

# UNION BLAMED FOR MINE RIOTS

## West Virginia Miners Happy and Contented Before Agitators Arrived.

### NO COMPLAINTS HEARD

### Conditions in Kanawha Described as Better Than the Average.

### END OF STRIFE FAR OFF

### Bitter Fight Has Cost Many Lives and Great Loss of Property.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 16.—Much has been written, a great deal unwisely, concerning the situation in the mining districts of West Virginia, particularly the Kanawha district. There is argument on both sides as to just what is the cause of contention. Bitter hatred has been engendered. The operators have become arrogant and the miners have become more than ever determined to get what they want.

The records at the State House show that eleven men have lost their lives in various encounters. The casualties are much larger in number than that. The deadly fire of machine guns into the camps of the strikers is believed to have been responsible for many deaths among the miners. Violence has been long continued and property has been destroyed ruthlessly. More than 5,000 miners have been out of employment for many months, and the suffering among them is but partly alleviated by the contributions made by their general headquarters.

Whatever may be the side issues the crux of the situation appears to be the determination on the part of the United Mine Workers of America to organize the workers in this district. Recognition of the union, however, is met with refusal. While this demand is made by the men actually at these mines the forces back of them have attracted much attention and inquiry on the part of the operators.

It is frankly declared by the Kanawha district operators that the present strike is fostered by the operators of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. The fact that bituminous coal is produced with less cost to the operator in West Virginia is declared to be responsible for the backing which these operators in other States give to the United Mine Workers of America in their efforts to force unionism into this field.

### Unions Have Impaired Business.

West Virginia consumes less than 10 per cent of the coal produced within its borders. Its manufacturing industries are few in number compared with its mining resources. The 90 per cent of coal produced is sold to the competitive markets of other States. The result is of course that the transportation item is a large one, despite the fact that the railroads serving West Virginia offer low rates and every method known to the operators to scale down the cost of production at the mines has been undertaken.

How successful they have been is shown by the fact that in 1906-07, 1,000,000 tons in 1882 the total output grew to 60,000,000 tons in 1911. Much of this coal has gone into markets that would otherwise be supplied by Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Whenever an organization of the miners has gained a foothold in West Virginia the business of the section in which it has located has been impaired, according to the mine owners. They declare that this fact is the bottom of the attempts now being made to unionize the entire district. Their theory is that once West Virginia was organized the weight of miners' delegates from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois would so far overbalance those from West Virginia as to enable the United Mine Workers of America, sitting in executive session, to impose such conditions as would be acceptable to the operators in those States, but which would compel many of the operators in West Virginia to close down their mines. They assert that the United Mine Workers of America are a party to this scheme.

They back up this assertion by calling attention to the conditions under which the miners of West Virginia work, or at least did work before the union organizers came into the field and stirred up the present trouble. They make the point that there was no discontent until these organizers did come. Conditions that have prevailed for years have suddenly become oppressive.

Aside from the motive behind this trouble the operators fall to be cognizant of the fact that comforts never known are never missed, but that once an enlargement of any man's view of life is obtained it's a pretty hard thing to restrict it again. Whatever the conditions were with which the miners were formerly contented, they have now got the idea that they may be bettered, and they think rather of that than of the quarrels of coal mine owners in one State with those of another.

### Unlawful Acts on Both Sides.

The commission which was appointed by Gov. Glasscock last August to investigate the mining situation generally declared the main cause of the trouble to be the efforts of the United Mine Workers of America to organize unions throughout this district. The commission found cause to believe the assertions that the operators of the "four competitive States" were behind the movement, but they also found that while the United Mine Workers frequently resorted to unwarranted and unlawful efforts to force the union into the disordered districts, there were equally desperate, unwarranted and unlawful acts resorted to by the operators and their agents to keep the unions out of the means employed by the operators was the increase of the number of mine guards. These men are supplied by the Baldwin-Feltz Detective

# Workmen's Homes Leased From Mine Owners



Agency and are commonly known and hated as "Baldwin guards." More than a hundred of them came into the Kanawha district immediately after trouble broke out a year ago. They were heavily armed and the operators admit that they were not always the choicest individuals in the world. But they call attention also to other facts.

These mines are situated in the mountains. There are no incorporated towns and no rural police. There are two justices of the peace and two constables in each of the two main districts, Cabin Creek and Paint Creek. Cabin Creek district has a population of more than 25,000, extending over a territory some thirty miles long and from ten to fifteen miles wide. The population is a typical mining population. The majority are native whites, but there are negroes and all kinds of people from European countries. They are not given to steady work and petty outbreaks, known in the hills as "celebrations," are frequent. There are forty-five mines and more than thirty miles of railroad track, representing an outlay of much capital. The guards originally placed in this district were for the purpose of protecting property and insuring some kind of order. They took the place of a police force.

### Fighting Began With Strike.

There were four of these guards in the Cabin Creek district. They had been there for several years. Two of them had married women of the community. They swore on good terms with the miners and became an accepted part of the social life in the towns. It may be mentioned that at Decatur the operators bought out a saloon that had done \$50,000 worth of business in a year and converted it into a Y. M. C. A., the first of its kind for white miners. It was provided with bowling alleys, shower baths, swimming pools, and soft drinks and cigars could be obtained there. It was the headquarters for athletic activities and the mine guards were welcome there.

But when the strike began and the guard was increased the miners took a twist at them at each opportunity. Thanks from distant towns who had no understanding of these men were sought in and fights were frequent. There were many cases of brutality, often prompted by remarks from the miners. When the strikers were excited from their homes the guards did most of the existing, and their part in this especially unpleasant phase of the strike did not serve to better their relations with the miners. Demands were made that they be disarmed and the agitators cried aloud at meetings that unless their arms were taken from them the miners would get arms too. The whole system was declared by Gov. Glasscock's commission to be "vicious, strife prompting and un-American." The operators admitted the evil features of the system, but declared that in a time of crisis they were unable always to select the proper agents to preserve order.

Another feature of the mining system in this district, upon which stress has been laid are the stores owned by the coal companies. There are thirty-seven of these stores. The miners may purchase there anything and everything needed for themselves or their families. An account is kept and the amount of a man's purchases is deducted from his wages. The system looks bad on the face of it. While there are independent stores in some of the mining villages and men are compelled to buy at a company store, he will generally do so, not only because he knows it is expected of him as an employee of the company but also because miners are paid only monthly and cash is frequently a scarce article in their shacks.

### Stores Are Run for Profit.

On the other hand the quality of goods kept on sale is excellent. Your miner does not go in for style as a rule, but he wants good clothes and shoes. He can buy them at these stores. As for shoes, no brogans are sold. The operators declare that the miners don't want them. The miners observed by the Sun's correspondents were as well dressed, as a laborer ordinarily is, and most of them much better dressed than laborers one observes daily in New York. As to prices it is asserted by the owners that an effort is made to keep them at about the level of prices in Charleston. It is frankly confessed by the operators that the stores are not entirely for the convenience of the men, they are run for profit. This system being a part of the general plan to make money at the head of the mine. The system is assailed by the miners during this strike period. They declare that the purchasing power of their wages is ruthlessly destroyed by the overcharges at these stores. In some instances keepers of boarding houses for miners have asserted that they had 60 per cent more for provisions than they would have paid at an independent store had such a store been available. The truth lies between extremes and careful investigation and comparison shows that in most cases more than an average price has been charged for supplies. The latter phase of such prac-

tices lies in the fact that these are men below the average intelligence, that many of them are indolent and the women and children suffer because of a system that unless carefully administered is likely to result in plain, greedy advantage taken of those who are poor and helpless. Of course some companies have been guided in their conduct by the ordinary rules of humanity and no instances are recorded of food and clothing being denied to those who were sick or temporarily out of work.

### Average Wage From \$600 to \$700.

The average annual wage of the non-union miners on Paint and Cabin creeks is from \$600 to \$700. This is equal to and in some cases greater than the annual wage of men employed in the limited number of union mines in West Virginia. It is nearly \$100 more a year than is received by the unionized miners in Indiana, western Pennsylvania and Ohio is somewhat lower. The pick miners and the machine cutters are paid in these non-union mines of West Virginia according to the character and thickness of the seam. For thick, soft clean coal the miners are paid a few cents less than those in union mines and for thin coal they are frequently paid as high as ten cents more a ton than union miners. The rate for pick mining varies between thirty and forty cents a gross ton. The machine cutters get six or seven cents. In union mines there is a fixed scale for a ton of coal, no matter if the seam is three feet high or if it is seven feet high. The result is a marked difference in the wages of men having equal skill and industry. In West Virginia the scheme works out so that in the same number of hours two men of equal skill will make about the same amount no matter what the character of the seam. The men like the arrangement, and so it has happened that during all this trouble there has been no serious discussion of the wages paid.

Of course the miners in this section will not work all day and the average number of days they will work during the month is not more than sixteen.

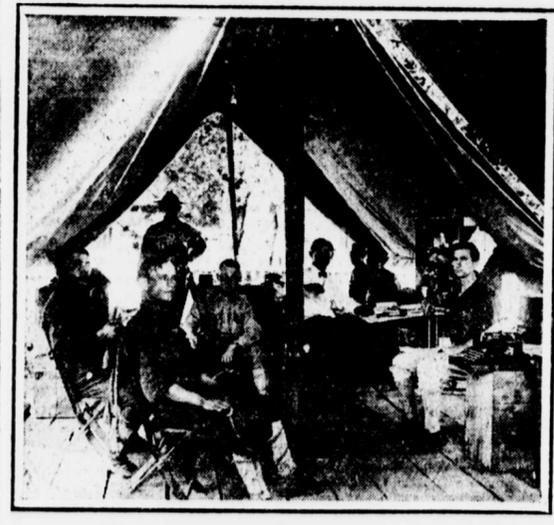
Kanawha county to be above the average. There are features of the district which make it pleasant to live there. Notwithstanding the scarring of the hills by the mining operations there is a noble prairie about them. The air is generally clear and bracing and the short hours actually spent under ground by the men have prevented the prevalence of occupational disease. The men themselves make no denial that they lived peacefully and happily.

Into this community of mining villages came the union orators with their leather lugs, slouch hats and flowing neckties. Well fed gentlemen they were and most of them were fit for work. They began gradually to talk about the advantages of belonging to a union. They observed conditions carefully and laid away in their notebooks items to be expatiated upon later. They brought with them copies of the *Labor Argus*, a Socialist newspaper published in Charleston. Those who could read did read and those who could not listened to the arguments advanced against the obtaining conditions. Meetings were held and the fires were gradually warmed in the breasts of these plain, ignorant men.

Then Mother Jones arrived and was heralded to speak in Charleston. She was not unknown by the older miners and the young men were attracted. "Her boys," as she called them, came out in great numbers to hear her. Her raucous voice rang out in arraignment of the coal barons and their tools. She was free of speech regarding sacred things and her horridish manner gained friends. From the time she arrived last August the desire to arm themselves increased among the miners. Finally she stood upon the steps of the State Capitol and shouted out that "they would take the Governor until to-morrow to take those mine guards out of Cabin Creek and if he doesn't then well take 'em out." To all of which the Governor replied by proclaiming martial law the following day.

Mother Jones was arrested on February 13 after stenographic notes of some of her speeches had been taken at various meetings in the mountains. Charles H. Boswell, the editor of the *Labor*

# Officers' Tent in Strike Region



Many of them decline to go into the pits more than twelve days during the month. Yet a tour of the villages will show many men, illiterate and having no knowledge except of the easiest way to swing a pick, who earn from \$4 to \$5 and in many cases over \$6 a day for nine hours work. Many of them own their own houses. Many more keep domestic animals. Their children are sent to the village schools and these children are robust and full of life, altogether different in appearance from children in some mining sections where alleged better conditions prevail.

### Sanitary Arrangements Throughout the District are Good.

Single men are taxed 50 cents a month to pay for doctors' fees and men with families pay \$1. Each household and each single man contributes 15 cents a month to maintain the Sheltering Arms Hospital at Hansford, where persons seriously ill or injured are taken. Men with homes get all the coal they want for \$1 a month.

### District Pleasant to Live In.

Such are the conditions with which the miners now on strike were perfectly contented until the commencement of the agitation a year ago. Those who are acquainted with mining sections elsewhere declare those in

Argus, was also placed under arrest and other agitators against whom evidence has been gathered followed them into the hands of the military. This was long after the trouble had been started, however. There were many shootings and other acts of violence before the present iron hand of the troops was stretched over the district. The story of this strike is full of stirring incidents and the end appears to be far off.

### FIVE TAKEN IN SUNDAY RAIDS.

### Four Prisoners Held as Common Gamblers, One as Proprietor.

Five prisoners were taken in raids on the East Side yesterday by Inspector Myers, Lieut. Ross and a number of detectives. Four were held for examination under the charge of being common gamblers. They were Robert Wicks, 25 years, of 29 Seventh street; Charles Berger, 28 years, a porter, of 318 Fourth street; Meyer Kohn, 30 years, of 1545 How avenue, and Harry Knautz, 25 years, a clerk of 311 East Houston street. The Sunday afternoon crowds that throng the East Side circled around the raiders at each of the three places.

# ALGEBRAIC DOCKS PUZZLE THE MAYOR

\$153,929,079 — X (Subways) — Y (Other Improvements) = Z. Says Tomkins.

### FIND Z, OR DOCK MONEY

### Commissioner Urges a North River Tunnel for Freight Trains.

In estimating to Mayor Gaynor the amount of money ultimately required for dock and terminal improvements in New York, a total of \$74,250,250, Dock Commissioner Calvin Tomkins has put the following algebraic poser up to Mayor Gaynor and ventures to suggest that the unknown quantities X, Y, Z "should now be determined systematically, not determined subsequently in careless, unrelated sequence":

Total borrowing capacity of the city \$153,929,079.35  
Deduct improvements X  
Leaves amount available for docks and other improvements Y  
Deduct cost of all other city improvements Z  
Leaves amount available for docks (Z)

In the amount required for the West Side terminal improvements, Commissioner Tomkins includes \$2,600,000 for a four track elevated railroad complete from Cortlandt street and \$1,800,000 for a continuation of the elevated road north from West Forty-first street to West Sixtieth street to form the marginal railroad which he contends is absolutely necessary to handle West Side freight. He also includes \$2,600,000 for a tunnel from West Forty-fourth street to the State line under the Hudson River, the western half of the tunnel to be built by New Jersey or the railroads. Mr. Tomkins says that the trunk lines now running into New Jersey must have freight access to Manhattan, so that the pier space which they now occupy may be released to shipping.

In a letter to the Mayor, as chairman of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, Mr. Tomkins said:

"The necessity for railroad connection between Manhattan and the mainland is the crux of the West Side organization problem. The main island of Manhattan should not be further circumscribed by expensive excavation, but rather the cheap lands of New Jersey should be made available to Manhattan's needs for car storage, terminal and industrial uses, and for the existing expensive water transfer there should be substituted continuous rail movement between the mainland and Manhattan. The land and water carriers should abandon their futile attempts to obstruct the construction of a public marginal railroad which shall make available for use the lands and water on the water side of the marginal streets. A two sided street, with railroad terminals located inshore and the ships at the water side, is absolutely necessary to serve the terminal requirements of the immense city which is rapidly taking the place of the old city of Manhattan."

The Commissioner said that a 1,200 foot pier at West Forty-sixth street and a half pier of equal length at West Forty-fourth street, as planned by him, would cost \$5,816,000.

He urged caution upon the city, saying the cost of acquiring property and rock excavation will be enormous. If such a plan is begun, he said, it will probably be carried north as far as Fifty-sixth street, and the creation of long piers north of Forty-fourth street would cost \$21,220,000. Then port improvements elsewhere would be necessarily curtailed.

### DOG SAVES AUTO PARTY.

### Gives Warning of a Boulder on a Curving Road.

WINSTON, Conn., March 16.—Major, a Scotch collie, 2½ years old, figured in two exciting incidents at Highland Lake today.

He "flagged" an automobile party, preventing probably a fatal accident. Later in view of scores of people who were helpless to render aid he saved himself from drowning after breaking through the ice in the middle of the lake half a mile from shore.

Major was on the boulevard which encircles the lake when he discovered beyond a sharp bend a giant boulder which had become dislodged and blocked the driveway. The dog turned back, got directly in front of an automobile and began barking. The driver stopped up, but none too soon.

When the car stopped only a foot of space separated it from the rock. But for Major's warning the driver would have been forced either to hit the boulder or run into the lake.

### SENATE TO ADJOURN THIS WEEK.

### Session to End When Important Nominations Are Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The extra session of the Senate, called by President Taft just before he went out of office to confirm nominations is expected to come to a close this week.

The Senators have lingered here mainly to effect the reorganization of the Senate and confirm appointments of immediate importance. It is expected the President will dispose of the pressing appointments before the end of the week. Confirmations of unobscured nominations probably will be brought about also in a few days.

When the Senate adjourns it will be until the extra session of Congress in April.

### Bryan Finds His Task Hard.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Secretary of State Bryan said to-night that his daily tasks as head of his department are more arduous than any he ever had undertaken before, not even harrying that of a campaigner for the Presidency. He said his working hours were longer and breathing spaces fewer than ever before. "Actually, I have to eat my lunch in my office," he said.

### "Watch Dog's" Nephew Gets Place.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Kennedy E. Rae of Indiana, nephew of William S. Hoar, who in a series of thirty years in the House of Representatives gained the title "Watchdog of the Treasury," has been elected clerk of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. His uncle is a Democrat, but had held the place of assistant clerk under the Republican organization.

### Buffalo Nickel Counterfeited.

PHILADELPHIA, March 16.—Secret service men are searching for the source of thousands of counterfeit bits of the new buffalo nickel which have been circulated here. The bogus coins are made of lead with a tin foil surface. Telephone boxes and slot machines have suffered chiefly.

# STEINWAY

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### PURCHASING AGENT FOR CITY.

Comptroller Has Plan to Buy Supplies Through a Board.

Comptroller Prendergast makes public this morning a report which he has prepared for the Board of Estimate on a plan for centralizing the purchase and distribution of supplies needed by all the departments of the city. The plan was based upon the purchasing system of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which buys four times as many supplies in a year as the city needs.

The Comptroller's plan contemplates amendments to the city Charter by which the bureau of purchase shall be established. These amendments will include the provision for a board of purchase, composed of the Mayor, the Comptroller and the President of the Board of Aldermen. The Board shall have the power to appoint a city purchasing agent, who shall hold office during good behavior and be removable only on charges, and a city storekeeper, who holds office under the same conditions.

If the plan goes through the heads of city departments will lose their present power to purchase supplies.

Borough President McAmenny has started a series of tests to see whether the city can make steam and electricity cheaper for itself than it can buy them. The policy for the Borough of

# Earth's eldest trees in California

## Giant sequoias, ages old

California has several big-tree groves. Mariposa Grove, near Yosemite Valley, is widely known. On the upward way to Kings River Canyon, in the high Sierras, is another notable marvel in this wonderland.

### A Santa Fe train will take you there.

The California Limited—king of the limiteds—exclusively for first-class travel—runs every day—sleeper for Grand Canyon.

Santa Fe de-Luxe—the only extra-fare flyer, Chicago and Kansas City to Los Angeles—once a week this winter—America's finest train.

California Fast Mail—also the Los Angeles Express and San Francisco Express—three other daily trains—they carry standard Pullmans, tourist sleepers and chair cars—all classes of tickets honored.

Fred Harvey meals. Visit Grand Canyon of Arizona en route. Say which train you prefer. Will mail booklets.

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