

# THE PROSPECTS OF A STRIKE REMOTE

## Various Factors Point to Unlikelihood of One in Northern Mine Camps.

Kiely, Smith & Amos, members of the Standard Stock Exchange, have received a letter from their correspondent in the Porcupine camp dealing with the labor situation in the North and the prospects of a strike. The correspondent says:

"I have taken a great deal of trouble in the last few days to interview people who ought to know the real situation, and can safely say I do not think there is any likelihood of a strike at the present time. I understand the Miners' Union have sent in a request to the mines for a small increase in wages, which I think they are rightly entitled to. The man working underground is not paid as much as the man in the mill, and as far as jobs go there is no comparison in work. I was speaking to a mill superintendent this morning and he informed me that several men who had made application for work have been turned away, as there were no vacancies there for them. This, of course, may seem strange on account of the report of a labor shortage, but the shortage is almost entirely confined to underground workers. There is no doubt in my mind that the mine should pay more to the underground man than those in the mill, and if they did, it would, in my opinion, be some inducement and, I think, would solve the problem.

"My opinion is that the Austrians and Germans know too well how well off they are at the present time to strike, and it was not long ago strongly advocated by one of the prominent citizens of the country to take one-half of their wages and give it to the Patriotic Fund, so I do not think that they would be fools enough to vote in favor of a strike, as they would mostly all be interned, especially if they started any trouble in the camp.

"I do not think that there is a married man in the whole camp that would think of striking, as with the cost of living as high as it is at the present time they have a great deal of trouble in making ends meet. Of course, there are always a number of unmarried men belonging to the union who are always looking for trouble, but they are so much of a minority in the camp that if it does come to a vote I think they will be outvoted two to one.

"I have also spoken to several of the mine managers, and they say that if the demands are reasonable they would certainly be glad to do something for the men, as they realize how the cost of living has gone up.

"Some very kind broker in Toronto got out a report that the miners insisted that the mines recognize the Western Federation of Miners, but this is not the case, and all they are asking for is a slight increase in wages."