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HYLAN'S COMMITTEE SEES COAL COLONIES

Hirshfield Calls Hearing, but Operators Refuse to Attend.

HEN COOPS AS HOMES

Cost of Berwind-White Fuel to Interborough May Be Investigated.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Oct. 29 (Associated Press).—Mayor Hylan's committee of five from New York city, which came to Johnstown Saturday night to investigate the conditions under which coal for New York's transportation utilities is mined in this area, to-day visited colonies of union miners formerly employed by the Berwind-White company.

David Hirshfield, Commissioner of Accounts, chairman of the committee, announced the first hearing would be in Windsor to-morrow. Union men said a large delegation would attend. Officials of the Berwind-White company said the company would not be represented. Mr. Hirshfield was told by the operators that the company would be glad to receive the committee at its offices, but would not enter into any conference or hearing the union leaders attend.

A small army of children, most of them poorly clad, formed an advance guard for the investigators. Men and women who were interviewed charged the company had "persecuted" these miners because of their union affiliations, evicted them from company houses and in some cases tossed their scanty belongings on the highways.

"We are doing our best to live, but we don't like to live in these tents another winter," said one woman to Commissioner Hirshfield. A union representative explained that some of the campers had lived in the colony for more than a year.

At the chicken coop colony at Seenor several families, who said they recently had been evicted from company houses had fitted up a fairly large chicken house, and a family was living in each of the tiny flats. The principal charge by strikers at Seenor was that the company did not accurately weigh the cars of coal, and that the coal diggers "usually got the worst of it."

Commissioner Hirshfield intimated to-night that the committee might inquire into the cost of the coal sold to the Interborough Consolidated by the Berwind-White Company. The Berwind interests are heavy stockholders in the Interborough.

"The city government of New York is a partner in the Interborough Consolidated," said Mr. Hirshfield. "Charges have been made that the Berwind-White Company has not given a fair deal to miners with union tendencies, and that it makes an excessive profit in the coal sold the Interborough. We are here to get the facts."

RAIL BOARD ATTACKS 'LIVING WAGE' AS RUINOUS PRINCIPLE

Continued from First Page.

board," the opinion continued, "and, we believe, of a great majority of the people, the shompen's strike was an egregious blunder without any real justification, and that it is said with the kindest feelings for the employees who have suffered most from its effects. It has wrought harm to all and good to none."

It has burdened the railways with an unjust expense, has inflicted great losses upon the public, especially the food producers, and has resulted in approximately \$177,535,524 loss to the strikers. For all this the men on strike have won nothing. They have gained no concession as to any matter upon which they struck. For months the strike has been merely a struggle upon the part of the men to regain their position.

Contrasting the situation of the maintenance of way organization, which withheld its strike and appealed to the board, the opinion asserts the employees received about \$147,658,866 in wages since July first, which would have been lost had they gone on a strike, and in addition have received an increase of wages of about \$20,000,000 a year.

"Perhaps there is no better time and place," the opinion adds, "to emphasize the belief of a majority of the labor board that railway strikes are utterly useless and wasteful, and that the employees will always gain better results at the hands of any tribunal fairly constituted and representative of the people than they will by making war on the carriers and the public."

In addition to the decision and the dissenting and supporting opinions, to-day's document contained a statement by W. L. McMenimen, labor member of the board, as to his reason for voting for the two cent raise for the trackmen. He said he favored a larger increase but voted for the two cent raise after the labor board had been in a long deadlock during each day of which the men were losing about \$70,000 and when he feared that no increase might be obtained if the two cent raise advocated by the public group was not accepted.

Adoption of a family of five with one wage earner as a basis for computing a living wage also was attacked in the opinion, which asserted that the last census showed there were 4.4 persons in the average family, only 1.4 dependent children, instead of the three that the experts before the board took as a basis, and that there were 1.36 workers instead of one in the family.

Commenting upon government ownership if the living wage principle were established, the opinion said: "Of course, for those who desire government ownership this would be a quick method of getting it, for it is a sure thing that the public would not stand for the imposition of higher rates to pay such a deficit."

It asserted that in the last analysis the public would pay for the increased wages and that most of it would come from workers in the other industries.

Commenting on an article by William Randolph Hearst included in Mr. Wharton's dissenting opinion, in which the statement was made that the unjustifiable lowering of the shompen's wages caused the shompen's strike, the supporting opinion declared that such a statement was not important except in so far as it was adopted and indorsed by a member of the board.

In the judgment of the majority of the

BOAT STRIKE THREATENS CITY'S COAL SUPPLIES

Captains Union Plans Walk-out in Few Weeks.

Union leaders predicted last night that 2,000 captains of tidewater coal and grain boats and deck crews would strike before the middle of November unless the employers agree to the demands of the men for an increase in pay. The captains met yesterday at 144 Eleventh avenue to formulate their demands for an increase to \$110 a month. In addition they want \$1.50 extra when re-

quired to work nights, Sundays and holidays. Union leaders said the men now make from \$85 to \$90 a month.

Such a strike would seriously interfere with the movement of winter coal in this section, and, timed just as the first cold weather is setting in, easily endanger the coal supply.

The meeting yesterday was called by John Slose, chairman of local 847, to hear a report of the committee which tried last month to reach an agreement with the boat owners.

Many of the speakers wanted to go on strike November 1 unless the owners agreed to the increase, but it was decided to wait until after November 8, when a conference will be held with the Coal Merchants Association.



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