

THE LABOR WORLD.

VOL. 6, No. 24.

DULUTH AND SUPERIOR, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1900.

FIVE CENTS.

LABOR'S STRUGGLE

FOR SUPREMACY IS BECOMING MORE BITTER EACH DAY.

The Opposition to the Miners in the Present Strike is Not so Much Against Their Demands as It is the Fear of Strengthening Their Union—The Labor Organizations Really Get Stronger After Each Battle.

(By John B. Wilson.)

In reading the comments of some of our leading newspapers on the anthracite coal strike and from the statements of the operators themselves, it appears to be the belief that the strike is the result of interference on the part of the organization and not from the fact that the men were underpaid, for, as they state, "If the men had been left to themselves they never would have struck." That this is an error is true, and in justice to not only the men directly affected, but to the organization as a whole, should be corrected. Taking into consideration the report of the committee before the industrial commission, the report of the committee sent by the medical association of that state and our own practical knowledge of the field, there is no question but that the strike was justifiable. There is no place on this great continent presenting a more dismal and distressful picture of crushed humanity than the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania, and the outward and visible signs of poverty and distress as reported by the various committees sent there are only indicative of how much is suffered of which the public knows absolutely nothing. It is one long continued struggle for existence—a desperate battle with conditions that should never have existed in this great land of free and equal rights to all. Less than half a century ago a gigantic struggle was precipitated over the wrongs and sufferings of four millions of people. The sympathies of the nation were aroused over what was considered the monstrous sin and evil of American slavery, yet here we are faced to face with a slavery far worse in every essential respect, more degrading and more terrible than that which was known before the civil war. This distressful picture of crushed humanity in the anthracite coal fields is surely an exemption of that statement which is being daily forced upon us of a land "where wealth accumulates and men decay."

The glaring facts before the eyes of every intelligent observer abundantly prove it. On every hand may be seen the evidence of this acquired wealth. Immense establishments have been erected and surplus profits have been invested in ways which have added many more millions to the aggregate possessed. Not content with this, they have amalgamated forces—formed trusts—the result of which is to more and more oppress American labor, to control the situation with a firmer hand, to reap larger profits, to prevent by every means possible the complete organization of American labor and compliance with its just demands. That this is especially true of the anthracite coal fields can not be successfully disputed. Here is a mere pittance is paid the miners, and not satisfied with the miserable wages they pay them, they compel the people to trade in "pluck-me" stores and pay exorbitant prices for everything they use and get. Not content, this band of high-waymen hold up the consumer and make him pay extortionate rates for the coal he uses, and the wonder is there has not been an outbreak before this in consequence of the open plundering to which the people have been subjected. It is no longer the Roman against the barbarian, but the corporation against the union. The readiness with which state militia are sent to the scene of a strike when men are peacefully conducting themselves surely demonstrates this fact. What greater insult can be offered law-abiding American citizens than for troops, with their hands playing "Battle Cry of Freedom" to come in among them to intimidate and to prevent them from ever speaking to a set of men, that is, through their work, giving efficiency to a system that is beggarizing the honest worker and adding more and more to the power of an already grinding capital. The public must understand that the scab is to his trade what the traitor is to his country—only useful to the party in troublesome times. He is the first to contribute assistance and the last to grasp a benefit he never labored to gain. For monetary and worthless approbation he would betray his friends, his family and his country. A traitor in every sense of the word, he first sells his fellow man and is himself afterward sold by his employer and stands an enemy to himself, to the present age and to posterity. For to uphold this Judas in his work will only prolong our embarrassments. To sit down and act indifferently, to allow without a murmur of protest the state troops to be called into use to assist grinding capitalists to dump down in communities where men are contending for that which is justly due them, the putrid ferment of other states, is to sow seeds which will in the end bring national decay.

If the gradual rise and development of the working class is the great social fact underlying the whole industrial question. Labor organizations that conduce to the permanent moral elevation and physical well-being of the laboring classes, should be cheerfully as a natural and legal right—in fact, the sheet anchor of prosperity, and constitutes the only medium through which we will gain this much desired end. If it is right that the employer shall conduct his business to best advantage, it is just as right that the worker shall conduct his with the same end in view, and he has a just right to an equitable share in the profits which may legitimately arise from the development of the industry in which he is employed.

HERE TO STAY.

Organized Labor is More Firmly Established Than Ever Before.

Organized labor is an aggressive force, says the Labor Journal. It is ever on the go and never sleeps. No matter what may be the development of today, even though defeat may perch upon its banner, tomorrow, every inch of ground lost is regained.

This is the one great significant fact in connection with trade unionism. Traitors may betray it, it may go down in seeming irretrievable collapse, but any check is but temporary; it always rises to its feet again and reasserts itself more determinedly than ever. If history has demonstrated one truth, that truth is, that organizations of labor cannot be crushed. The employers of labor who enters into a contest with them may win out at the time, perhaps after an enormous expenditure of money, but as sure as fate, sooner or later, the organization he has sought to crush comes to life again and he must recognize the fact. No sane observer to day but that will admit that labor is more powerful at the present moment than ever before.

There never was a time when so many recruits were flocking to its standard or its membership so large. To its enemies the most significant fact should be that every year its power and influence is increasing and that no rebuff can set it back.

Labor has a long memory. It has begun to discriminate against its enemies and in favor of its friends. Its motto is, "We never forget," and when it is fully alive to its opportunities, as it assuredly will be, the outlook for those who have proved unfriendly to the cause will not be bright.

TRUST AND MINERS

THE REAL ISSUE IN THE ANTHRACITE COAL REGIONS.

Peaceful Communities Terrorized by Soldiers—Attempts to Incite the Miners to Lawlessness—Why Isn't the Trust Prosecuted—They Violate Both National and State Law. Armed Force of the State is Behind the Coal Trust.

Before another shot is fired or another life lost in the anthracite coal country it is important that the responsibility for this great struggle of 130,000 mine workers against a small group of mine owners shall be fixed.

It is evident that the coal trust is relying for victory upon a riot which will arouse public sentiment against the starving miners and divert attention from the real issue. When the streets of the mining settlements are spattered with blood, passion will take the place of reason.

Behind the coal trust are massed the soldiers of Pennsylvania and an army of private employees with loaded rifles, ready to blow the lives out of the miners on the slightest provocation. The mine owners know that if they can provoke a conflict the men who have been for weeks pleading for living conditions and offering to submit their grievances to fair arbitration will be put in the position of lawbreakers.

The real issue should be considered soberly and in cold blood before force usurps the scene. The coal trust should not be permitted to hide its responsibility behind the uniforms of the troops. That is an old device of tyrants and it is an old device of tyrants.

If any citizen doubts that the coal trust is deliberately attempting to incite the striking coal miners to give its armed representatives an excuse for slaughtering them, let him read these statements:

Hazleton, Pa., Sept. 24.—Three companies of the Eighth regiment, under command of Colonel Hutchinson, marched into McAdoo from Shenandoah at 5 o'clock this morning.

Day was just breaking, but Burgess McGeehan was up. He gave the new arrivals a hot reception. Speaking to Colonel Hutchinson, he said:

"This is a disgrace and an outrage. You come here to terrorize a peaceful community."

"There has been no demonstration here," said the colonel.

"There has been no breach of the peace. You are not needed here. You are not wanted."

"If you come into this town a step further you do so in violation of the law."

You do not represent the state nor the country. You are the hirelings of a corporation, armed by a corporation to defend its property.

Get out of town and keep out of it. You may patrol the mine property as much as you please, but you must not come into our town.—Mayor Leonard of Mahanoy City in driving 200 armed mine guards from the town.

Troops are not needed in this section of the anthracite region, and the call of Governor Stone to have the Ninth in readiness has only served to incite the men. Since the strike was declared the miners here have been peaceful and will, I believe, remain so.

The labor troubles of the past 30 years have shown beyond a possible doubt that the deputies posted about the mines by the coal operators are responsible, and not the strikers, for all bloodshed. Every mine in this city is completely tied up, and the leaders of the United Mine Workers have done everything in their power to preserve law and order.

Troops are not needed and only darken the prospects of an early settlement.—Thomas F. Corcoran, Mayor of Pittston.

The simple and undeniable truth is that the mine workers of the anthracite coal regions have entered upon this struggle because the trusts have raised the price of the necessities of life, while the coal trust has held their wages down. A thorough and impartial investigation of the situation shows that meat, flour, sugar, oil, coal, shoes, clothing and everything that enters into a workingman's expense account has risen in price from 25 to 50 per cent. These are the things produced and controlled by trusts. The mine workers have been receiving the same wages they got before the trust system raised the price of living.

How can a workingman live in such circumstances? Be fair. Consider the cruel lot of a mine worker, crushed between the irresistible working of two trust principles—one keeping his wages down and the other putting his household expenses up. How can he live? What is he to do?

The anthracite mine workers presented their grievances to their employers through the local mine workers' unions. They asked for better wages, for a reduction in the extortionate charges for powder, for the abolition of the infamous company store system and, when sick, the right to select their own doctors.

The coal trust ignored the local unions of the mine workers. The unfortunate men presented their case in temperate, respectful, almost humble words. They pleaded with their employers for a conference, promising to withdraw from any position proved to be wrong. They asked for a reasonable arbitration of the issue. The coal trust still ignored them.

Then the coal unions appealed to the national organization, the Mine Workers' Union of America, for per-

mission to strike. The national leaders were opposed to a struggle. They appealed to the coal trust and its allies to make some concession, to agree to a conference, to arrange for arbitration—anything to avert a strike.

The only reply of the coal trust was made through the newspapers—they would not recognize the miners' unions. Then came the strike.

Consider the facts. The coal trust consists of the following corporations: Pennsylvania Railroad company, Alexander J. Cassatt, president.

Lehigh Valley Railroad system, Alfred Walter, president.

Delaware and Hudson Railroad company, R. M. Olyphant, president.

Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad company, W. H. Truesdale, president.

Central Railroad Company of New Jersey, J. R. Maxwell, president.

Philadelphia and Reading Railroad company, Joseph H. Harris, president.

Erie Railroad and New York, Susquehanna and Western railroad, E. R. Thomas, president.

Delaware, Susquehanna and Schuylkill company, Irving A. Stears, president.

New York, Ontario and Western railroad, Thomas B. Fowler, president.

As these nine railroad companies produce about 72 per cent of all the hard coal supply and absolutely control the freight charges for all the mines, they are supreme. They regulate the amount of coal mined and the price at which it is sold.

The coal trust violates the federal anti-trust law. Yet its members go unwhipped of justice because President McKinley and Attorney General Griggs refuse to prosecute them. The coal trust violates the constitution of Pennsylvania, which prohibits railroad corporations from owning or operating coal mines. The coal trust violates the law of Pennsylvania, which commands coal companies to pay their employees every two weeks instead of every month. But the members of the coal trust keep out of prison because the governor of Pennsylvania will not hale them into court.

The open crimes of the coal trust—crimes that injure a whole people—are committed with impunity. Why? Because the members of the coal trust contribute liberally to the Republican campaign corruption fund. Is that a fair statement? Are the facts not as clear as sunlight?

But when the starving coal miners combine lawfully to secure more wages, they are denounced, and their organization is lightly referred to as "outlaw interference."

The governor of Pennsylvania is meek enough in the presence of the coal trust. Its flagrant criminality leaves him unmoved.

It is different with the labor trust—the Mine Workers' Union of America. A scuffle, a blow, a random pistol shot, and the armed soldiery of Pennsylvania is instantly in motion, the hills and valleys swarm with eager troops and armed mercenaries hired by the coal trust and its plant sheriff.

Presently the starving miners are called upon to look down the mouths of loaded rifles and cannon. The whole armed force of the state stands behind the coal trust.

Who should the crimes of the coal trust go unpunished while the slightest offenses of its workmen are visited by death.—New York Journal, Sept. 27, 1900.

STRIKING OBSERVATIONS.

They Are a Manifestation of the Unity of Labor's Interests.

Strikes are condemned as being useless when they fail, but nothing is said when they succeed.

Strikes which take place at a seasonable time, and which are the result of good organization, invariably win. Strikes rushed into, pell-mell, without means, are usually lost, and are used to illustrate the impotency of strikes.

Public opinion may aid a strike, but strikes dependent upon popular sympathy alone usually fail.

To be prepared to strike is the best way to avoid a strike either by concession made to the union or by the refusal of the employers to assume the aggressive. These silent victories, which are by far the most numerous, are not recorded.

Lost strikes are bad, but often a refusal to strike under sufficient provocation is worse. It is peace purchased at the price of manhood. A person's capacity to cause respect and consideration; even lost strikes do that.

Strikes are revolts against injustice. They are the manifestation of the unity of labor's interests.

Strikes are to industry what a thunder cloud is to a sultry day.

Banish the possibility of strikes and greed will have no bounds.

Strikes are resorted to mostly by intelligent and educated workers, and take place in the most progressive countries.

Strikes are industrial wars, and like all wars, should be avoided if possible, but peace at any cost means subjection, degradation.

Strikes will continue as long as labor is bought at the lowest price. The strike is the workers' demand for recognition as human beings.

A strike is an indefinite holiday taken by labor for labor's benefit, but it is but a moment compared to the time usually lost while out of work.

A strike only requires the joint action of fellow workmen in a shop, upon issues simple and direct, while general reforms depend upon the uncertain "public."

Philosophers have pronounced the strike a wasteful struggle, but the "unappreciated" workmen still refuse to take heed.

The strike may be a crude weapon, but a better one is still to be devised.

Skagway, Alaska, printers have organized.

HERE IS MILITARISM

A GOOD EXAMPLE OF MILITARISM IN PENNSYLVANIA.

A Correspondent for the Indianapolis Press Writes of the Outrages Committed by Soldiers in the Coal Fields of Pennsylvania—Their Presence Incites Riot—Many Are Drunk and Women Are Insulted.

The militiamen who form the National Guard of the State of Pennsylvania are not as a class, nice young men fond of genteel society, says Otto Carmichael, in the Indianapolis Press. They are brawny youths. They are rugged and ready for mud and nasty work. They swagger and swear, smoke black pipes and go unshaven. Their faces are tanned, their hands are hard, they march up and down these hills with unflinching steadiness, stand guard with a growl, sleep on brick sidewalks or the raw ground with composure, swear at and for their colonel, and generally speaking are not soft, city-bred youths. Where they come from I do not know, but their hardening process is more severe than given by the drill of militia companies. Pennsylvania has a reputation of furnishing good soldiers.

When one sizes up these lusty, reckless chaps he can well believe it. They are from eighteen to thirty years of age, and run to about 150 to 160 pounds. They have lean faces, good eyes, sinewy arms and legs, thin bodies and are built for endurance. They like green whiskey and noisy trouble and are sorry every minute they are not in a fight. If the great State of Pennsylvania should declare war against the great State of Ohio these lads would be tickled to cheers and never ask what the trouble is about.

Here and there is the grizzled old sergeant who has plained served through two or three wars, and he is the most at home of any one in the camp. The officers are a study looking lot. The line officers are gray, evidently long service in war to their credit. Gen. Gobin is never happier than when soldiering, and would not become Lieutenant Governor of the State until he could be sure that he need not give up his place as Brigadier General, commanding the Third Brigade.

And yet, with all this gray and gray and devilish gallantry, the people of Shenandoah are wondering which is worse, riot or military occupation. I was in Tampa shortly after the close of the Spanish war, and one of the residents said, in speaking of the time the Spanish army was there, "Oh, when I think of what we had to endure I almost wish the Spanish war had never taken place. That army was something awful here."

This was recalled to me when I saw the streets of Shenandoah filled with drunken, almost riotous soldiers. They were infinitely worse than the strikers. The military occupation of a city is not a pleasant sight. Many of the soldiers arrive in the city drunk from whiskey carried from homes in their flasks and the officers are fresh and almost unbearable in their pompous manner. In this case it was all so ridiculous, for the cause of this vast array of military force was so utterly insignificant. A group of excited miners were arguing about the question of going to work. The coal company officials rushed in and butted their heads together. There was a scuffle. A lively bar-room row is infinitely worse. The deputy sheriffs rush in and kill children and innocent outsiders. A number of strikers are wounded, but not an officer is touched. With others I have put in much time investigating this. It is of more than a little importance. Riots are made the excuse of forming military dictatorships in great countries sometimes. In this case an invented riot was made the excuse for suspending civil law in this rich and populous county and substituting military government.

When I arrived in Shenandoah late at night, the report had already gone around that the soldiers were coming. Every one was excited, and the officers were telling of their gallant deeds of the day and drinking much raw whiskey. This took place in a crowded cafe.

"Is any further trouble expected?" "Expecting another outbreak every minute."

"Are you prepared?" "You bet," and there was such a pulling of guns as I had never seen before. Each man had two—two guns—and many more than two drinks. If any one had shouted, "There they come now," there would have been fifty shots before any one knew what was coming. The deputies and the coal and iron police officers were in a murderous and vicious state. If a cannon cracker had exploded in the street, the business men would probably have petitioned the president to send federal troops.

The murdered Russian lay in an alley near where he fell. His countrymen shrugged their shoulders and said: "Dead man, no good!" These foreign miners notoriously care nothing for their dead. He is from Russia—no one knows what place.

One morning the sheriff and a number of us were having breakfast in the dining room. There was a shot, and some one shouted: "Here they are." We were expecting soldiers, but there was a drawing of guns and rushing for the doors. I was quick and got out first, but I was nearly killed in the crush in the hall. It was nothing.

Then came the soldiers. Of the hundreds who had started with full flasks few had any whiskey left—in the bottles. In some manner about half of the soldiers got leave or took it. They staggered up and down the street in a drunken condition and made themselves free in the beer saloons. The drinking places had been closed to keep the strikers sober, but they were opened

to give the soldiers a chance to get drunk. They threw away few chances. The strikers were nowhere in sight. The blustering soldiers wanted to know "where in hell the strikers were," and with much vigorous profanity they told how they would have served them if they had only been in town when the riot started. They cursed their tough luck because they were away when the killing was going on. This bragging was not confined to the drinking saloons, but went on boisterously on the streets, and all of which was harmless but the drunkenness was disgusting.

The first thing a soldier does when he arrives in a city on a mission of this sort is to try and learn how many women are willing to be friendly with him. He is not at all delicate in his way of finding this out. This bragging was not confined to the drinking saloons, but went on boisterously on the streets, and all of which was harmless but the drunkenness was disgusting.

The first thing a soldier does when he arrives in a city on a mission of this sort is to try and learn how many women are willing to be friendly with him. He is not at all delicate in his way of finding this out. This bragging was not confined to the drinking saloons, but went on boisterously on the streets, and all of which was harmless but the drunkenness was disgusting.

The first thing a soldier does when he arrives in a city on a mission of this sort is to try and learn how many women are willing to be friendly with him. He is not at all delicate in his way of finding this out. This bragging was not confined to the drinking saloons, but went on boisterously on the streets, and all of which was harmless but the drunkenness was disgusting.

UNION LABEL BOOM

THE LABEL IS A PEACEFUL WEAPON FOR LABOR.

It is an Assurance That Goods Are Made Under Conditions Tending to Perpetuate Freedom—It Rests With the Purchaser—The Label Will Banish the Sweat Shop and Tenement House Labor.

That this world contains many selfish people who have no thought for the welfare of others is undoubtedly true, but we believe the vast majority of people act from good motives and intend to do good to themselves as to benefit their fellows rather than injure them, says the Boot and Shoe Worker. If their personal conduct does at times indirectly cause injury to another, it is because they are not cognizant of the natural consequences of their own act, and yet the gravest injury may be done their fellow beings, and sooner or later react upon themselves.

This applies with peculiar force to all persons when purchasing goods of any kind.

The purchaser of goods makes a demand for labor to the extent of the purchase.

The purchaser is for the time being the employer of the labor engaged in producing the particular kind of goods and it rests with the purchaser to decide what kind of labor he will patronize or employ. It is in the power of the purchaser to use labor well or ill.

If a purchaser of fruit, while approaching the stand, should see the fruit dealer strike a little girl a blow, not one in a hundred would purchase fruit at that stand, no matter how attractive the fruit. They would feel a resentment against that particular dealer and would go elsewhere, because this case came under their personal observation.

Yet the same individual might go into a shoe store bent wholly on pleasing the eye and the purse and buy shoes without thought of the conditions under which they were made or what sort of brute ran the factory. Hundreds of little girls may be ruined for life by hard work at a tender age, whole families may be impoverished by the unbearable conditions, women may faint through fear of fines, or may be brutally advised to augment their meagre wages by a life of shame. All kinds of obnoxious shop rules are enforced by convicts who are taking work and bread from law-abiding citizens, or they may be made by Asiatic labor at a few cents a day, or they may be made by firms who publish pictures of factories full of girls and boys of school age. Any of these conditions may exist and still the well-meaning purchaser buys the shoes in blissful ignorance of what evil systems of labor may have produced the shoes, because not made under his personal observation.

All this injury to unfortunate human beings cannot be eradicated in a moment, but every purchaser can make sure his money and influence has not been used to encourage employers to maltreat their employees and employees to tamely submit to injustice and oppression, no matter how attractive the goods.

The union label affords the purchaser the only assurance that the goods are made under conditions tending to perpetuate free institutions.

In purchasing union label goods the purchaser may rest assured that the goods were not made by convicts or Asiatics, or under conditions calculated to degrade the standard of living of the wage workers, who are the real foundation of society and of government. If all right-minded people fully understood the good they would do by purchasing goods only bearing the union label and the evil they encourage by buying goods not bearing the union label, the power for good of the union label, great as it is, would be increased a thousandfold in a single day.

Rapid progress is now being made in this direction. One after another of the strong unions of labor are enlisting themselves in union label work. Other societies are falling in line. If all who seek the same result should once act together, this world would be a different and better place in which to live. The result is worth the effort. The progress made should stimulate all unionists to even more determined efforts. Boom all union labels.

THE UNIVERSAL LABEL.

It Will Be Opposed by the Cigarmakers' Union.

The Label League of Chicago is preparing to go before the next convention of the American Federation of Labor with a proposition that a universal label be adopted, to be put on all goods manufactured by union men, believing that it is a better method of securing union conditions in all branches of industry. The cigarmakers will oppose this label very vigorously, on the ground that it is an injustice to their label, which they have maintained under a heavy expense and many difficulties. They declare that a manufacturer can obtain the universal label by applying to the Boxmakers' union whether the contents of the box are union made or not. President George W. Perkins of the cigarmakers makes his reasons very plain in opposing the universal label. A box of cigars made under union conditions bears the cigarmakers' boxmakers' label. By employing one of these trades that is union the manufacturer could put his goods before the public as a genuine union article, and nobody could dispute his claim.

Sign the Seal.

Most of the glass factories about Pittsburgh, Pa., have signed the union seal and 850 pots will soon be in operation affording employment to many thousand men.

Negroes as Mill Operatives.

Another effort to turn the negro into a first rate cotton mill hand is to be made in Texas under the auspices of the North Texas Fair and Cotton Exposition association. The general purpose, according to the Dallas News, is to excite in the negro, whether he lives in the country or in town, a greater interest in the production and manufacture of cotton. "The promoters of the enterprise," says the News, "believe there is in the cotton patch and in the cotton factory plenty of room for every negro in the country and that opportunities may be found in this line which will not excite any serious competition or antagonism between the races." As operatives in cotton mills in the south negroes have not yet provided a general success.

Most of the glass factories about Pittsburgh, Pa., have signed the union seal and 850 pots will soon be in operation affording employment to many thousand men.

Most of the glass factories about Pittsburgh, Pa., have signed the union seal and 850 pots will soon be in operation affording employment to many thousand men.