

HOLLINGER MINES TO PASS ITS DIVIDEND

Pres. Timmins Says Action Inevitable, but Advises Against Liquidation

In a statement issued yesterday Mr. N. A. Timmins, President of the Hollinger Consolidated Company, stated that it was not the intention of the directors to pay the dividend which ordinarily would be payable on June 15. Mr. Timmins said: "This decision has been reached after full consideration of the present labor situation, and while the board regrets the decision it feels that the shareholders will recognize that it is the only course to adopt."

Labor conditions, said the Hollinger President, instead of showing any improvement, appeared to be gradually drifting into a state of uncertainty which was most embarrassing to the management and seriously interfering with the carrying on of operations. The main difficulty was in securing a sufficient number of muckers and trammers for underground work, without which it was impossible to raise sufficient ore to feed the mill and thus enable the company to obtain the necessary output to both pay running expenses and maintain the dividend.

THE FUTURE POLICY.

Coupled with this difficulty was the spirit of slackness and unrest plainly exhibited by a considerable body of the workmen, which to a great extent nullified the efforts of a large majority of the company's employees, who were still giving honest service and which also prevented the co-operation so essential to securing satisfactory results. In view of these conditions the directors were seriously considering the advisability of directing their efforts almost entirely to development work, and thus put the mine in shape to largely increase the output as soon as an adequate supply of efficient labor should be available.

THE WAGE QUESTION.

Mr. Timmins stated that the company was operating under the most up-to-date conditions and was more than satisfying the strict requirements for the protection of the men exacted by the Ontario mining act, which was everywhere regarded as a model of its kind. As to wages, the amount paid by the Hollinger company exceeded in the aggregate the demand of those who were responsible for the present agitation. Under these conditions it was not unnatural that the men of the Hollinger mine should refuse to place themselves in the ridiculous position of requesting a smaller wage than was now being paid. Objection had been taken by some outsiders to the bonus system now in force at the Hollinger, but the company felt that it was quite proper to reward individual effort with increased pay.

"The men in the company's employment," said Mr. Timmins, "and this applies to other mines in the Porcupine district, are well satisfied not only with working conditions but also with the wages paid, and ask nothing more than to be allowed to carry on their work without interference. The unrest now so prevalent had been created by a few **alien enemies** who do not seem to appreciate the liberty they enjoy, assisted by professional labor agitators from the United States, officials of the Western Federation of Miners, who entered Canada notwithstanding the existence of orders against their doing so, and a few Canadians prominent in labor politics."

Mr. Timmins said that there was no intention to close the mine. Operations would be continued as long as a sufficient number of workmen could be secured to carry on, and as long as the company received adequate protection from the authorities.

The Hollinger President added that the mine was in excellent condition, and the ore reserves had been materially added to since the beginning of the year. It would be unwise for shareholders to part with their stock at the present market price.