



COAL MINES DEBATE GETS WARM

Miners' Interests Strenuously Defended by Williams and Hawthornthwaite

Monday, February 6, 1911.

Parker Williams resumed the debate on the second reading of the new Coal Mines Regulation Act. On the previous Friday he had endeavored to discuss the Keserich case, but had been stopped by the Speaker, who had contended that the case was still before the courts, but he (Williams) had been unable to discover since then that any step had been taken to carry the case to a higher court, so the Speaker's ruling could not hold good. The Judge in that case had ruled that unless an infraction of the Coal Mines Regulation Act could be proved to have caused the explosion he did not care if the whole act had been violated and he could indict no one. The trial had proved that no infraction of the company to observe had been ignored. Again on January 26, the Judge had said that he did not care if the mine had been full of gas for three months before the explosion, if it was not so on the morning of the explosion. In the case of explosions in coal mines it was inconceivable that any man who was at the point where an explosion took place would live to tell anything about it. In the face of the attitude taken by the Judge only a dead man could secure a verdict for the widows. A trial by jury had been asked for and refused on the ground that it was of too technical a nature for a jury, but he (Williams) thought it was because a Judge was coldblooded and a jury would be warmblooded.

Commenting on the Extension disaster, he referred to the fact that Inspector Dick had not mentioned in his report that there were no shot lighters in No. 2 mine, and characterized him as a "nerfless wretch." In his report Shepherd had attributed the explosion to a blown out shot. The question then arose "Where was the shot lighter?" The Judge could have found out if he had wanted to. It was significant that in Dick's reports on the eight mines of the Wellington Colliery Co. (now the property of the C. N. R.) shot lighters were only mentioned in connection with the report on No. 2 mine. That was his last lick at the widows and orphans. Both the Chief Inspector and Robertson, the government mineralogist, united in jumping on the "inexperienced miner" as being responsible for the explosion. Both of those reports were "exhibits" in the Keserich case, were read by the Judge, and the verdict was given against the widows and orphans.

The Judge must have taken those reports as evidence that the Department exonerated the company, and in consequence the verdict met the views of the Department.

The case had served one useful purpose, it showed what possibility the workers had of getting favorable verdicts from the courts.

To sum the whole matter up, the case had proved that there had been a total disregard of their duties as to the enforcement of the law on the part of the Inspectors and as the verdict had cleared the company, the whole responsibility must be placed on the Department whose duty it was to look after the safety of the miners, the same Department that was now professing to be anxious to secure the "last word" on coal mine regulations embodied in the new Bill. The enforcement of the present Act was all that was needed, rather than the introduction of a new one.

After pointing out the utter impossibility of the Inspector visiting every portion of the mines in his district once a month, as called for in the existing Act, and the urgent necessity for appointing a sufficient staff to meet the present and future requirements of the industry, he recommended that the government, if they would not allow the men to elect the inspectors, should at least allow them to elect a man in each mine, with a certificate not lower

Nays—2.—Williams, Hawthornthwaite.

Tuesday, February 7, was occupied by dealing with government and corporation Bills of little interest to the wage workers.

Wednesday, February 8. The Coal Mines Regulation Act was taken up in committee of the whole House, and several amendments were introduced by the Secretary, some of which were accepted by McBride. The two Socialist members were in close consultation throughout the sitting.

The first criticism put forward was in connection with the definition of the word "coal miner" in clause 2. Hawthornthwaite pointed out that in some mines in B. C. many persons were employed at the working face, who, by reason of their inability to read and speak the English language constituted a grave danger to men working with them, and suggested an amendment to the effect that any man employed at the face, although not actually engaged in mining the coal, should have a miners certificate.

McBride said he could not accept the suggestion. It would mean that none but experienced miners would be allowed at the face, and would cut out the man who was learning to mine.

Hawthornthwaite quoted the instance of the Chinese working at the "face" in the Cumberland mines as a constant source of danger to the white men working near them.

Parker Williams said that the Chinese got their necessary experience by acting as loaders, and the clause as it stood would allow it to continue, while the amendment would enable the white men to get that experience and qualify as a miner. McBride, while stating it was the government's desire to discourage the employment of Orientals in the mines, held that the suggestion would not have the effect anticipated, and refused to accept it. Hawthornthwaite said he did not wish to use any unnecessary heat, but the Premier did not

A Stump Capitalist

Conrad Budden in Clarion No. 617, while dealing with the education of the farmer, assured us that it is useless to analyze production and then leave the farmer to work out how it applies to the farm. I have read A. M. Simons' pamphlet on Socialism and the farmer; also Budden's "Slave of the Farm," yet am unconvinced.

Simons falls flat when he says that the farmer is robbed as a consumer. Budden, while perhaps getting closer to the truth in taking the farmer as a mere unit, producing a part of all commodities and yet producing none, or anyone, in its entirety, mars an otherwise valuable work by stating on page 14 of "Slave of the Farm," that the railroads are responsible for the robbery of the farmer.

Now, Com. Budden, you surely were in a humorous mood when you wrote that paragraph. You certainly had not in view a work dealing with the robbery of the railway employes, as you would find it somewhat difficult to find just where they were robbed while handling farm produce. I hope some one may come to the front who has thoroughly analyzed the farmer's position.

The writer, up to date, sees only two avenues where he is directly robbed, and those are rent and interest, which he pays the real owner of his land and tools. However, we have a vision of a two-legged going-to-be capitalist, armed with a grub hoe bought on tick, tearing up the soil in one field, while in the next on a clear stretch of level land, is a 40-horse-power traction engine hitched to a dozen latest improved ploughs with harrow, seeder etc. attached. Were I figuring on making a raid on the wealth produced by either of these farmers in a given time, I would somehow be inclined to investigate the granary of company farmer No. 2.

We met one of the grub-hoe individuals a few days ago and I at once took occasion to introduce Com. Desmond, and at the same time gave this energetic farmer an invitation over to my place to hear Com. Desmond give a speech on Socialism. After eyeing Desmond up and down for a few minutes he ventured the remark that he enjoyed

DRAWING TOGETHER FOR DEFENCE

Capitalists Realize Necessity for Co-operation to Oppose Workers.

"Those of us down in the States have felt that there were only three ways out of the present situation; First, the adoption of business men of a broad co-partnership method of doing business, or, second, a rapid drifting toward governorship of many branches of business; third, Socialism. No thoughtful man can doubt that the choice of these three methods should be the first one—an honest, vigorous determined attempt at co-partnership."

Here is the view of our friend, the enemy.

A calamity is drawing nigh. There is something tangible and real looming up out of the confusing mist of theories of poverty, competition, surplus value and over production, which the intellectual owner of the whip hand is becoming conscious of. There is something inexpressible arising out of the conditions under which we carry on business, something alarming, which no thoughtful man can longer overlook, and if we are to maintain that position in the world which the use of our intellectual faculties have brought us, we must no longer run the show in parts, no longer divide our individual energies in maintaining this high and mighty position.

We have builded our stronghold and founded our throne, and now let us unite to keep our stronghold and found it. Such, comrades, is between the lines that friend Perkins is preaching, and his text is surely "work up!" While to the fact that there is a class struggle and that the men who have builded their cities and developed their natural resources, and who operate their tools and pay the bill, are beginning to wake up. There's a stir in the air, and the crowd below are extending the superstructure which the king is enthroned on. They are seeking flaws at the base and finding caverns; they tap the side and it crumbles; they make a breach in the core and find misery, poverty and degradation. It is no longer wise on our part to close our eyes to these things; let us co-operate on a broad basis, that we may keep these prying eyes out. When the stone is crumbled let us plaster it over, and when the foundations are rotten, let us throw dust over.

And we who are class conscious, and who have studied that dreadful spectre, Socialism, the outcome of which is of necessity the virtues which under this system are mythical, let us keep more to the work in hand, the obtaining of perfection in the knowledge of the subjects which are the very foundation of our structure. Ignorance and misconception of the essence of the science are to be found in all learners, but not abuse of outside is the true course of education. We are out to confound the assertions of Perkins and his class, to show up the rottenness of society, to break down the idol which we so long have revered, and to build up a structure on a foundation of equality and freedom, where greed and poverty, vice, and destitution are no longer possible, and where charity or possession will no longer be a cloak for ignorance or a principle for virtue. We will have no more of classes, no more of superiority by possession, no need of saying graces once a week nor of the condemnation of joys by paid officials. The necessity of life is not a heart full but a stomach full, and as we have earned it in the season of our youth, so we demand it in the sunset of life, not as an act of goodness from a possessing angel to one criminally poor nor yet as a reward for living in spite of conditions, but as we have worked and produced in season, so we demand the right to be lazy in our old age.

Enough of this nonsense of love, peace and fraternity, contentment and meekness and its reward when we are dead. We are out for our rights, the true acknowledgement of our worth,

Yours in the Scrap
PETER F. OLSEN
Garden Plain, Alta
January 26, 1911.

IN PASSING

While the metaphysical preacher is giving the workers the choice of Heaven's bliss or Hell's blister in the hereafter, the Socialist is teaching his fellowworkers the solution of the bread and butter problem in the here-present. I prefer the good things of the here-present. A bird in the earthly hand is worth two in the heavenly bush.

A horticulturist who reads "New Thought" and such like papers says he believes in Socialism but not the revolutionary kind which he calls "destructive Socialism." Wonder why he chopped down and destroyed the wild trees before he planted out his orchard if he does not believe in destructive or revolutionary methods?

P. R.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

This Page Is Devoted to Reports of Executive Committees, Locals and General Party Matters—Address All Communications to D. G. McKenzie, Sec., Box 1688, Vancouver, B. C.

Advices from Winnipeg bring the unwelcome intelligence that Comrade W. H. Stebbings is ill with scarlet fever. It will be some time before he will be able to attend to his duties as secretary of the Manitoba Provincial Executive. We wish him a speedy recovery.

OKANAGAN ORGANIZATION

The work of education and organization in the Okanagan goes on apace. After doing all I could in Armstrong, I came on to Enderby. This is a burg with many sympathizers and quite a few good fighting boys. Busted around a couple of days and sold some literature, then went out to comrade Rossman's and did about 9 or 10 days personal work. Ran into a cold snapper, 28 and 30 below, which hampered the propaganda a little.

This is, in some ways, a peculiar district. Quite a percentage of the ranchers are petty bourgeois English that have been frozen out of industrial life and are in agriculture as "straw" tops. These people are under the delusion that they are going to make anything from ten thousand acres out of agriculture, "when the trees come into bearing," and don't want Socialism. I did not bother such with such, leaving them to their estate agent and other instruments of evolution to deal with. Some of 'em will perhaps get very wise soon.

After doing all possible in this direction, with what results time alone can show, went out to another comrade's and did a couple of days' work here. With the farmer—as with the other sections of the toilers—there is great difficulty at first in getting them away from a narrow view of things onto a class viewpoint. I was once called to task in the Clarion by a Dauphin (Man), comrade for saying that the farmers found it harder to grasp social production than any other section of the workers. Now, with about a year's more experience as an organizer, very largely among the agriculturists, I am more convinced than ever that this is true.

Moreover, the farmer suffers from another delusion that the pure and simple wage worker does not have, and this is, that he is a capitalist. Fully half of them have this idea and uphold it. However, there is one thing to be said for the agriculturist. That is the fact that a great percentage of them are ready to be convinced. I have made a special point with them of showing that they are not by any means in the capitalist class but just the reverse, and as a result, more than one has already, in speaking to comrades, acknowledged the correctness of the socialist viewpoint.

I wish Comrade Budden or some of the rest would write a simple farmer pamphlet. If they don't, why, at least hardly capable of the job I know another party that will make a stab at it.

DESMOND

BRANTFORD, ONT.

Dear Mac:— Brantford local is still in the running and keeping up the working class propaganda by various means, chief among these being the distribution of socialist literature, and the holding of propaganda meetings at which the local comrades take a hand at speaking. Until recently we had confined all our speaking abilities within the city, but we are now endeavoring to broaden out a little by visiting outside towns. Com. Davenport made a start by addressing the Karl Marx Club at Hamilton on Sunday, Jan. 23. The subject he took was "Questions for Non-Socialist Workmen to Answer." The attendance, though small, was above the average wage worker's standard of intelligence, which made up somewhat for the lack of numbers present.

Com. Davenport is developing into a first rate speaker. His meaning being easily followed by the workers, due, no doubt, to his eliminating those stereotyped sentences which many Socialist speakers fall a prey to, and confining his choice of words to those that are used every day by the workers. Com. Davenport asked many pointed questions such as, "Why was it that the producers of everything, namely, the workers got a bare existence, and oft times not that, and that, on the other hand, there were the non-producers, the capitalists, who had an abundance of everything at their command all the time?" After making an elaboration on this phase of the question, he struck their humorous side, when he asked them if it was a benefit to them to be robbed of the biggest bulk of their product, and would it harm them to own an automobile and take an occasional trip to Europe, live in a swell house, and know that their daughters would be

assured of an opportunity to obtain plenty of everything, without being forced to live a life of prostitution.

The speaker also dealt with the standard of morals, pointing out that our morals and ideas of "right" and "wrong" were determined by the prevailing mode of getting our livelihood. He illustrated this point by comparing the present wage worker with the Indian of a few years ago. The Indian would be termed good, who could get the most scalps for his belt, and capture the most wild animals for eating purposes. Nowadays, a good man is one who is contented with his lot in life, refuses to drink intoxicating drinks, is a non-smoker, and is able to create lots of profits for his employer.

After answering various questions, Com. Davenport got two or three subscriptions for the "Clarion" and sold some pamphlets. Well, Mac, while not affiliated with any organization, the Hamilton boys are up against the same problem that confronts the Socialists elsewhere, viz, the uninterested position of the workers in regard to their own standing in present day society. Nevertheless, there is a sign that they are waking up some of their fellow workers. They are now established in permanent headquarters and are holding propaganda meetings every week.

While the writer does not agree with the position the Hamilton comrades adopt, namely, the twofold organization of the economic right hand, and the political left hand, I am convinced that experience makes the finest teacher, and for that reason when we are industrially organized and run up against political action in the shape of policemen's clubs, and the army and navy forces, not to mention their judicial control, it might at least have the effect of making us willing to concede that, after all, the political hand is the dominant hand and, for that reason, the only one we need bother about.

The impression I gained while in Hamilton was that the comrades there have not a very good conception of what constitutes political action. Apparently they have proved to their own satisfaction that it consists simply of ballot box action—certainly a terrible lot of dependence to place upon those puny little crosses on paper. By narrowing political action down to the above, we can all see the absolute necessity for economic organization. But by understanding what political action really is, an economic organization is not only unnecessary but becomes a nuisance to the workers' cause.

Yours in Revolt.

A. W. B.

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HARD PAN

When you're up against a sucker With the common tale of woe; A big professional nucker With an awful lot to know; And he starts his tale a humming Till your tears begin to flow, And you feel there's something coming If that rube don't stop his row. Tells you how he left his country In the days of long ago, How he came to change his masters And become a Western Bo— Heard the call of distant places, Didn't have the sense to know He couldn't drop the masters' traces When he started in to blow. When you meet a poor unfortunate That ain't no place to flop, And he's talking Rockefeller— How old John began to hop; Tells you how to be a winner, What to do to reach the top— All you want is just ambition, Keep on glomming, never stop.

When you meet another moigrel That has got some work to do, And he's looking for an angel That's been raised on Mulligan stew, Wants to get him looking busy While he holds the point of view, Tells you how some stiffs are glady They can do the work of two.

Some of us are full of visions And we ain't the only ones. Some of us are lions rampant, Wage slaves, blanket stiffs and bums.

And the joys that make us holler, Ain't we handing them the bus, While the rubes that put us next, Why, we'd scrap them for the crumbs.

JAMES ALLAN MCKECHNIE

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE CHURCH.

By M. L. Bruce.

A pastor of one of the churches in Regina took occasion a short time ago to take issue with a statement appearing in Labor's Realm to the effect that the Church is opposed to the working class.

The truth nearly always carries a sting and even the gentlemen of the cloth sometimes wince when its penetrating powers are applied. This explains why this unctuous follower of the working man of Galilee instinctively realizing the facts, forgot his role for the moment and allowed the mask of brotherly love to fall and revealed himself in his true light.

Unarmed with facts, he resorted to the use of epithets and a Tedy serves up the old stand-by, the word "liar." Even sophistry is more dignified than the use of the shorter and uglier word.

The Church is opposed to the working class. It cannot help itself. The individual members within it are powerless to change that attitude. The Church and the state are the instruments of the ruling class, have always been and will be so long as there is a material base. Both are effects of economic conditions, and change as economic conditions change, since the economic factor is the determining dominant and compelling factor in society. Customs, ideas, ideals, morals, ethics and religion are but the reflex of economic conditions, and reflect the prevailing mode of production, which is capitalism. The present mode of production is based upon the exploitation of the many by the few who constitute the class which own the means of life. The working class must have access to the means of life in order to live. That access is granted by the owning class on conditions which are, that the worker shall surrender the full product of his labor in return for sufficient wages to keep him in fit condition as a human machine and under the same condition as other machinery. For this deal the ruling class have invented the term "profit," and that term which is faithfully echoed by the dignitaries of the church really signifies the robbery of the workers at the point of production.

This deal or steal is legalized by the capitalist owned state and sanctified by the capitalist supported church. Religion does not explain history, but history explains religion. A backward glance into history bears out the contention that the Church is controlled by the dominant class in society—an effect of economic conditions. In the days of Chattel Slavery the Church sanctified chattel slavery and proved it by the Bible, while the state legalized it. The same was true in feudalism and to-day under wage slavery the workers find themselves alone, while opposed to them are the ruling class in control of the State, the platform, the press and the pulpits. And alone they must overthrow the oppressors of mankind and take possession of the earth and enjoy the wealth they alone can create. The workers as they accumulate knowledge lose faith in the Church. In every battle upon the industrial field the Church has demonstrated the truth of economic determinism. As Prof. Lewis said in speaking of the clergy, "Is this the mouse your mountain has brought forth after centuries of labor? Nay, gentlemen, you are not in earnest. You have found for yourselves that physical comfort and well being which you are afraid would be so harmful to others, and now, in your easy chairs, in your comfortable parlors, you have forgotten your mission, if you ever had one. The world is weary of your pretences. It no longer

fears your' fulminations. You have had your chance and you have always brought ridicule upon the best there was in your faith and now it requests you to step inside and give room to earnest men and sincere women, who really believe in and labor to realize that doctrine of human brotherhood which you have preached so long in sniffling tones and which in your heart you have always despised.

Mr. Hill assures us of his sympathy. We beg to assure him that we do not want his sympathy.

The very idea of sympathy indicates the worker's degradation and their dependence upon a parasite class. Besides a nauseating insult his sympathy is worthless. We can't use it when we get it and besides it is a waste of energy on the part of him who extends it.

The echo in the sympathetic heart of Mr. Hill can never relieve the pain in the empty stomach of a single wage slave, nor add one rag to shelter the shivering bodies of his wife and children.

The working class would the full product of their labor, nothing less will do one lot of good. Nothing "just as good" will do for there is nothing else any good.

Will Mr. Hill as an individual advocate the abolition of the wage system and demand the full product of his toil for the worker? If not, why not?

By advocating and fighting for that and no other way can he prove his personal friendship for the working class. I do not think he will preach that owing to his environment past and present. Should he do so he would soon have it impressed upon him that his place was not within the church of capitalism, but without it, and he would find his place within the growing church which is destined to usher in a new and real civilization wherein man at last is free—Labor's Realm (Regina).

COAL MINES ACT DEBATE GETS WARM.

(Continued from Page 1)

children in the mines, except to the employer. The question needed serious consideration. He had referred the other day to the fearful disaster in Wales, which resulted in the death of 300 miners, and the fact of the first body recovered being that of a child. The wording of his amendment might be altered to affect only those sections of the mine where gas had been found. Boys could not possibly understand the danger. Children 12 and 13 years were being employed in the coal mines of B. C. and some steps should be taken to prevent it.

McBride did not answer, but called for the question, and the amendment was lost on the yeas, only the two Socialists voting "aye." (The amendment will be introduced again on "repeal.")

Present—Shaw, Lucas, Jardine, Monson (Skeena), Tisdall, Callanan, Miller, Jackson, Caven, McBride, McPhillips, Schofield, Hunter, Gifford, Parson, (Noes 15.)

Hawthornthwaite, Williams (Ayes 2) McBride then moved to amend clause 4 by striking out the words "eighteen" and inserting "sixteen."

This reduced the age of any person operating any machinery used for moving material in any mine. Hawthornthwaite said he did not care if McBride reduced the age to ten. The whole purpose in the construction of the Bill seemed to be the knocking down of barriers in that way.

The amendment carried, only the Socialists opposing. Vote practically the same as the former one.

Clause 9.—(As to payment by Weight). Before the clause was passed Parker Williams suggested that a provision be inserted dealing with any attempts to adopt a system of fees for light weight. It might have no significance now, the majority of miners working by the yard, but he would suggest that it be inserted to cover any case where the miner was paid by weight.

Hawthornthwaite wanted to know if the Act defined a ton as 2,000 lbs? McBride replied that the point was covered farther on in the Act. Hawthornthwaite rejoined that at present the interpretation of the Act was a farce. At Alexandria a ton was 2,800 lbs.

McBride said the Department had no knowledge of such abuses. Clause 18. McBride moved to amend by striking out the whole clause and inserting a new one. Hawthornthwaite characterized such a proceeding as unfair, claiming that notice should have been given. It altered the condition as to the 8-hour law, and should not be done without giving the workers of the Province notice.

McBride allowed the amendment to be laid over to give an opportunity to the Socialist members to study it.

Clause 29 (providing for separate shafts for the intake and return airways). McBride explained that the clause was a new one and was inserted to prevent a repetition of the conditions that existed in No. 6 mine at Cumberland, which were highly dangerous in case of fire. He amended it by inserting the words "where necessary" after the word "outlet" in the latter part of the clause, which provides that proper apparatus for raising and lowering persons be installed at

each shaft or outlet.

Clause 25 (Puts necessary thickness of overlying strata in sub-marine areas at 180 feet solid measures, or not less than 100 feet unless Minister of Mines permits). Hawthornthwaite said he had pointed out on the second reading that the figures given were no guarantee of safety. If the strata was solid rock a lesser thickness would do, but if it was conglomerate or sandstone, twice the thickness would be insufficient. The element of safety depended largely on the thickness of the seam of coal that was being mined. The responsibility of deciding these matters should be on the shoulders of the Chief Inspector, who was supposed to be an expert and not on the Minister of Mines. The thickness of the strata should be increased to 400 feet.

McBride quoted authorities to prove that the margin was sufficient. Mr. Foster, engaged by the Nova Scotia government, in particular. He said he could not accept the suggestion.

Hawthornthwaite said he did not know Foster from a crow. He had heard of one or two famous experts, but not of that one. As the clause stood it meant that operators could go to work anywhere and mine. If an accident occurred the employer could say he had complied with the Act, and escape liability under common law. The provision as to thickness of strata should be increased and the responsibility laid on the Chief Inspector. Actual danger was liable to occur, and he could not see why the amendment should not be accepted.

McBride said that Foster had been engaged by the Nova Scotia government as the best man that could be secured, and in his report, published in the Canadian Mining Journal, he had put the limit at 180 feet. In regard to the substitution of the Chief Inspector for the Minister of Mines, it was the latter who was responsible in the last analysis. As to safeguards around mine sub-marine areas, the whole plans had to be submitted to the Chief Inspector for his satisfaction before any steps were taken to start operations. If the member for Nanaimo insisted, he would suggest he bring it up again on "report."

Hawthornthwaite could not see why his amendment could not be accepted then. He repeated that he knew nothing about Foster, and pointed out that the Chief Inspector had shown lack of confidence in the B. C. government by going to an expert employed by the Nova Scotia government.

McBride finally accepted an amendment inserting the words "on the written report of the Chief Inspector," after the words "Minister of Mines" in line 8.

Clause 26.7 (allowing owner to divide a mine into two parts, on permission of Chief Inspector). Parker Williams wanted to know what was intended by the clause. The same provision was included in clause 29 of the old Act. The present Bill provided that when "two or more parts of a mine are worked separately" it could be deemed to be two separate mines. If a portion of the mine contained gas, was it intended to make it a separate mine? The limits of a mine should be determined by the air courses. No. 2 mine at Extension had two slopes and it would appear that the clause would provide an excuse for classing it as two separate mines. He suggested that the clause be cut out altogether. By dividing up one mine different conditions could be made to apply to one portion. What meaning was to be attached to the word "separate" in that connection?

McBride replied that the member for Nanaimo seemed to be afraid that mine-owners would violate the Act. Clause 27 provided that the Chief Inspector could refuse permission to have a mine divided.

Parker Williams said that evasions of the Act known to the Inspector might not reach the department at all. The method of ventilation alone should determine the matter. The clause passed without amendment.

Clause 28 (2) (providing that "underground workings of every mine shall be under the daily charge of an overseer or overseen, and shift boss or shift bosses"). Hawthornthwaite moved to amend by adding the words "fire-boss or fire-bosses," and "shot-lighter or shot-lighters." McBride had no objection, but asked that notice be given. Hawthornthwaite consented and the clause was allowed to stand over, Hawthornthwaite pointing out that the Manager at Extension was not doing all those duties. He was not sure that his amendment covered the ground fully, but it was essential to amend the Act at that point.

A similar amendment was made to clause 28 (3), and laid over.

Clause 33 sections (b) and (c). Hawthornthwaite objected to a certificate being granted to an overseer who was 23 years of age. A candidate for that position should have a minor's certificate, technical education without practical experience should not be considered sufficient qualification.

McBride allowed the section to stand over.

Sub-section (c). Hawthornthwaite moved to amend by inserting the words "and is owner of a certificate of competency as a coal miner" affecting the conditions under which a candidate for the position of shift-boss, fire-boss, or shot-lighter could obtain a certificate. The amendment was accepted.

Clause 39 (dealing with enquiry into the competency of manager, as affected by drunkenness, gross negligence, etc.). Hawthornthwaite referred to this as a very important section, which should be made as stringent as possible. In the provisions for inquiry into charges made, every possible precaution seemed to have been taken to prevent injustice being done. He suggested that the clause be amended by striking out the word "gross" and adding after "negligence" the words "leading to or resulting in loss of life." He had been present at many inquests at which it had appeared that lives had been lost through the negligence of these men.

McBride asked that the amendment be submitted on report.

Clause 49 (a) (making the Inspector an ex-officio member of the Board of Examiners in his district). Hawthornthwaite asked what was the reason for the clause, and if the Inspector would have the same right to vote as the other members?

McBride said, in answer to the first query that it would make for more satisfactory examinations, and in regard to the second was understood to say that the clause would be amended.

Ross (Fernie) just then happening to walk in, Hawthornthwaite remarked that he hoped the Hon. gentleman would now give the House the benefit of his experience and legal advice, especially as he represented a coal mining constituency.

McBride replied that Ross had taken great interest in the preparation of the Bill, and given much assistance.

Clause 50 (provides that no certificate be granted unless applicant be sufficiently conversant with the English language and mining regulations, and otherwise competent).

Hawthornthwaite said that there were many men in B. C. holding certificates who were a constant source of danger. He suggested that the clause be amended so that any five men could lodge an objection to the Chief Inspector against a certificate being granted, or something to that effect.

Parker Williams endorsed the suggestion. It was a fact that many men held certificates who should not do so. The Inspector of the Cumberland district must be aware of that. They might have the necessary skill in mining, and be totally unable to express themselves in English.

McBride said that each colliery would have a miner from that colliery on the Board of Examiners, and one would naturally think that he would take every care to see that a man was properly qualified who was to work in the same mine as himself.

Parker Williams said that Cumberland was honeycombed with spies and informers, under the Dunsmuir regime, and if any man ventured to express an opinion contrary to the Company's interests he had to look for another job, and the company's influence could remove such a man from the Board of Examiners. The consequence was that the Board issued certificates to incompetent men. He was sure of that, and if proof was required it could be obtained by re-examining some of the men who had received certificates during that time. If some of the fire-bosses and shot-lighters were re-examined, it would be found that the certificates they held were merely "complimentary."

The clause was not amended.

Clause 52 (provides that coal-cutting machinery can be operated by any person if accompanied by and under control of a coal-miner). Hawthornthwaite objected to this clause, and it was laid over.

Clause 54 (provides penalty against owners, etc. who prevent miners holding meetings and electing examiners providing such meetings do not interfere with the working of the mine or the Act).

Hawthornthwaite wanted to know how such meetings could interfere with the working of the Act? McBride replied that cases might arise in which

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