

ASBESTOS

London

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The town of Asbestos, province of Quebec, is gripped by a strike which has lasted three months and has closed down the Johns-Manville plant and called a halt to work in the asbestos mines in an area which produces eighty percent of the world's Asbestos. Guards prevent plant and mine picketing after the strike is declared illegal.

From their homes, the miners, forbidden to picket, parade to Church of St. Aime every day to demonstrate their determination. The strike which has cost millions of dollars in wages, will continue, union leaders say, until their main demand for a fifteen-cent-an-hour increase is granted.

As money and provisions dwindle, aid comes from all over the province of Quebec to sustain the strikers.

An attempt to import strike breakers resulted first in road barricades and short tempers led to isolated instances of direct action. But in the face of efforts to open the mill and the mines, the strikers stand firm.

At the church a few villagers going to early mass, find that strikers have locked themselves in after reports of the arrival of additional provincial police. The church is opened and the strikers evicted to hear Justice of the Peace J. O. Brady of Sherbrooke read the "riot act" and tell the people to go to their homes and stay there.

Police raids on gathering places continue as the strikers forego resistance and peaceably enter the police buses after being searched.

As the strike continues, the provincial government and Dominion officials are working to arrive at a settlement and bring an end to twelve weeks of idleness in the world's largest asbestos producing area.

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TELEPHONE RECORDS  
Stalmans