

INTERNED MINERS TO BE SET FREE

Hon. W. J. Bowser at Loss to Understand Extraordinary Instructions From Ottawa.

Advices were received by the Hon. W. J. Bowser at noon today that the Dominion government is issuing instructions for the release of the German and Austrian miners recently interned at Fernie. Just on what grounds their release is ordered is not known, but Mr. Bowser expressed considerable surprise at the contemplated action of the federal authorities and is now working with a view to counteract such a move.

The miners recently interned from the Nanaimo coal mines, when British miners refused to work with them, will not be affected as these miners were interned in the provincial jails. At Fernie, however, the men were handed over to the Dominion government authorities. It is understood that some six hundred German and Austrian prisoners will be affected at Fernie. It is understood that Mr. Bowser, together with federal members for British Columbia who can be reached, will hold a conference on the matter first thing in the morning. It is also stated that wires protesting against the action have been sent already to Ottawa by the provincial government.