

Steps to Avert A Fernie Strike

*Trouble Threatens to Spread—
Labor Department Gets
Busy.*

Special to The Star.

Ottawa, July 27.—A strike of several thousand employed in coal mines at Fernie, Lethbridge and Crow's Nest is threatened according to advices received here. The men want an increase in the form of a bonus of ten per cent. The companies have offered an immediate increase of five per cent. and an additional 2½ per cent. on April 1 next. A strike would probably mean a serious shortage of coal in the West this winter. The labor department is taking steps to bring about a settlement, if possible.