

# A WORLD WOMAN AMONG THE MINERS.

## SECOND OF SERIES BY OLIVIA HOWARD DUNBAR.

### Child Labor Abuse at the Mines Described in Graphic Words.

### WOMEN WORK LIKE MULES.

### Mothers Weep as They Tell of Hardships Endured by Children.

(Special to The Evening World.)

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Sept. 17.—Perhaps it is in Pittston that the great strike will be remembered longest—this strike in which 100,000 men quit work to-day.

It is here that the first warning of war was sounded, and here that discontent first found voice. It is here that the workers in the Halstead mine were ten days ago driven to anticipate the strike by unanimous revolt. And here to-day appeared the first open aggression—and that from the side of the operators.

Not one of the Pittston miners, nor one of the mothers whose puny boys spend their long days in the dreary slavery of the mines, will ever forget that a brutal superintendent, enraged by the striking of the employees, publicly horsewhipped a tiny mule driver.

#### LASHED A LITTLE BOY.

The superintendent confined his brutality to one boy because he could not succeed in catching the others. He chose a boy rather than a man because the boy was so small as to be helpless. And he felt safe to gratify his rage upon the public street because he knew that not one of the men who stood about looking on would dare to stop him.

The man was Adam Harkness, of Colliery No. 8, belonging to the Pennsylvania Coal Company.

The boy was the smallest of twenty mule drivers who struck for the same reasons and with the same right as the thousands of other workers in the valley. Early this morning they left the colliery and drove their mules down the street.

Superintendent Harkness shouted oaths after them, commanding them to return. When they declined to hear him he seized a heavy horsewhip and pursued them till he caught one and collared him. He then lashed the little fellow till the boy shrieked with pain.

#### LIVES HELD BY OPERATORS.

But not one of the men who saw this knocked Harkness down or made any attempt to defend his victim because every man of them was in a business which the mine operators indirectly control and have the power to destroy. They did not dare appear to champion the cause of a striker even when assaulted by a brute four times his size.

Not a pleasant reflection on the power of the mine tyrants.

"Do they think we'll give up the strike?" asked one of the boy's companions afterward. "When they can't even let a kid alone? We'll stick it out now whatever happens."

This boy could not have been more than nine. He was very grave, and not even his eyes had a smile in them. It is a long time since he ceased to be a child.

Indeed there are not many children among the miners. When they emerge from babyhood they straightaway become little laboring men and women, and hungry mouths wait to swallow up the meagre earnings of their tiny hands. By and by they reach something that is a dismal imitation of youth. Then their time comes to rear families that are to be as unhappy as they.

#### BOY'S EARNINGS CUT IN TWO.

It is the boy "drivers" as well as the "breakers" that are causing particular concern to the union leaders, who hope much from the strike in this regard.

The boys earn but little, as the mines rarely give them more than half a day's work at a time, thus cutting their possible earnings in two.

While their time extends nominally from 7 to 12, they are obliged to begin at 6:30 to harness their mules and to spend another half hour at noon in unharnessing them and caring for them. For this hour they are not paid. Moreover, when a piece of machinery gets out of order, checking the work of the drivers, the little fellows—the youngest are but eight years old—are "docked" from this time until the machine is again put in operation.

Several of the mothers wept as they spoke of the Harkness incident.

"Isn't it bad enough," cried one, "that our boys get no schooling and not enough food? Aren't they even safe from abuse?"

But this is only one of the reasons why the feeling against the operators is so particularly bitter in this section. It is not the least, however, for the miners as a class are keenly alive to the value of education, and would secure it for their children if they could.

#### LIVE IN OPERATORS' TENEMENTS.

Another is the condition of their homes. Most of them live in tenements owned by operators. Many of the dilapidated structures are made to house 150 persons. Their owners would laugh should you suggest repair or sanitary improvements. The health officers keep gingerly aloof.

"There's a tenement," scornfully said a miner's wife, pointing across the street, "so bad that even miners can't live in it. It's closed, you see. William Connell owns it. He has a colliery in Duryea and he's Republican candidate for Representative. There's not an operator the miners hate so bitterly as he, and no wonder. He wouldn't touch that tenement though people were dying in it, but he got his rent to the last cent."

It is conceded that the greatest abuses are perpetrated by the individual mine operators, such men as Connell, men who are millionaires and whose power is exceeded only by that of the great trust magnates, to whom the whole trouble may ultimately be attributed.

#### WOMEN IN THE MINES.

If unlimited child labor is permitted in direct violation of the law there is no reason why women should not likewise take their turn in the mines. And they do.

I questioned one woman whose brood of pale children

## THE GREAT COAL STRIKE AND ITS CAUSES.

Graphically Depicted by T. E. Powers.



### IN A TYPICAL STRIKING MINER'S HOME.



(Photographed by Olivia Howard Dunbar special for The Evening World.) Mrs. John Rafferty and her children, 310 Putnam avenue, Scranton, Pa.—Mrs. Rafferty's husband works for \$1.50 a day, and they are obliged to buy all their food at the "company store." At the end of the week the "store" gets most of his earnings—Mrs. Rafferty and her children are shown in the one bedroom where all the family sleeps.

seemed too weak and tired to cry and whose little lodging seemed even poorer than the others I had visited.

"Does your husband?"

"He's dead," she said; "killed in the mines."

"But the company made you compensation?"

The woman looked astounded.

"You ask that?" she said. "Why I've never had a cent since he died that I didn't earn carrying sacks of coal on my back or washing."

"My husband took his own risk, they tell me. He took the part of a contractor in doing their work for them. They owe me nothing."

"Men are killed here every week. Sometimes they live when it's better that they shouldn't."

"We can't afford invalids. And often they die of asthma, and then their widows are left to do as I am doing."

"Who is there to help us?"

#### THE BIG STRIKE IS ON.

The strike was on here this morning. There was a hush over all the dreary district where the miners live. The dread of the coming fight with poverty and injustice was settling down upon those wretched homes. And there was something more—the fear of violence.

Nowhere are the Hungarian and Polish miners so hot-blooded and resentful as here. Nowhere has the enmity between operators and workmen been smoldering so long and so fiercely. In general the strikers are what their leaders expect them to be—peaceable and patient. But if there should be riot at any point along the valley Pittston and Duryea fear that this will be the scene of it.

OLIVIA HOWARD DUNBAR.

## 100,000 MINERS ON STRIKE.

(Continued from First Page.)

received from the various mines and as they came in with the intelligence that all hands had refused to go to work there was much enthusiasm.

Organizer Nichols addressed the men at length. He counselled them to be on their good behavior.

#### SHAMOKIN'S PLIGHT.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., Sept. 17.—The collieries operated by the Mineral, Union, Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Companies and by individual operators in the suburbs of this place and employing between 2,500 and 3,000 men and boys are completely tied up.

In the Mount Carmel and Locust Gap districts it is as yet impossible to give the exact number of men on strike, owing to the collieries being widely separated.

At the United Mine Workers' head-

#### SOME MINES WORKING

About Half the Mines Around Hazleton Are Idle and All Will Probably Go Out.

HAZLETON, Pa., Sept. 17.—The launching of the strike in this district was attended by varying success. With the exception of Coxe's colliery, at Beaver Meadow, the entire territory known as the South Side, which includes about twelve mining towns, is completely tied up.

On the North Side, which takes in ten towns, and which is not well organized, the conditions at an early hour were almost the reverse of those prevailing on

the South Side. In that territory nearly every colliery started up, but only one was able to muster its full complement of men. Several of the collieries, after starting work, had to suspend because of the lack of men.

Many of the mines that have started short-handed will probably shut down during the day.

It was conservatively estimated that nearly 8,000 men of the 15,000 in the district started work to-day. Committees of union men were on duty early at nearly every workings in the district endeavoring to persuade those men who had decided to work to reconsider and not go into the mines.

Trouble was expected at the Colerain mine, but nothing has occurred to disturb the peace so far.

The strikers from McAdoo are trying hard to get the men at Colerain to quit and a committee was sent there before starting time for that purpose.

There was some hesitation on the part of a lot of the Colerain men, but when the whistle blew at 7 o'clock they marched into the mines. The collieries at that place are working short-handed, however.

The G. B. Markle collieries, at Jeddah, Highland and Oakdale, employing 2,200 men, started work short-handed. Great efforts were made by United Mine Workers' officials to bring these men out, but they failed. The Markle mine at Ebervale, however, employing 20 men, did not make an attempt to start.

The only mines on the North Side which started with the full number of men were Lattimer, Harwood and Pond Creek. The officials of these mines had notified their employees that if they did not report for duty to-day the operations would be suspended indefinitely.

The Coxe mines at Drifton, Eckley and Beaver Meadow, on the South Side, and the same Company's operations at Onida, Derringer and Gowen, on the West Side, are working.

At the Lehigh Valley Coal Company's washeries an attempt was made to start work, but the non-appearance of the breaker boys prevented it.

The A. Pardie collieries, at Cranberry and Crystal Ridge, employing 35 men, started short-handed, as did also the M. S. Kemmerer mine, at Sandy Run.

Among the big mines that did not attempt to start were those of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Company, at Auzerseld; J. S. Wentz & Co., at Silver Brook; the Dodson mines, at Beaver Brook; and the A. S. Van Wyckie works, at Milnesville.

Unemployed capital seeks safe investment. Put your business opportunity adv. in The World.

## MISS SOUTHGATE WILL GO FREE ON RECOVERY.

(Continued from First Page.)

by attributing it to an insane impulse to put an end to his suffering."

#### COURSE OF BULLET.

Detective James Keelan, who has been in charge of the investigation into the tragedy, said to-day that the statements of the Seney Hospital surgeons regarding Miss Southgate's wound bore out her story.

"The doctors tell me," he said, "that the ball which struck Miss Southgate shattered her breast bone and deflected downward toward the right, glancing off a lower rib and imbedding itself in the muscles of her back. This, according to their opinion, bears out her contention that Harbour shot her while she was lying on the bed beside him.

"The bullet has not been extracted as yet, as Miss Southgate's mental condition is so distressing that the doctors fear to excite her. She is suffering no inconvenience from it and is in a fair way to recover."

#### SHE IS IMPROVING.

Meanwhile the young woman is improving, the bullet having been extracted, and she would be out of all danger.

She is feverish after the mental shock of the tragedy and to-day her mood has been one of hysterical pique. She prays continually, thanking God that her life has been spared and that she escaped a suicide's grave.

The attitude of the Harbour and Southgate families has roused Miss S. V. Schell, aunt of the wounded girl, to great resentment. "I admire Rev. Dr. Harbour for the stand he has taken toward his son," she said to-day, "but I think it is unfair that he should lay all the blame on the woman.

"She has not led other men astray, and Dr. Harbour knows there is no foundation for such a charge. She did not care for men.

"It is right that his love should blind him to the sin of his son, but he has no ground to harbor the suspicion that Helen Forbes is a murderess.

"God was merciful to the Harbours. Suppose Helen had received the fatal bullet and the man's wound had been only disabling, how much greater now would be their grief and shame.

#### GIRL NOT A SIREN.

"The Southgates have been unfair in what they said of her when she came Southgate and another brother, who forced her to leave her adopted mother's home, I resent the imputation that she was the temptress. I have spoken to her since the tragedy, and I know she was convinced against her will into a folly that means a life-long regret.

"I want to say that the girl's actions may give rise to an understanding that is entirely wrong and misleading. Her relations with Mr. Harbour were never improper. She told me when she came here Monday of having met him again.

"When I asked her if she loved him, she said she was greatly attracted by him, but that she could not love him because of his professed infidelity. He seemed to be always harping on this when in her presence, and he had convinced her that life was not worth living. He had been a failure and was a pessimist.

"Helen has an unusually active mind and her temperament makes her a prey to melancholy. She was in an unfortunate mood when she met Harbour after an absence of two years. His brilliancy attracted her and his will dominated her.

"She wonders now how she was led to accompany him to a cheap hotel. She came back here Wednesday evening much depressed.

"She was nervous Thursday, knowing he was coming to take her out. What she told me of their actions in the hotel is proof positive that she did not conspire with him to die.

"When they entered the room he emptied his pockets and ordered her to empty hers. Then he took off his collar and ordered her to do likewise. His marks she realized he was in fearful earnest.

"She wanted to escape, but was fearful if she moved to the door he would shoot her in the back of the head.

"She loosened her corset as he ordered, but when she lay back on the bed at his order that he might kill her the easier she said she thought of nothing but how sweet it would be to live. Does anything in all this suggest the idea that she lured the young man on to his death?

"I know her very intimately and her mind has always been singularly free from vivacious thoughts or inclinations. This whole thing is in absolute contradiction with her usual bent.

"She acted entirely under an influence that was superior to her will and her judgment. I know that she will be cleared of everything at the Coroner's inquest and she will return to the home of her brother, Edward Southgate, in Bryanville, Md."

#### SOUTHGATE BLAMED!

Minister's Widow Tells Why Helen Southgate Left Home—Mrs. Egan's Story.

Mrs. E. R. Egan, wife of a retired Episcopal minister at Good Ground, tells what she declares is the correct story of why Helen Southgate left her adopted mother's home.

"When Hutchinson Southgate became engaged to Estelle Harbour," she says, "he felt that his adopted sister would absorb a part of the Southgate estate and would prove a bar to his bringing his bride into his mother's home. His other brothers sided with him against the girl. The question was how to get rid of her.

"It was finally accomplished by getting Estelle Harbour to tell Helen Southgate that it might be better if she went away from the Southgates. The girls had their chat together in bed.

"It was proposed by Estelle that Helen go away secretly without any one knowing of her intentions. Estelle proposed to give her money to carry out the plan.

"The scheme favored by Helen Southgate, and with heretofore independent, she got out of bed although it was past midnight, packed up her belongings and left the house and walked three miles across through the woods to my door.

"I nearly fainted from fright when I saw her. She fell forward in my arms and told me the whole story. 'Life has become unbearable for me with them,' she said, 'and I have left them forever. I want none of their money.'

"I sent word of the girl's arrival at my home to the Southgates and they thanked me, but made no effort to have her return. Helen felt me at the time everything that had occurred in her life but she made no mention of Harry Harbour.

#### Fall Importation

of

Kid Gloves

The

Celebrated Reynier

Kid & Suede Gloves,

REYNIER

have been awarded the

Grand Prix

at the Paris Exposition, 1900.

Highest award that can be

made by the French Govern-

ment.

Lord & Taylor,

Broadway & 20th St.

The perfection of

Custom Tailoring.

There are a few men whom

we cannot fit perfectly

with ready-to-wear suits,

but there are many who

do not want us to try.

For them we have the

best appointed made-to-

measure departments.

Fashionable fabrics only.

Prompt service always.

Moderate prices. Satis-

faction.

Hackett, Carhart & Co.

Three

BROADWAY

Stores.

Cor. 13th St.

Cor. Canal St.

Near Chambers.

**Young's Hats**

THE BETTER MADE

FALL STYLES NOW READY.

SIX STORES: DERBYS, \$3.00 and \$4.00. SILK HATS, \$5.00 and \$6.00. ALPINES, \$3.00 and \$3.50.

199 Broadway, 200 Broadway, 1197 Broadway, 1381 Broadway, NEW YORK.

371 Fulton St., Opp. City Hall, Brooklyn.

METROPOLIS THEATRE 1425 at 8th Ave. Revue & Vaudeville. Wed. & Sat. 7:30 P.M.