

Wardner, Idaho, Feb. 2nd, 1901.

Operator reports that at the miners' union meeting tonight there were five members present, viz - Oliver Price, John Bell, John Connolly, and Oscar Adams. There were not enough for a quorum so that the meeting adjourned. Operative met Red. Stratton and he asked how many men were there. When told the number he said "There will be a damn sight less in the future". Stratton says that in his estimate the Wardner and all other Couer de Alene unions have about played out all their cards. That the union gained strength for a short while after the elections but are not now for just as soon as the Mine Managers find out that a man is a union man they let him out no matter whether he is an old miner or not. They simply will not have anything to do with the Western Federation of Miners or its members. Stratton says, however, that it is the fault of the few officers who are holding office in the Western Federation of Miners and not the men who are to blame.

There was a report circulated in Wardner yesterday that the State had paid deputies employed but some of the union men seem to think it was false.

In an interview with Peter Moynahan who recently arrived here from Rossland, B.C., and is a strong union man and an agitator, he said that in a few days there will be a lot of Couer de Alene union men back from B.C. That it had been reported in B.C. that the new Governor had discharged all of the deputies and that old union miners were now at liberty to return, which would bring all those who had been exiled in that country for the past year. Moynahan said that if the old men did return and were to get established again in the Couer de Alenes that some of those farmers who called themselves miners will have to get out or it will be made so hot for them that they

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will not be able to stand it. Martin Davis says that as soon as the Companies find out that these men are coming back (and they should all come back in a body) it would not be twenty-four hours before there would be a deputy on every corner and there would be another bull-pen erected if "His Highness Dr. Van Count Burbridge" should say so.

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