

FERNIE STRIKE

ALMOST CERTAIN

Little Hope Remains of a Settlement—Offer of Miners is Turned Down Flatly by Company.

CALGARY, Sept. 25.—The efforts of Hon. William Sloan and Commissioner Armstrong to settle the dispute between the Fernie miners and W. R. Wilson, general manager of the Crow's Nest Pass mine, have proved abortive. And there now remains little hope of a settlement, as the miners have issued an ultimatum that unless the offer presented on their behalf today is accepted they will order the firemen, pumpmen and fanmen out at once.

W. R. Wilson has refused to meet the executive of the miners of District No. 18 and negotiations were carried on through Hon. William Sloan and Fuel Commissioner Armstrong, who presented an offer from the miners in which they offered to go back to work at once if the coal company would promise to place as many men as possible on single shift and arrange for the balance to go on single shift within 30 days. This offer was turned down so flatly that the alternative offer was not presented.

Whether the "bumps" in the Crow's Nest Pass mine, which caused the miners there to go on strike for the principle of a shingle shift in eight hours, are caused by gas or by mere settlement of different strata overlying the mines, is one of the points on which the coal conference now in progress here has been hung up.