

MINERS WANT

THE R.N.W.M.P.

OFFICERS FIRED

District 18 Urges General Strike to Force Re-Establishment of Free Speech

Calgary, Feb. 21.—“Whereas Detective Lobb, whom we believe to be of German nationality, and Superintendent Pennyfather, of Lethbridge, have on numerous occasions far exceeded their authority through the illegal and unwarranted prosecution of members of our organization—the District 18 of the United Mine Workers of America—by arresting them and bringing them before magistrates at other towns than those wherein they reside and where there are magistrates located, putting them to much unnecessary expense and inconvenience; also breaking into and searching their homes in their absence for banned literature;

“Therefore be it resolved that we telegraph the minister of justice, the Hon. J. Doherty, demanding their instant dismissal from the force, also we demand the removal of the commission of the other magistrate for collusion in this damnable conspiracy to harass and rob our members; also that the evidence in these cases be forwarded to the Hon. J. Doherty at the same time as the telegram is sent requesting an immediate reply so that this convention may have the opportunity to take action thereon while still in session.”

This was the full context of the resolution that the resolutions committee brought before the miners' conference Friday morning at their resumed session, and it was unanimously resolved that the president and secretary be instructed to send a message covering this resolution to the minister of justice.

This resolution brought up the question of free speech, and board member Alex. Susnar moved that the resolution from the Michel local, which had been adopted by the convention, be turned over, the district officers to take same to the western conference and try to bring about a general strike not only in the west, but in Canada as a whole, “unless those orders-in-council are removed under which we have suffered so long.”

It was carried unanimously.

The convention decided to instruct the president and secretary to draft a suitable message to send to the minister of justice and the minister of labor, also the president of the Trades and Labor congress asking the latter to take personal action with the ministers in connection with this matter.

The convention then entered into a closed session to discuss the new wage scale. It was stated by President Biggs that the only reason for asking the press to retire was that there would be many points discussed which might be somewhat heated, but which were of no value to the public.