

A WORLD WOMAN AMONG THE COAL STRIKERS TELLS HOW THE WOMEN CLOSE DOWN A MINE.

Miners' Wives on Constant Watch Force Non-Union Men to Quit.

NO. VIII. OF THE SERIES.

BY OLIVIA HOWARD DUNBAR.

HOW WOMEN CLOSE A MINE.

(Special to The World.)

SHENANDOAH, Pa., Sept. 24.—For fifteen minutes to-day I watched an army of women contend against a body of sullen miners and win the victory. The scene was outside one of the Pennsylvania Coal Company's collieries. Many of the workers at this colliery are non-union men, and being indisposed to heed the strike order, they had worked on.

WOMEN KEEP MEN FROM MINES.

Some had hastily tied a scarlet or crimson kerchief about their heads, some wore the blue gingham sun-bonnet that is the badge of maternity in this region of picturesque simple manners.

Some had their little ones safely cradled in the colored scarfs that were firmly bound about their waists, and others had patiently accommodated themselves to the gait of the tiny toddlers that they dared not leave behind.

On each face was written the story of an unalterable resolve. It may have been the instinct of motherhood that led them there, giving a lion's strength to the most timid, or a perception of the meaning of this crisis, which no miner's wife awaits her husband to interpret for her.

No sooner did there appear a miner in working dress than they surrounded him in an impenetrable mass. His own indignity was the instrument of his castigation. From hundreds of throats came cries of scorn and denunciation, echoed in the piercing tremble of the children.

If the man yielded and turned home he was unpunished. If he resisted stones were cast at him by hands grown strong with the many forms of labor that these women know.

From the first the women had the victory in their hands. The men, weakened by a feeling of shame, could not hold out against them.

Finally they fled, scores of them together, over the bridge that leads from the colliery to the town.

The victors, in no hurry to abandon the field, stood in unconsciously heroic attitudes on the bridge by the hill, or sat in earnest groups to await the possible need of further demonstration. They were determined that their victory should be complete.

WOMEN URGE ON THE FIGHT.

Afterward I visited some of them in their homes. "The men must all strike together," was their irrefutable logic. "We have got to win this strike, and we can't do it if we let these men go to work. Fight? Yes, every day if we have to, till this thing is settled, and settled as we want it. If the men can't manage it we'll do it for them."

And indeed the fight is on in earnest in Shenandoah. The women keep constant watch, and it is a sluggish one who permits herself more than a few hours' sleep. At dawn they are up to see that no miner tries to steal unobserved to his work. At night they are on hand to see that the "night shift" does not get a chance to go on.

Several collieries would have been operated by night shifts had the women not been on hand to stop it. The Pennsylvania Company has offered its men during the progress of the strike 25 extra cents to each dollar they earn. The bait has caught some of them, and it is these whom the women are at war against.

But the courage that is everywhere so manifest has little to sustain it except steadfastness of purpose. That grim possibility of starvation is appallingly near at hand. There are families that believe they can hold out a month, or even two. But in some of the homes that I went into this morning the women told me:

CAN HOLD OUT A WEEK.

"A WEEK, PERHAPS, NOT MORE." Yet these men have been working all their lives. Their trade is one held more than ordinarily profitable. There are no rival industries.

If any industrious workman in this region is to support his family it must be by mining. Yet they live in quarters not fit for animals, have no money and but one week's provisions ahead.

Possessed by the fear that keeps most of these poor creatures constantly alert, that of being misrepresented to their employers, and subsequently discharged, one woman, a Mrs. Dennis Flaherty, whom I talked with to-day, would at first have nothing to say.

"We don't know anything about the strike," she persisted; "nothing at all."

She seemed almost defiant. But gradually I reassured her. Then suddenly she burst into a flood of tears.

"Can't you see," she sobbed, "that it breaks my heart to speak of these things? I've known nothing but trouble for a lifetime. I can't even talk about it any more."

The woman was barefooted, her dress torn, old and of the poorest stuff, her neatly arranged hair thin and gray. She stood at a wash-tub in one of the two little rooms for which a good-sized rent is wrung from her.

HER LIFETIME OF SORROW.

After a while she told me her story. Her husband is fifty-nine years old. He has been working in the mines since he was eight. But instead of being able to live comfortably and save he has been paid less and less till now he is earning less than ever before, and is practically destitute. Three children, born into conditions too severe for endurance, have died.

There is little consolation left in the world for such a woman.

"The sliding scale of wages, with its eight and ten cents off every dollar, is what's starving my man and me," she said.

Here, too, as in every other town, I have tried to find from the miners what the sliding scale of wages is, and not one of them knows.

"The sliding scale" may be an eminently just, even philanthropic arrangement on the part of the companies, but if so they have failed to make the miners understand its true purpose.

FOR ALL THE MEN WHOSE EARNINGS ARE AFFECTED BY IT BELIEVE IT BUT ONE MORE PHASE OF THE MULTIFORM ROBBERY OF WHICH THEY HAVE SO LONG BEEN THE VICTIMS.

As the men understand and try to explain it the company agrees to pay them an additional per cent of their wage in prosperous seasons and to subtract a similar amount when total receipts are less.

"For two months in the year," one miner told me, and many others have said the same thing, "we get extra money. In the remaining ten they subtract what they please from the little that we get, and we have to put up with it."

SAD CASES OF DESTITUTION.

After hearing numberless statements that there is plenty of work, I come upon families starving for the lack of it.

A Polish woman, Mrs. Glaski, told me her husband had been without work all summer, that their earnings had been all eaten up and that her last cent had just gone for flour.

Many of these destitute cases are within sight of the main street of the town.

One explanation of the fact that children have been dying, women driven to desperation and men out of work, is to be found in the systems of tyranny and corruption practiced by the "bosses."

A man gets a job desirable in proportion to the amount of money he has paid the boss who has given it to him. If he has no money to give he gets no work.

Ten dollars is considered a fair price for a job. Ten dollars to a heartless, conscienceless brute, while the home from which it has been taken lacks bread. And the work thus secured is not likely to last a day after a purchase has been made elsewhere than at the "company store," which is maintained here by both the Pennsylvania and Lehigh Companies.

"They tell us we can do as we like, live where we please and buy where we please," said one woman bitterly, "but they know that not one of us that has a child too young to work dares take them at their word."

OLIVIA HOWARD DUNBAR.

THE MAN WITH THE PICK.

This is not the man with the hoe.

This is the man with the pick—the half-starved miner of the coal region.

It may be that he is a relative of "the man with the hoe," for he was imported from abroad.

An expression of sullen dissatisfaction upon his face. Why?

Has he eaten too many frogs' legs?

Will he have to postpone his trip to Europe?

Didn't his horses win?

Won't his country house be finished in time to receive his lordship or some other nabob from across the water?

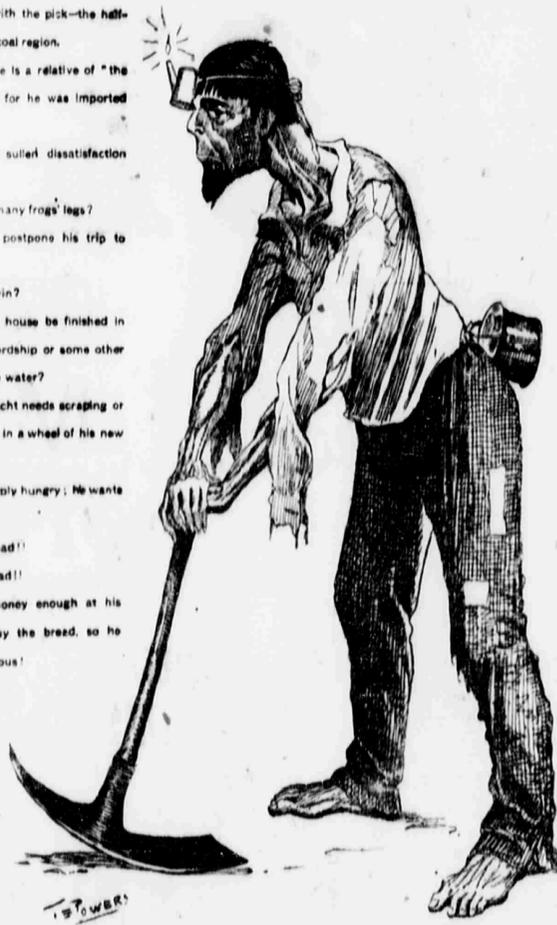
Is it because his yacht needs scraping or because of a puncture in a wheel of his new auto?

No. He is just simply hungry. He wants bread!

His child wants bread!

His wife wants bread!

He can't make money enough at his starving trade to buy the bread, so he strikes. How outrageous!



STEWART

SOFT COAL IS BARRED.

Price May Advance Further—Poor Not Suffering Yet.

The second week of the great coal strike opens with prices to householders the same as last Friday and Saturday, but with prospects of a further rise if the strike continues.

Chairman J. Samuel Smoot, of the trustees of the Retail Dealers Association, said to-day:

"The situation is worse than we anticipated. It is evident that the miners are not going back to work. The continuation of the strike means higher prices."

"The prices on coal to-day are: White ash, \$6.75; red ash, \$7.25; and Lykens ash, \$7.75."

"We are going along entirely in the dark, as we do not know how much coal the companies have on hand or when the prices may be changed. So far there has been no general advance in wholesale prices since Friday."

"We do not know when the companies may again take action and we are forced to follow suit."

"At the other offices of the big wholesale companies all requests for information were refused."

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PITTSTON MAYOR SAYS TROOPS ARE NOT NEEDED.

PITTSTON, Pa., Sept. 24.

Troops are not needed in this section of the anthracite region, and the call of Gov. Stone to have the Ninth Regiment 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 thirty 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 drank the prospects of an early settlement.

THOMAS F. CORCORAN, Mayor of Pittston.

WITNESSES ARE WANTED.

Those Who Saw Turner Clubbed Should Send in Their Names.

NEW STOCK FIRM FAILS.

Egbert Mills & Co. Suspend with \$250,000 Liabilities.

The failure of the stock broking firm of Egbert Mills & Co., of 2 Wall street, was announced on the Stock Exchange at noon to-day.

The firm is a small one, and the announcement of the suspension had no effect on the market.

The firm members are Egbert Mills and S. K. Mitchell. The firm formerly consisted of Mr. Mills and Mr. Otell. Mr. Otell withdrew some time ago, and Mr. Mitchell entered last July.

Mr. Mills was much affected by his failure. He wept as he told an Evening World reporter that his liabilities were about \$250,000.

"I do not know what my assets are," he continued. "My suspension was due to the failure of customers, in whom I had implicit faith, to cover their margins."

Mr. Mills declined to say whether it was true that he owed money to his relatives and personal friends.

The broker refused to say what stocks he had been dealing in, but it was said on Wall street that Mr. Mills was long of Tennessee Coal and Iron, which has dropped about twelve points in a week. The stock was off three points at noon to-day, but gained a point later on a rally.

Some stocks were bought and sold on the Exchange under the rule for the firm's account to-day.

Up to 2 o'clock 4,000 shares of stock had been bought and sold under the rule for the firm's account. One-third of these shares were Reading preferred firsts.

There were also sold \$100,000 worth of Washburn DeSmet 7 1/2, \$100,000 worth of Washburn seconds; \$7,000 worth of Missouri Pacific; \$100,000 worth of St. Louis Southwestern firsts; and \$100,000 worth of St. Louis 10s.

Mr. Mills is a new member of the Exchange. He was elected on May 5, 1899.

STRIKE GROWING HOURLY; MINERS REFUSE TO WORK.

(Continued from First Page.)

are patrolling the city from end to end.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., Sept. 24.—Notwithstanding the efforts of operators, none of the collieries in this vicinity resumed work to-day.

The miners as a body remained away from the collieries to the surprise of several operators, who were confident their mines would be able to start up.

Attempts were also made to work collieries between here and Mount Carmel, but scarcely any miners reported.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Sept. 24.—Everything is quiet in the Wyoming valley and the situation remains absolutely unchanged. No attempt was made to resume operations at any of the mines.

MARCH OF TROOPS.

Hazleton Miners Quiet as Battalion Passes Through Region—Women Jeer Soldiers.

HAZLETON, Pa., Sept. 24.—A battalion of the Eighth Regiment, composed of Companies E, F and G, arrived at Meadco, the nearest point in Schuylkill County, to the city of Hazleton, at 5 o'clock this morning.

The troops left the camp at Shenandoah at 4 o'clock and did not bring their camp equipment with them because they expect to return to Shenandoah to-night.

Leut.-Col. Hutchinson, who is in command of the battalion, said he was ordered there to make a demonstration by marching his men through Meadco and the surrounding towns. Each man carried twenty rounds of ammunition.

As soon as the battalion had left the cars, Col. Hutchinson hired a team and made an inspection of the surrounding country. He returned to the railroad station at 8:30 A. M. and immediately gave the order to march.

The route taken was down the Tamaqua road through Meadco and then west to Honeybrook. Here a wide detour was made which brought the battalion to Audenried, Luzerne County, and then they marched back through Meadco to the point from which they had started.

The troops were received by the inhabitants of the various towns with evidence of cordial dislike. Not a cheer was given them at any place, but many a jeer was sent after them as they passed groups of people on the streets.

The women seemed to be more annoyed at the presence of the soldiers than the men. One woman, after the troops had passed, shouted to a group of those who followed her as she went.

"Edward J. McGeehan, a blacksmith, who is the burgess of the town, stated that the action of Gen. Gobin in sending soldiers there was an outrage and a reflection on the city of Meadco."

"I shall not be responsible for any overt act committed by any person in this town while the troops are here," he said.

BURIED BY STRIKERS.

Over 5,000 Miners Followed the Hearse at Riot Victim's Funeral.

SHENANDOAH, Sept. 24.—John Chomicki, the Polish miner who was shot and killed during the riot last Friday, was buried to-day.

The funeral was an impressive spectacle, fully 5,000 mine workers following the body to the grave. The procession was headed by the Lithuanian band, of this city.

As the strikers proceeded toward the late home of the dead man they passed a battalion of the Fourth Regiment returning from patrol duty around the mines. Again as the funeral cortege was on its way to St. Ladwig's Polish Catholic Church a battalion of the Eighth Regiment passed.

When the mine workers reached the Chomicki home they stood in line, and as the hearse, the only vehicle in the procession, moved to the front every hat was raised.

Each man wore a small piece of crepe pinned to the lapel of his coat. The cortege was escorted in the Polish cemetery.

SWITCHMEN TO QUIT?

President Treadwell of the Lackawanna Has Not Yet Met the Delegates.

President Treadwell, of the Lackawanna road, when seen at his office in this city to-day, declared that he knew nothing about the report that a committee of the road's switchmen were on their way here to offer a formal protest against the hauling of non-union mined coal.

Mr. Treadwell said that not only had he heard nothing about the report, but that he doubted the truth of it. He did not say that he would not see such a delegation if they called.

WASHERIES CLOSED.

Strikers Prevent Them Running at Wilkesbarre—Men Ordered to Stay Home.

(Special to The Evening World.)

WILKESBARRE, Sept. 24.—The determined opposition of the strikers and their women sympathizers to any attempt being made to run the various washeries about this district resulted in orders from the companies to-day for the washery men to remain at home.

The strikers were on the watch for the washery men, lining the roads as early as 6 o'clock, men and women, and prepared to drive them back to their homes.

All the men except twenty reported for work at the West End mine at Meadco, and the colliery is running with nearly a full force.

The Ninth Regiment is being held in readiness to respond at once if needed in the Schuylkill region.

MINERS WIN A POINT.

Strikers Get 10 Per Cent. of Trevelton Miners to Quit Their Work.

SHAMOKIN, Sept. 24.—The strikers scored a victory to-day by inducing 10 per cent. of the men in the North Franklin Colliery at Trevelton to stay at home to-day.

A car-load of deputies went to the mine. It is operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company and employs about 80 men and boys.

THREE MINES CLOSE.

Only Sixteen Out of Thirty-nine of the Reading Collieries Are Now Working.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 24.—Reports received here by General Superintendent Henderson, of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company, to-day, show that sixteen of the thirty-nine collieries owned by the company are working this morning.

This is three mines less than were working on Saturday. The additional collieries tied up to-day are the Boston Run, Draper and Bear Ridge, all in the Mahanoy region, near Shenandoah.

The mines average 100 employees each.

ANGRY AT MILITIA.

Miners of Fourteen Collieries Quit Because Troops Were Brought Into the Fight.

POTTSVILLE, Sept. 24.—Every operation in the Mahanoy Valley save the Lawrence colliery at Mahanoy Plane, owned and operated by the P. & W. Shaefer estate, is shut down. Only pump and fan runners and the bosses are at work.

At Gilberton the mine workers to-day resolved to quit work. It was contended at this meeting that since the militia has been brought into the region it is their duty to go out, because the appearance of an armed force is a reflection upon those who have been peaceable and law-abiding.

The statement was made that the men are willing to work if the troops are recalled. The shut-down embraces Boston Run, Bear Ridge, Draper, Girard Mammoth, Gilberton, Hammond, Indian Ridge, Mahanoy City, North Mahanoy, St. Nicholas and Suttok, Tunnel Ridge, all Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron collieries, Furnace colliery, operated by the Furnace Coal Company, P. and Primrose colliery, of the Lehigh Coal Company.

It's all in the Box

All the goodness that is in a biscuit when it comes out of the oven goes in the "In-er-seal Patent Package." All its delicate crispness is there—and it stays there, right and tight, until you eat the biscuit. The "In-er-seal Patent Package" is the only known method of keeping biscuit fresh and crisp. Get it when and where you will, you'll find it proof against damp, dust and odor.

Buy Soda Biscuit, Milk Biscuit, Butter Crackers, Saltines, Banquet Wafers, Sultana Fruit, Graham Biscuit, Sea Foam, Oatmeal Biscuit, Ginger Snaps, Handmade Pretzels and Vanilla Wafers only in the "In-er-seal Patent Package."

You can readily distinguish the package by the trade-mark design on each end.

Sold everywhere.

NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY.

There are fully ten thousand mine-workers now idle in what is known as the Mahanoy Valley, which extends about fourteen miles. At the Lawrence colliery to-day the workmen repulsed a body of strikers who came to coerce them.

Upholstery Department.

Tuesday, Sept. 25th, we will offer, at greatly reduced prices—in most cases at one-half the original materials for

Draperies, Wall & Furniture Coverings, which will include almost every fabric in Silks, Damasks, Orientals and Tapestries at presents in vogue for above purposes; prices range from 50c. to \$5.50 a yard.

All remnants in this department of from one to five yards at equally reduced prices.

Colored Curtains.

250 pairs of Silk Cross-Stripe and Snowflake Curtains, small lots of each design, reduced as follows:

Those formerly sold at from \$2.00 to \$2.50 a pair, \$1.50. \$3.00 " \$4.00 " " \$2.50. \$4.50 " \$6.00 " " \$3.50. \$6.00 " \$8.75 " " \$5.00.

Lord & Taylor, Broadway & 20th St.

Lord & Taylor, Grand Street Store.

Autumn Millinery Opening.

Tues., Wed. and Thurs., Sept. 25th, 26th and 27th.

Handsome Trimmed Hats, Turbans and Bonnets; Misses' and Children's Hats; Pretty effects for Dress and General Wear.

Simply Trimmed Walking and Sailor Hats, Untrimmed Felt, Velvet and Fancy Braid Hats.

In a Large Variety of New Shapes. Fancy and Ostrich Feathers, Flowers and Foliage, Ornaments, Buckles and Novelties in Trimmings.