That settles it and the operators live up to the law but in states having no qualification the miners are endeavoring, as you are endeavoring here, to protect against unjust invasion against your craft. You and they have to provide for that in your constitution. The International organization allows you to do so; to fix the rule for your initiation fee to correspond with the conditions in your particular district and to give you some semblance of protection against the evils you are now setting forth in argument, and they are set up according to the standards of the district.
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