

SAD ACCIDENT ON THE HEIGHTS.



Hungry Dumb... eat the summit. May come down as like a plummet. He couldn't be rescued with buck and tackle. When once the tons begin to cackle.

HANDICAPS MINERS ALSO OPERATORS

RECOGNITION OF UNITED MINE WORKERS DECREASES PRODUCTION AS WELL AS DAILY WAGES.

Pueblo Star-Journal Investigates Conditions of the Only Operating Mine in Colorado Which Has Acceded to the Demands of the Union—Results Not Very Satisfactory to Either Operators or Laborers.

From the Pueblo (Colo.) Star-Journal:

Officials of the United Mine Workers of America gave as a reason for calling a strike in Colorado that coal miners in this state are entitled to better wages and working conditions. To fully obtain these benefits these officials have persistently claimed that recognition of the United Mine Workers of America, by the signing of a contract with that organization, was necessary.

On the other hand, coal mine operators have claimed that the signing of a contract with the United Mine Workers of America would not only fail to bring the miners the benefits anticipated, or bring to the operators any advantages, but that the signing of such a contract would result in handicapping both the operators and the miners.

For the purpose, therefore, of attempting to obtain reliable information concerning the actual conditions at an average size coal mine under contract with the United Mine Workers of America, the Star-Journal addressed a communication to the Royal Gorge Coal company of Canon City, which signed up with that organization about two weeks after the strike was called and which is still attempting, it now develops, to operate under that contract.

Following is the correspondence in full:

Asks For Information.

Pueblo, Colo., Dec. 6.—The Royal

Gorge Coal Company, Canon City, Colorado, Gentlemen: So far as we know yours is the only large coal mine in this section of the state which granted the demands of the United Mine Workers of America in full after the strike was called, and which is now operated under a contract with that organization.

Believing that the people of this state would be interested in knowing what the result of your experience now is, in running your mine, we are appending hereto a list of questions concerning conditions of mining coal prior to the strike, also questions as to the result since your mine has been operated under a contract with the United Mine Workers of America, and if you can give us brief answers to as many of these questions as possible, we feel that the information will be of statewide interest and will be appreciated by the public at large. Asking the favor of an early reply. Yours respectfully, "PUEBLO STAR-JOURNAL."

Coal Company Makes Reply.

Canon City, Colo., Dec. 12.—The Pueblo Star-Journal, Pueblo, Colo., Gentlemen: Your letter of the 6th instant received, is being what the result of our experience is in operating our mine under a contract with the United Mine Workers of America, and asking us to reply to a list of questions concerning conditions of mining coal both before and after the strike was called.

We hand you herewith the list of questions you ask and the answers therein briefly stated, and while we could add a great deal more than the answer to each question, we believe these questions will suffice to bring out fully the situation as it now exists in our mine.

I have personally talked with Messrs. Lawton and McLennan, two of the principal officers of the United Mine Workers of America, I Denver about the unsatisfactory conditions which exist at our mine, at which time the situation as developed by all the questions and answers therein was fully discussed, and while I was told the matter should be investigated, I have obtained no relief.

Questions and Answers.

1. How many coal miners were

employed in your mine prior to the strike?

Answers, 42.

2. How many miners are now employed in your mine?

Answer, 52.

3. What was the average daily tonnage of miners employed prior to the strike?

Answer, 4 1/2 tons. This average is for 47 days in October and November, 1912.

4. What is the average daily tonnage of miners now employed in your mine?

Answer, 2.54 tons. This average is for 47 days in October and November, 1912, covering the same period of time one year later.

5. What were the average daily earnings of miners employed prior to the strike?

Answer, \$4.20.

6. What are the average daily earnings of miners now employed in your mine?

Answer, \$2.82 1/2.

7. What was the approximate average number of hours per day miners worked prior to the strike?

Answer, 6 hours.

8. What is the approximate average number of hours miners now work per day?

Answer, about 4 hours.

9. Were you ever asked to permit the employment of a checkweighman before the strike?

Answer, No.

10. Are checkweighmen now employed by the miners at your mine, and if so, are the miners satisfied with the arrangement?

Answer, 1. Yes. 2. Hear some dissatisfaction about too much being deducted for slits from some and some care mining.

11. Did the coal mine inspector of this state ever demand that you remedy sanitary or working conditions in your mine which were not remedied in accordance with his demands?

Answer, No.

12. Were you ever asked during the 12 months prior to the strike to remedy any conditions in your mine not covered by the laws of this state which were not remedied?

Answer, No.

13. Have there been any changes or improvements of any kind in the

sanitary or working conditions in your mine since your contract was made with the United Mine Workers of America?

Answer, No more than usual or under ordinary conditions.

14. Were you ever asked within 12 months prior to the strike to increase wages of your coal miners?

Answer, In one or two instances on special garbage work an increase was asked for and was granted, and on no other work was an increase asked for and during the 12 months no demand for an increase was denied.

15. Did you have any control over your miners before the strike, so far as their habits, their condition when presenting themselves for work, and as to their efficiency were concerned?

Answer, Yes.

16. Have the rules and regulations imposed by the United Mine Workers of America in their contract operated to increase the average daily tonnage of coal miners?

Answer, No, as will be seen by answer to Question No. 4.

17. Do coal miners now earn as much money net per individual as they did prior to the strike?

Answer, No, as will be seen by the answer to Question No. 4.

18. Is the total output of your mine as large as it was prior to the strike, taking into consideration the number of miners working before and after the strike?

Answer, No.

19. Have you any control now over the men who present themselves for work, as to their physical or mental condition, or as to their efficiency as coal miners?

Answer, No. We have to take them in turn as presented for work in order not to discriminate.

20. Can you hire a miner who in your opinion is a good miner, but who does not wish to join the United Mine Workers of America?

Answer, He cannot continue to work unless he becomes a member of the union.

21. Can you exact the production of any given quantity of coal within a stated time?

Answer, No.

22. Can you discharge a man for evident carelessness or for evident incompetency?

Answer, Not easily; must satisfy the pit committee of his incompetency, which is sometimes hard to do.

23. Who decides demands that you refuse to agree to?

Answer, The mine committee

representing the local union and their district board.

24. In the event you object to the decisions of the local grievance committee, who finally decides all disputed demands?

Answer, Same as No. 23.

25. In the event you still refuse to accept the decision of the officials of the United Mine Workers of America, what then happens?

Answer, We presume they would call out their men and close us down.

26. How many disputes have been settled locally at your mine since you have been operating under your new contract?

Answer, Almost all daily occurrence and usually settled at a sacrifice to keep the mine going.

27. What is the general character of the disputes which now arise, and are they, if remedied, calculated to add to the miners' welfare, increase his output or operate to your interest?

Answer, Petty and unreasonable, often absolutely unfair to the company and of no permanent good to the miners; only encouraging laziness and incompetency.

28. If you have any miners working for you now who were in your employ before the strike, do these miners have any more money coming to them each pay day than before the strike was called?

Answer, No.

Yours respectfully, THE ROYAL GORGE COAL CO., by E. G. Bettis, President.

Since the foregoing appeared in the news columns of the Pueblo Star-Journal, the following additional questions have been asked the management of the Royal Gorge Coal company and the following replies given:

Question, How much more does it cost you to mine coal under the union contract than it did before you signed up?

Answer, It costs us from \$1.00 to \$1.05 more to produce a ton of coal under union conditions.

Question, How do you account for the reduced production and decrease in earnings of the miners?

Answer, The miners are more inefficient, do not work as steadily and the rules imposed by the union prevent skillful miners from producing any more coal than those who are lazy and inefficient.

Question, Are the miners better satisfied under union rules?

Answer, There is good reason to assert that they are not. A few have boldly said so, but most seem

to be afraid to discuss the subject. D. W. BROWN J. F. WELBORN J. C. OSBOOD

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Advertisement for Rayo Lanterns. Features an illustration of a man in a hat and coat holding a lantern. Text includes 'Rayo LANTERNS', 'No Night Too Dark for the Rayo', and 'THE CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY (Incorporated in Colorado)'. Lists agents: Denver, Pueblo, Alamosa, Cheyenne, Salt Lake City.