

Bathurst miners still refuse to work underground

Special to The Brunswickan from the Bathurst Tribune.

BATHURST — Confusion still reigns here as the hardrock miners from the Brunswick Mines refuse to go underground into what the union terms "a potentially lethal situation."

A recent meeting held in the Region Hall here attended by the miners and their wives left little resolved. A motion approved at that meeting sent a telegram to the premier of the province and the federal minister of health protesting the conditions at the mine.

The Union of United Steelworkers of America local 5385 has advised their members not to go underground following a recurrence of the presence of the lethal gas sulphur dioxide.

In an effort to dispell the mystery surrounding the underground area of the mines, Brunswick officials took several members of the local media underground to explain the technical terms used in the mining industry and to point out the safety measures taken at the mine.

The position of the company is that Brunswick is a safe mine. Noranda technical people have found it safe and the provincial

government investigators have found the mine to be safe. All that remains is for the men to return to work.

One Brunswick official stated that the plant was producing at half its potential and that the men had a duty to return to work immediately and get back the time lost.

"In the history of Brunswick Mines, there has never been a fatality underground of any kind since our company has been operating this mine," he said.

He added that one man had died in a surface accident. "After all the time has passed since the start of the fire, it seems strange

that the men have waited to now to be afraid of the mine.

The mines staff have experience in dealing with the problems of the mine now. The time of danger occurred when all the problems were new, not now," said the mines official.

A good deal of mystern surrounds the mine enclosure 30 miles from the core of this city. At the present time, some men are still going underground each day and rumours continue to fly that at least some of these men are being overcome with fumes of the gas.

Charges of scabbing have been tossed about, but it is generally

understood that most of the men working at the mine now are supervisory personnel and office staff.

In the city of Bathurst, a certain amount of confusion has developed over the issue as no one quite knows how to accept the totally different versions of what is wrong at Brunswick Mines.

The management group, headed by John Moerman, addressed the miners repeatedly over the weekend on Radio advising the men to return with their next regular shift. In a TV address he told the public that work had been interrupted by the gas but that cor-

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1972

Howie victorious for PC's in York-Sunbury riding

By BOB JOHNSON

Bob Howie was swept into the York-Sunbury seat last Monday night as the Federal Election Results showed him with 6,000 votes above his nearest contender Liberal Candidate Ray Dixon.

The conservative banner car-

rier polled many of his votes in the City of Fredericton and some of the outlying areas. On the university campuses and in the Oromocto area Dixon had a comfortable margin, but this was not enough to outdo the heavy support Howie received elsewhere.

Howie's supporters gathered in the old Queen Street High School Monday night to watch the returns come in and celebrated as he took the lead and maintained it.

The overall picture showed Howie with one of the largest

margin of votes ever. In the 1968 election, Conservative Chester MacRae won by a margin of 4,000 votes.

Howie's opponents congratulated him during the evening as the voting trend indicated he would be the next York-Sunbury representative in the House of Commons.

One of the major surprises of the local campaign was the votes received by the NDP candidate Beverley Wallace. The party more than tripled their support over the last election. Mrs. Wallace said this was very encouraging. It indicated that citizens of York-Sunbury were not recognizing the NDP as a major party in this riding.

The role Bob Howie will play in the next government is still undecided as the national figures swing back and forth between the Liberal and Conservative Parties. Yet, in all this David Lewis is secure in the fact that he holds the balance of power.

It will be quite sometime before Bob Howie learns what side of the House he will be sitting on and for how long he will be there.

There appears to be 15 recounts in the offing and some sources indicate the final decision of who holds the most seats will not be made until December.

This Week

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Photo by Al Denton

Although the UNB-STU campuses went heavily Liberal in the federal election, the rest of Canada apparently divided their votes causing a surprising upset. Shown above is a student voting at a campus poll.

ELECTION '72

What happened to the Trudeau dream? Where does Canada's future lie? What caused the electorate to vote the way it did?

These and other timely questions are answered in today's four page special report on Monday's election. Compiled by a staff of journalists in Toronto by the Last Post news-magazine, this in-depth report begins on page 15.