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COWARDLY PLOT AGAINST MINERS BROUGHT TO LIGHT BY DEATH OF MINE GUARD

Charleston, W. Va., Sept. 9.—A new plot of the mine owners of West Virginia against the striking miners has been uncovered.

It is a plot equalled in baseness only by the dynamite one planned by Wm. M. Wood, head of the Wool Trust, against the striking textile workers of Lawrence.

Compelled to abolish the mine guards they were using to drive the miners to desperation by Adjutant General Elliott, the mine owners were beaten.

Their mines were idle. Gov. Glasscock had forbidden them to import strikers. There was no way in which they could work the mines and satisfy their greed.

The striking miners, protected from murder, assault and starvation by the soldiers, were able to hold out for months. They had strike benefits to live on.

So the mine owners turned to Russia to find some way to beat the miners into submission and a return to work at the old starvation wages.

From Russia, they adopted the method, known in that country, as that of the "agent provocateur."

In Russia, the agent provocateur

is a spy who joins a revolutionary society, frames up a plot against the government, and then leads his comrades into a trap.

The mine owners are trying to use that system against the miners, and cause the shooting of miners by the soldiers, the stirring up of trouble, and a turn in public sympathy.

Saturday, in a little village in the hills in the Paint Creek district, a man standing in a group of miners, suddenly drew a revolver and began pumping lead at a soldier. The soldier shot and killed the man.

The mine owners raised a great cry.

"Now you see why we needed the mine guards," they cried. "These miners are all murderers. We had to have the guards or they would have murdered us and burned out our mines."

That night men in other groups of miners fired upon the militia at various places in the district until martial law.

The tide of public opinion, which had been with the miners, began to turn against them. The citizens of Charleston who petitioned Gov. Glasscock to abolish the mine guard system said they