

COMPERS SEES NEW ISSUES IN CRISIS

Making of Injunction Proceedings, Says New Issues May Arise Not Confined to Miners.

ACTION SURE TO BODE ILL

Friends Demands of Miners and Aspects Course of Government Will Not Prevent Strike.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—Samuel Compers, assistant attorney general, declared the injunction in the coal strike case "can only result in creating new and more disturbing issues which may not be confined solely to the miners."

The statement issued jointly by Mr. Compers, vice-president Will, and secretary Morrison of the federal court at Indianapolis, follows:

"Throughout the period of the war and during the period of stress on the part of the coal industry, the miners of America labored patriotically and arduously, in order that the principles of freedom and democracy might triumph over the forces of arbitrary authority and despotism."

When armed hostilities ceased last November, the miners found themselves in the paradoxical position where their intensive labors were being used to further enrich the owners of coal mines and merchants dealing in coal, by the immediate reduction of the price of the coal. Of course the mine owners readily conceded that an over-abundance of mined coal would seriously disturb the high prices of coal and endanger their large margins of profit.

The other hand, the miners found that with the constantly rising cost of necessities of life and with their income reduced over 50 per cent because of idleness, they had reached the limit of human endurance. Orderly and improved processes were invoked to negotiate a new understanding with the mine owners and miners were asked to return to work at least five days during each week throughout the entire year, and allow them a wage sufficient to enable them to live decently and free from the pressure of unemployment of life.

"In attempting to negotiate this new understanding and relation, the miners found that their plea for continuous employment was not only refused, but that the mine owners' arrangement to curtail the mining of coal so as to continue exploiting the public with high and exorbitant prices."

"The mine owners, by their unwillingness to negotiate with the miners, and by their refusal to accept the decision to strike whenever it was demonstrated fair dealing did not prevail."

"We are now faced with a coal strike of vast magnitude. The government now proposes to intervene because of a possible coal shortage. Apparently the government is not concerned with the manipulation by the mine owners which has made for present coal shortage and undue unemployment of the miners for the last 11 months. Instead of dealing with these responsible for this grave menace to the public welfare, it now proposes to punish those who, by force of circumstances have been the victims of the coal barons' exploitation. The miners are now told that the war is not over and that all war legislation is still in force, and, if reports received here are correct, the government intends to apply existing war measures, not against the owners of the coal mines, but against the coal miners. The government has taken steps to enforce war measures by an injunction and it has restrained the officials of the United Mine Workers from counseling, aiding or in any way assisting the members of this organization for relief against grievous conditions of life and employment."

"Action Inevitable."

"It is almost inconceivable that a government which is proud of its jurisdiction in a great war to liberate suppressed peoples, should now undertake to suppress the legitimate aims, hopes and aspirations of a group of its own people. It is still more inconceivable that a nation which may justly be proud of the fact that Lincoln, should now reverse the application of the great truth he enunciated when he said that as between capital and labor, labor should receive first and foremost consideration."

"The injunction against the United Mine Workers bodes for ill. An injunction of this nature will not prevent the strike of the miners—it will only restrain the leadership, but will give added strength to unwise counsel and increase bitterness and friction."

"This injunction can only result in creating new and more disturbing issues which may not be confined solely to the miners."

These views were presented to the attorney general in a conference of this afternoon lasting nearly two hours by President Compers, Secretary Morrison, and the Vice-President Will, of the American Federation of Labor.

The attorney general declined to predict what would be done if the miners failed to heed the federal court's order, pointing out that the court itself initiates means to deal with those who disregard its mandates.

Take Many Measures.

All day long the government continued steadily taking measures to deal with the practical as well as the legal phase of the crisis.

President Wilson by executive order fixed maximum prices of soft coal.

Fuel Administrator Garfield required the war orders which will give the railroad administration

They Defy Injunction Granted by U. S. Court Against Walkout



John I. Lewis, acting president of United Mine Workers, upper left, and below, left to right, William Green, secretary-treasurer United Mine Workers; Philip Murray, president western Pennsylvania miners; and John Moore, president Ohio miners.

The above men are the leaders of the miners in the walkout of bituminous workers. They announced that the strike would be carried out despite the injunction granted by the federal court at Indianapolis.

power to seize coal in transit and divert it to consumption, in accordance with the idea of doing the greatest good for the greatest number. The machinery of the railroad administration, through which the acts of the fuel administration will be carried out, was put ready for functioning."

United States troops began arriving in some of the mining districts early to take part in keeping order and protecting those miners who wished to continue work. The extent and full nature of the troop movements were not disclosed, but it was apparent that the war department was acting on a carefully worked out plan to be ready if the local or state authorities, reinforced by federal deputy marshals, were unequal to the situation.

Congress continued to show its temper and the house, amid speeches of denunciation of an attempt to paralyze the country, unanimously adopted the senate resolution pledging the government to deal with the emergency.

FEDERAL TROOPS REACH WEST VIRGINIA

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Oct. 31.—Four hundred soldiers arrived here from Camp Taylor, Ky., at 6 p. m. for strike duty in the West Virginia coal fields. The men were not permitted to leave the cars, and it was said that their disposition would not be known until the remainder of the battalion, now on the way, was here.

The second troop train and supply train arrived here at 7:25 p. m. Major Charles L. Coulter, intelligence officer, said the troops would remain in Huntington pending further orders from Major General Leonard Wood, commanding the central department. The men, it was stated, would remain in the cars until such orders had been received.

Later it was officially announced that Colonel W. H. Harrel, commanding the battalion, would proceed at once to Charleston, where headquarters would be established. He was to be accompanied by the machine gun company, while one company of infantry was to be sent to Beckley, and another to Clarksburg. Beckley is an important mining center in the mountains of Raleigh county, on Coal river.

ASKS GOVERNOR TO MEET HIM HALF WAY

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Oct. 31.—Governor John J. Cornwell was called upon this afternoon by President C. F. Keeney, district No. 17, United Mine Workers of America, to meet him half way in maintaining peace and tranquility in the union.

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COAL INJUNCTION FORCES STRIKERS TO KEEP SILENCE

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John Wilkinson, district president of District 12, Muskogee, Okla., and the following members of the executive board: John Lewis, Pittsburgh, Pa.; R. W. Wainwright, Yorkville, Ohio; A. J. Perry, Hazleton, Pa.; Lawrence Bramlett, Diamond, Ind.; John J. Matthes, Williamstown, Pa.; W. D. Van Horn, Terre Haute, Ind.; Samuel Halliwell, Boone, Iowa; Frank Walter, Jellico, Tenn.; William Dalrymple, McAlester, Okla.; Hugh McLeod, Acme, Wyo.; George Baker, Central City, Ky.; Andrew S. Sells, Novato, Mo.; G. L. Peck, Pittsburgh, Pa.

In presenting the petition Judge Ames made it clear that the case will not involve the general right of workers to organize or quit work. He said it would have no bearing on other industries and merely involves the right of labor during the war to restrict or destroy the supply of food and fuel.

He added, "on the broad general powers of the government to enforce its laws and protect its people against disaster."

Under the order the union officials are commanded to withdraw strike orders already issued and are forbidden to send out any other orders written or oral, tending to make it effective.

The government forces moved swiftly. Their mobilization was completed by the arrival of Assistant Attorney General Ames from Washington. He went to the office of L. E. Slack, district attorney, where the official seal of the government was waiting. Judge Anderson was in chambers a few steps away and process servers were in readiness to take the necessary documents to union headquarters.

Mr. Ames made it plain at the outset of the brief proceedings that the action was a government affair, taken at the direction of the attorney general as a measure to carry out the policy of the country during a state of war.

The petition averred that the defendants had entered into a conspiracy to restrict the supply and distribution of bituminous coal and to restrict the operation of the railroads by restricting or destroying the supply of necessary fuel.

It set forth that the annual production of the country was in the neighborhood of 500,000,000 tons, the principal portion of which comes from Ohio, western Pennsylvania, Illinois and Indiana—the general competitive field. It said there are approximately 612,000 bituminous mine workers of all classes in the country, of whom about 400,000 are members of the United Mine Workers of America.

ACT AND SUIT Operative.

The petition sought that the application for the temporary injunction be based upon the act of August 10, 1918, which in section 10, authorized the government to take action to compel the production of coal.

"Our organization has no desire to violate any contract properly entered into," Lewis said.

Lewis suggested that the operators get in touch with President Henry Dreesman of Billings, Mont., regarding the attitude of the lignite miners. It was announced by the operators that the contract with the United Mine Workers of America is believed to be effective until September 20, 1920.

TROOPS ORDERED OUT IN TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 31.—Major General E. M. Lewis, it was announced here tonight, has ordered three companies of federal troops to come to Knoxville from Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga., to be ready to enter the coal fields of east Tennessee or eastern Kentucky in event trouble arises following the strike of miners called for Friday midnight.

COLORADO TROOPS GO TO COAL FIELDS

DENVER, Col., Oct. 31.—Three companies of state troops mobilized at Golden tonight, were ordered to proceed immediately to the coal fields at Frederick, Col. They are to entrain at 11 o'clock. Troops mobilized at Trinidad will proceed to the southern coal fields tomorrow. It was announced at the capital.

REWARD IS OFFERED

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oct. 31.—Governor Robertson has authorized the offer of a reward of \$250 for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of Charles Stricker, chief of police at Commerce, Ottawa county, Stricker was killed October 22.

"So she has lost her husband? Has she recovered from her grief yet?" "Not yet. You know how she loves these insurance companies are in setting."

Strength for Endurance

Influenza and its kindred complications have left a trail of weakness in many homes. Thousands need and would find definite tonic-help in

SCOTT'S EMULSION

famed far and wide for its ability to nourish the body and restore vitality. If your body is weakened from any cause, gather strength for endurance—take Scott's Emulsion often.

Here Is What Miners' Leaders Said Disregarding Injunction

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Oct. 31.—Assuming a defiant attitude toward the government's move to stop by injunction the threatened strike of soft coal miners, Frank Fanning, chairman of the miners' union, said today that the miners would "strike" had developed into something more than a miners' strike, and that it was "an attempt to enslave the workingmen and women of the country."

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Oct. 31.—It is now expected to recall the injunction issued at Indianapolis in the coal strike case, in the opinion of President Frank Keeney of district No. 17. He said it would be impossible to prevent the men from going out.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 31.—United Mine Workers of America will disregard the injunction ordering them not to strike, according to J. E. Keeney, president of the Alabama district, who said he had received instructions from Indianapolis this afternoon to proceed with the walkout.

CHICAGO, Oct. 31.—The 13,000 miners working in the Kansas district of the United Mine Workers of America will strike, a originally planned, despite the injunction issued at Indianapolis, Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas miners said here today.

"We'll call their bluff—the strike can't be stopped," he said.

He said the proceedings in equity would not be the defendants on an equality with the government, and inside justice to the government. This union, district No. 21, was concerned the miners' strikers and miners would not join the strike in the event, however, that these men, or any of them, are persuaded to join the strike district officials said that upon notification of the union officials to withdraw the strike order issued October 15.

Ames Explains Order.

Judge Ames explained that the restraining order obtained today does not affect any act of individuals nor union actions which took place prior to the issuing of the injunction.

"There are three stages to the proceedings," he said. "The restraining order, issued today, the temporary injunction, application for which is to be heard November 8, and the permanent order, which probably will come up November 20."

"The right of the individual workman to quit work is not involved by today's proceedings, nor is the general strike order issued October 15. That general strike order will not be considered until the restraining order is lifted, and the injunction will have to be lifted in conjunction with one or more other individuals."

"Does it operate to prevent addresses at mass meetings?" he was asked.

"It does," replied Judge Ames. "It has a broad application to any concerted act or thing calculated to aid or abet the strike."

He then explained that an injunction was sought because if reliance was placed on criminal proceedings the strike would be in effect and the injury done before they could be

reading, "that the new wage agreement would apply only to the central competitive field, whereas the strike has been called for the entire United States."

Feeling as charged that the scale operators and "in violation of the act and against the public policy of the United States, conspired, agreed and arranged to issue, the strike order sent out from Indianapolis on October 15. The petition also averred that the miners refused arbitration when it was proposed by Secretary of Labor Wilson at Washington.

The Up Country.

The petition charged that the scale strike if effective would stop operation of the railroads and used the fact that under railroad administration contracts the government was obliged to pay the roads a guaranteed return for the use of their property by the government.

The railroad administration it was averred has more than 1,200 contracts for coal, 60 per cent of which are based upon the extension of the Washington wage agreement to March, 1920.

"If the above wage strike becomes effective," said the petition, "it will be impossible to fulfill these contracts and impossible to operate the railroads and the deficit in income will have to be supplied by the federal government out of the public funds."

It was pointed out that suspension of the roads would mean also the stopping of the mails, transportation of the armed forces of the United States and cessation of interstate commerce.

"The government is in position to bring this suit," queried Judge Anderson.

"Yes, from every standpoint," replied Judge Ames.

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MOBILIZE STATE TROOPS AS COAL MEN QUIT WORK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

and Texas and the long representation of the United Mine Workers of America, summoned to the district headquarters at Muskogee by a telegraph sent from Indianapolis by the United Mine Workers of America. The telegraph President John Wilkinson of the United Mine Workers of America, the subject of a conference the officials will hold there tomorrow. From expressions credited to district officials they take the view that the injunction is upon all miners and officers of mine workers' organizations, international, district and local.

There was a hint that it was possible that the organization would do something tomorrow regarding the strike so far as 3 panes, Okla. and Texas are concerned.

The strike is already in effect in Arkansas and Oklahoma according to telephonic reports received tonight at the operating offices here from the leading operators of the states. The high today closed up their working places and made all arrangements for a winter in of work but in no instance did it appear that they had from the mine, according to the reports.

Officials of the district or organization of the mine workers viewed the operators' move that engineers, firemen and pumpmen would remain at their posts to keep the mines from flooding. They expressed the belief that so far as district No. 21 was concerned the strikers' statement and pumpmen would not join the strike in the event, however, that these men, or any of them, are persuaded to join the strike district officials said that upon notification of the operators they would supply the substitutes to take their places to prevent injury to the mines.

J. S. Holt of this city, assistant United States district attorney, said today his office had not as yet been requested to take any action to restrain the strike order from being placed into effect. He said, however, it was expected that action similar to that taken at Indianapolis would be instituted here upon request of Washington.

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BURLESON GIVES NORTH MUSKOGEE A NEW NAME

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—President Wilson has announced that the town of North Muskogee, Okla., will be renamed after the late Senator Charles McNary.

The town of North Muskogee, Okla., was named after the late Senator Charles McNary, who died in 1918. The town was one of the largest in the state at the time of its naming.

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