

Estevan Strike

Regina Star, Sept. 24/31

Operators Ask for Police Protection; Will Use Any Labor

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Unrest Marks Village of Bienfait as Strikers Gather on
Street Corners Discussing Situation;
May Call Meeting

ESTEVAN, Sept. 24.—Complete collapse of mediation between striking miners and mine operators emphasized by a threatened attack upon the Truax-Traer Company's holdings. Thursday morning shrouded the strike area in a sinister cloak today.

Unrest marked the mining village of Bienfait as strikers gathered on corners and in public halls waiting further negotiations with government officials and representatives of the operators. A conference with officials of the Truax-Traer Company was also waited.

Reports indicated that complete reversal of a second miners' committee upon the proposed agreement of the first committee, Wednesday night, had again brought the strike to a deadlock.

COMMITTEE REJECTS ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

Hopes that strikers would be back at work Friday morning were dashed to the ground when a second committee representing the miners refused to meet the agreement made by the original committee. This agreement which had been proclaimed satisfactory to all had been negotiated according to information available by M. S. Campbell, chief conciliation officer of the Dominion. Mr. Campbell it is expected, unless definite assurance of a return to the original agreement is experienced, will leave for Ottawa Friday morning.

The answer of the striking miners to the failure of the two groups to come to terms was seen in the arrival at the Truax-Traer holdings, early Thursday morning, of about 200 men. These men sought to negotiate with workmen on the premises, ostensibly to solicit their support to the union, but would not be heard. Threats previously made to destroy the machinery of the Truax-Traer Company, which is the only major mine at present operating, were kept in mind and police protection immediately arrived.

MEETS OFFICIALS OF MINE COMPANY

Dan Moar, president of the striking miners' executive committee, met officials of the company in the absence of E. W. Garner, manager, and a meeting was arranged for 6 o'clock, Thursday evening.

Operators are seeking additional police protection, indicating their preparedness to commence operations in all mines. Wires have been despatched to Ottawa and to the provincial attorney-general seeking this additional protection.

With the collapse of attempts to conciliate, the mediator, Judge Wylie, of Estevan, is expected immediately to call a meeting of the representatives of the striking miners and the operators to air their grievances.