

ORGANIZATION OF MINERS DISCUSSED

Affiliation Very Important—Condemn Policy of Establishing Co-operative Stores at Present.

Lethbridge, Alta., Feb. 20.—The question of taking active steps of organizing the workers in the Drumheller mines was discussed at length at the miners convention today. It was considered of the greatest importance that the miners in that field should affiliate with district No. 18. If the workers were unorganized on April 1, and should it happen that a strike becomes necessary, failing the acceptance of the new agreement by the operators, it was felt they would be a distinct menace to the success of the same.

The advisability of the organization as a whole taking up the policy of establishing co-operative stores was condemned. While not abandoning the principle of co-operation, the convention felt that through the instability of the mining industry owing to the present depression, it was not opportune to embark on the scheme. District officers were requested to obtain data so that arrangements could be made for a district sick and accident society, with uniform fees, in place of the local societies.

A strongly worded protest was made a copy to be forwarded to the Dominion government and Premier McBride, against the incarceration of Herman Elmer, of Michel, B.C., a member of the organization, in the Vernon detention camp. It was argued that the seditious utterances for which he was confined were not pro-German but anti-military, in accordance with the principles of miners' unions.