

ONE MAN'S OPINIONS

BY N. D. COCHRAN

Who Owns Colorado?—On the floor of the American congress Congressman Keating of Colorado made the following statement:

"There is something dreadfully wrong with the Colorado administration. I do not approve of the action of the governor. He made the fatal mistake of turning the militia over to the Rockefeller interests and permitting them to take the place of the gunmen in the West Virginia strike. There are 26 times as many men killed in the Colorado mines as in all the mines of Austria, and yet in one Colorado county alone the judge has not permitted a single case to go to the jury in ten years."

It has been charged in Colorado newspapers, and not denied, that militia officers were permitted to recruit the state militia from men at the scene of trouble, and that the gunmen imported into Colorado through strikebreaking agencies and in the pay of the coal operators were sworn in as state militiamen and turned loose on the striking miners.

It has been charged, and not denied, that the local government in two of the counties of Colorado, where most of the trouble has occurred, is absolutely controlled by the mine managers—including sheriffs, judges, prosecuting attorneys.

Although Mother Jones has violated no law, she was twice imprisoned by the state militia for being in the coal country; and twice when habeas corpus proceedings were to be held before the state Supreme Court she was released in order that there might be no decision by the court as to the right of the militia to imprison her. And she was re-arrested after the hearing was abandoned.

The point is that the state militia and the private Rockefeller army of hired gunmen, imported from the slums of the big cities, through con-

tract with strikebreaking agencies, WERE UNDER ORDERS OF THE COAL BARONS WHILE IN THE STRIKE ZONE.

In other words two armies were there to obey orders of the mine managers and clothed with all of the authority of the law to help the coal barons shoot the miners into submission and slavery.

It was these hired assassins of privilege who committed the massacre of women and children in Colorado.

In Michigan the same kind of mercenaries assaulted and forcibly deported Moyer and Tanner, and nobody was ever indicated for the outrage—because the mine owners of Houghton county controlled all of the machinery of government. The chauffeur of Jim McNaughton, manager of the Calumet & Hecla mine, was foreman of the grand jury that pretended to investigate the outrage; and members of the so-called Citizens' Alliance comprised a majority of that grand jury.

In Colorado it appears that the governor of the state was a servile tool of the coal barons, Gen. Chase in charge of the state militia was their servile tool, and sheriffs, state's attorneys and even judges were mere puppets of this same unscrupulous gang.

So long as nobody shot and killed except the hired army of the coal barons nobody talked of insurrection in Colorado. It was only when women and children had been foully massacred by gunmen and militiamen, and miners had armed to protect their lives and the lives of their wives and children, that there was talk of civil war and insurrection, and the federal government was called on for troops.

This is not so much a matter of opinion, as it is a cold-blooded statement of fact.

My opinion about it is that the sooner all of us get the whole truth about these private kingdoms estab-