

VETERANS AND THE O.B.U.

From the Calgary Herald.

Returned soldiers anxious for employment and failing to get work that suited them elsewhere, were persuaded to try coal mining in some of the Drumheller mines. They had not worked long at the new job when they found to their surprise that it was not only pleasant, but profitable occupation. The work itself was not too hard, the hours agreeable, the pay good, and the housing and boarding conditions all that could be desired. They liked the work, and others of them, learning the facts, joined them. These men all started in the mines as members of the International Mine Workers' Union, and were recognized as legitimate union men.

At the time the unauthorized strike throughout District 18 was in progress, and the One Big Union advocates among the miners were working to achieve a break with the international body. In this they succeeded, a majority of the former miners joining with them, abandoning affiliation with the International body. In the Drumheller district the O.B.U. miners have sought to terrorize men belonging to the International body and the other day they began publicly calling the veterans in the mines "scabs." This was more than the veterans could stand, especially from aliens, many of them from enemy countries. Quietly they rounded up the O.B.U. leaders and escorted them out of town, advising them not to return.

This was an unorthodox way of handling the situation, but under the circumstances it was excusable. At any rate, it has brought the situation to a climax, and one way or the other there is now sure to be a showdown. Advices from Drumheller indicate that now the O.B.U. leaders have been dealt with there will be little trouble getting all the mines started again. There are stories of many miners wanting to return to the International fold and resume work, but prevented by intimidation. The intimidation will probably cease now and the way opened up for these men to start work again.

It is to be hoped optimistic reports from the Drumheller and Wayne districts are correct. The continued delay in re-opening the mines of District 18 is becoming a serious matter. Several months of production work have already been lost and the winter is rapidly approaching. If the people are to be saved from a fuel famine over the cold months ahead there will have to be action, and plenty of it, at the mines right away. Should the action of the Drumheller veteran miners bring this result, they will be entitled to sincere votes of thanks from the whole population.