

MINERS MAY CUT SALARY DEMANDS

Workmen Ready To Accept 25
Per Cent. Increase Is Re-
port At Fernie

FERNIE, May 19—There are many indications here today that the striking coal miners are dissatisfied with the manner in which negotiations have been conducted and that they would be willing to return to work if they could get a 25 per cent. increase, instead of the 30 per cent. demanded by the negotiators at the Calgary conference. The nomination of new officers takes place Monday, and if a rider is passed, permitting the election before the agreement has been ratified, it is believed settlement of the dispute may be in sight.

The mine explosion of April 5, when 35 lives were lost in a Fernie mine, has had a bad effect on the men, and it is said that many of them will never return to the mines. They declare the government supervision system is inadequate, especially during the afternoon shift when most of the explosions are alleged to occur. The men also suspect that their interests are being sacrificed in order that the mining companies may give low prices to the railroads. One big railway company, the men say, gets its coal for \$2.28 a ton, whereas it costs \$2.29 a ton to produce it.

The miners, it is claimed, are not under any alien influence, although there are many Slavs employed. They are all contributing to the patriotic fund.