

"More than any other person in America I am in constant contact with the millions who toil. I know what they are thinking. I know they are THINKING."

Mother Jones rocked to and fro in silence a moment. Then this, like a shot:

"No class of people in the world are as law abiding as the workers. But they can't stand having the government they help support turn against their women and children. They can't stand it because they haven't been reduced to absolute beasts—not yet!

"That's why the strikers of Colorado are fighting the state militia. It tried to serve Rockefeller. The militia had the guns and the miners had the poor old constitution. They tried to get justice under the constitution.

"But they couldn't do it. The Rockefeller guns, backed up by the guns put in Gov. Ammons' hands by the constitution, deprived those miners and their families of ALL THE LIBERTY guaranteed by the constitution.

"So these miners, being men and loving their wives and babies just as much as the coal barons love theirs, got the guns the constitution says they have a right to bear in defense of their homes and their families, and they started out to clean up all the gunmen who had killed their women and babies and burned their homes.

"The nation, because it doesn't understand, is horrified at the bloodshed.

"Isn't it horrible?" you hear women in mass meetings say.

"Of course, it is horrible. Ludlow was dreadful.

"But liberty was never won in any generation or by any people without bloodshed.

"Mark that!

"Slavery was so horrible that Lincoln called on men to go to war to preserve the union and wipe out slavery. But he didn't make war on women and children directly. They, of course, always bear the brunt of any war—especially an industrial war.

"But here in Colorado Gov. Ammons called on the military forces of

the state to go to war to perpetuate the slavery of the southern coal fields that has been a blot on the nation's honor for 30 years.

"That war as it has been waged at the direction of the Wall street burglars and in the name of the great state of Colorado for six months resulted logically in the Ludlow massacre.

"And a suddenly shocked world cries:

"Isn't it horrible?"

"The unthinking, busy world sees one result of a long-standing condition and it is horrified.

"Wasn't it horrible when 263 miners were blow to pieces or cooked to death down at Dawson, N. M., last October? Wasn't it more horrible to know that those fathers and brothers had been killed to satisfy a greed that was waiting to consume their children?"

"Wasn't it horrible, too, for those miners in Southern Colorado to know that they stood three times as sure a chance to get killed in mines where safety laws were openly and continuously violated as do miners in any other state in the union? Those statistics were formulated by the government.

"Wasn't it enough to shock into action the women of Colorado, who have had the ballot for 20 years or more, to know that Rockefeller had been spreading a social and industrial disease all through those corrupted Colorado counties of Las Animas and Huerfano?"

"Shouldn't the voting women of Colorado have voiced a protest when I, an old woman, was held prisoner in defiance of the federal and state constitution that Gov. Ammons had been