

## AGREEMENT IN MINE UNION

### PLAN FOR INTERIM COMMITTEE

After a four-day conference full agreement has been reached between the Mine Workers' Union and the United Mineworkers' Committee. There will probably be a fresh election in the union on November 1.

A deadlock had been caused by the setting aside of the recent elections in the Mineworkers' Union. In an endeavour to reach a solution the Minister of Labour, Mr. Schoeman, asked both factions to attend the conference, which was under the chairmanship of the divisional inspector of labour, Mr. S. D. Mentz.

Mr. Mentz said to-day that as a result of the discussions recommendations had been drawn up for submission to a special meeting of the union's general council on July 19.

#### ELIGIBILITY

It was recommended that August 31, 1947, should be adopted as the date for the drawing up of a new voters' roll of union members. Those members who were in arrears with their subscriptions must be fully paid up to that date in order to be included on the roll, and will be given until August 31 to pay any arrears.

Members who have entered the mining industry since August 31, 1947, will also be entitled to vote, provided that they pay their subscriptions for the first four consecutive months of their membership before August 31 this year.

Members who lost their jobs on the mines as a result of the 1947 miners' strike and are willing to return to the industry will be allowed to figure on the voters' roll and will be eligible for election as shaft stewards provided that they comply with the demands incumbent upon all other members. This ruling will apply only to the forthcoming election.

The date for the election was fixed at November 1. An interim executive committee of 18, consisting of 12 representatives of the Mineworkers' Union and six of the United Mineworkers' Committee, will be appointed.

#### SUPERVISING COMMISSION

The Minister of Labour will be asked to appoint a commission consisting of a chairman and two members to watch over the activities of the Mine Workers' Union and to supervise the election. The general council of the Mine Workers' Union will meet on July 19 to amend the union's constitution in order to implement these recommendations.

It was agreed that if the recommendations are implemented by the general council, the Mineworkers' Union will withdraw the appeal it has lodged against the Supreme Court decision, which set aside the election on May 5, this year.

The meeting felt that too much use had been made of the Courts and the law in the past and representatives of both sides and the Minister of Labour made an earnest appeal for whole-hearted co-operation in the future. The opinion was expressed that the existence of groups within the membership of the Mine Workers' Union led only to disadvantage and misunderstanding.

The meeting expressed its thanks to the Minister of Labour for his part in bringing the two bodies together and to Mr. Mentz.