

THE COAL CONSPIRACY

The Causes, the Aims and the Possible Terminations of the Strike.

How the Miners Have Controlled the Market—The Coal Dealers Side with the Men—The Rapacity of the Monopolists—What is Thought Here About the Philadelphia Meeting—The Fuel Famine Panic Among the Poor Heavily Increasing.

The coal famine is still the absorbing topic of conversation. Speculation in regard to the subject continues to undergo the multifarious forms of imaginative conjectures which are consequent upon all the extraordinary outbreaks in social life.

The question rests in much the same position as it did according to yesterday's report in the HERALD. Nothing was left undone yesterday to ascertain any new phases that might have occurred to change the aspect of affairs, but nothing was elicited from which it would be safe to augur a serious change either on the part of the men or of the monopolists.

The opinion entertained by many that were THE DUTY TAKEN OFF COAL coming from the British provinces was viewed as a while, while many favored that view there was as many opposed to it.

It was argued that if the proposed increase of so very low a price that steamship owners and manufacturers could easily procure it, and consequently anthracite coal would not be so much in demand.

This view of the matter is worthy of serious consideration, though, of course, it will sustain the utmost objection from the Cumberland coal miners. Probably the question would never have arisen were it not for the present extraordinary troubles in the Pennsylvania coal regions.

But as the question stands to-day there can be no doubt but that there were no doubt at all upon the importation of foreign coal anthracite coal would not reach nearly so high a price as the demands for the more numerous bituminous coal there is in the market the less would be the demand for anthracite coal, which therefore has been very much in use in places where bituminous coal now is used.

In regard to THE STRIKE AMONG THE MINERS in Pennsylvania very little that is new can be said. Some of the largest coal merchants in the city are in almost perfect accord with the men. It seems that for a number of years past the miners and their assistants have controlled the coal trade, and it is acknowledged on all sides that they have ably done so.

In the hands of the men rested the fluctuations of the price of coal in this city, and the wholesale dealers, who are in the habit of buying up all the coal with a view to the interests of employ and employer.

The manner which the stability of the trade was considered simply in the work performed by the men. It would be impossible for any company to put upon the market a quantity of coal of which the workmen were ignorant, and for the most part, the men's wages depended upon the tonnage delivered in New York, or that was carried from the mines to New York.

The question of the strike, remembering what was stated in yesterday's HERALD, may be briefly stated. It is considered by the companies, the railroads and the merchants that the men have taken upon themselves a share of the coal trade.

AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF PROFITS, which profits ought to come reasonably from the sale of the coal, is the demand of the men.

The men believe that about six dollars a ton is a reasonable price for Pennsylvania coal. Anthracite coal is higher in price, and the reason why it comes the trouble? Simply in this way, that there is a dispute between the men and the companies in regard to the profits.

The men insist that they are entitled to a certain share; the companies also insist that they are entitled to a share. The men and the companies are willing to accord them—and then in their own minds, as is evident from their action in advancing the price of coal, they believe the result being that all parties want to have a finger in the pie.

It may be something novel to know that hitherto the workmen in the mines have controlled altogether the price of coal in this city. Yet such is the fact. Things were so arranged that when coal was going down.

TO LOW A PRICE the men suspended work, and consequently, from the scarcity of coal, the price of the coal rose. The reason for the suspension of work consisted in the custom of working on what is called a "basis," the men getting a certain share of the profits over the amount of money fixed upon as the price per ton as was in the case of the coal.

As the lower the prices went the more money the men lost, so that the miners' indignation increased as they advanced in price. The men were in a quandary there was much trouble in regard to fixing any satisfactory "basis" upon which to work.

In a large section of the mining regions the men contended that the price of coal should be fixed by the men, and that the price of coal should be fixed by the men, and that the price of coal should be fixed by the men.

And the point of the trouble rested in this, that the miners feared, and with good reason, that if the companies could once again control the price of coal, they would reduce it so low that, were there to be a downward scale in force in regard to the men, their wages would amount to nothing.

Put in the briefest possible form, that explains the present difficulty, the men will not allow companies to advance the price of coal, and the companies will not allow the men to advance the price of coal.

THE MEETING HELD IN PHILADELPHIA on Thursday last does not make matters much better than they were before. Most of the coal dealers in this city are in favor of the men, and admitted that the resolutions proposed were such that it was never meant that they should be accepted.

The resolutions referred to were published in yesterday's HERALD, and they are as follows: That the coal companies in their wholesale and highbanded raising of the price of coal should be held responsible for the coal famine, and that the coal companies should be held responsible for the coal famine.

THE HERALD reporter "interviewed" very many of the wholesale and retail dealers yesterday, and he is constrained to state, emphatically, that the feeling of the city is in favor of the men, and that the feeling of the city is in favor of the men.

The action of the railroad companies in their wholesale and highbanded raising of the price of coal should be held responsible for the coal famine, and that the coal companies should be held responsible for the coal famine.

THE CAUSES OF THIS COAL FAMINE to the bottom. That there are influences at work which cannot be easily detected.

There must be something more in the coup d'etat than the breaking up of the meeting in Philadelphia, which is simply an impossibility.

Thursday, were more favorable to the interests of the company than those of the men, in the present struggle, were yesterday, after seeing the cards and the WASHINGTON Convention, enthusiastic in behalf of the workmen.

They said that the workmen were ever anxious to keep down the price of coal, and that they were ever anxious to keep down the price of coal.

THE AMBITIOUS COMPANIES, who were not satisfied with ordinary profits.

After a careful canvass the HERALD reporter is more inclined to think that the majority of wholesale and retail dealers incline to the belief that the workmen will eventually win the battle.

The interview with the men yesterday afternoon on the leading lights of the Philadelphia convention on Thursday, but was unable to glean from him anything further than that contained in the resolutions passed at that meeting and already referred to.

For the present no more favorable terms will be proposed, and it is for the fathers to decide for or against it.

It is not likely that the miners will change from the position they have taken.

Nothing new can be said relative to affairs in the city. The same grumbling, growing opposition to the high price of coal continues in the poorer districts of the city.

THE EMPLOYERS' PROFITS, of a few weeks ago, has disappeared.

But yet no cases of absolute need have occurred. The assistance of the coal famine is so thoroughly equal in all the regions, and will say women of the Schuylkill region fully as high wages as they earned under the new compromise.

There are about 250 retail yards in the city; but few of these are doing business, and the advance in the price of coal has not been met.

Judging from the statements made yesterday by several retailers it must be seen that the difficulty of procuring coal is not the only cause of the present coal famine.

As to which the trouble shall now be speculation on the part of the coal companies, and that they will increase even more in the suburban cities than here in New York.

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