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AND MEN WHO STAY YOUNG

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## FOURTH LABOR DISTURBANCE IN HARD COAL INDUSTRY IN TWELVE YEARS

### ANTHRACITE INDUSTRY AT A MERE GLANCE.

Number of employes in and about the mines, 168,175.  
Number killed, inside, 509; outside, 92. Total, 601.  
Number of colliers, 256 handling coal from 751 mines.  
Production, \$2,652,994 tons.  
Explosives used in industry in year, 57,789,920 pounds.  
Number of railroads handling production, 9.

Philadelphia, March 26.—The suspension of coal mining in the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania, Monday, April 1, will be the fourth general labor disturbance in that industry in the last twelve years. In 1900 the miners struck six weeks; in 1902 they were out five and a half months and in 1905 they again suspended work for six weeks. In the 1900 and 1902 strikes the coal diggers, through the United Mine Workers of America and under the leadership of John Mitchell, won victories by gaining an increase in wages and a readjustment of certain working conditions. In neither strike, however, did the organization obtain what it has in some of the bituminous fields—straightout recognition of the union, although the officers of the union have carried on negotiations as "representatives of the men."

Prior to the first big break in 1900 there were sporadic strikes, but they did not grow to any proportion because the men were not well organized. One of the most serious of these strikes was in 1897 at Lattimer in the Lehigh region, where in one clash between deputy sheriffs and nine workers more than twenty strikers were shot and killed.

In the 1900 strike the union had about 7,000 anthracite men upon its membership roll. The mines in the Wyoming, or northern coal field, shut down first and the strike rapidly spread southward until the entire anthracite country was involved, about 142,000 men being idle. This strike came in a year when a Presidential election was held and was settled in favor of the men after much pressure had been brought to bear upon the coal operators by Senator Mark Hanna, of Ohio, who was then managing President McKinley's campaign for a second term. A 10 per cent. advance in wages was granted to all classes of mine workers.

The following year found the anthracite regions much disturbed by labor troubles. While there was no general movement, 192 separate strikes were recorded during the year.

The 1902 strike, the greatest in the history of the country, was hard fought. It was remarkable for the completeness of the tie-up and the losses incurred were enormous. The union asked for a 20 per cent. increase in wages, a reduction in hours from 10 to 8 a day, coal to be weighed wherever practicable instead of measured by the car, and recognition of the union. The strike lasted from May 12 to October 23. Nearly 147,000 mine workers were idle and thousands of railroad and other workers were thrown out of employment. The entire National Guard of Pennsylvania, about 19,000 men, were called into service before the struggle came to an end.

President Roosevelt was instrumental in bringing the two sides together and to agreeing to the appointing of the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission to arbitrate the differences. The Commission visited many mines and examined 258 witnesses between October, 1902, and February, 1903. It awarded a 10 per cent. increase in wages to miners and reduced the hours of men who were paid by the day from 10 to 9 a day, and made numerous recommendations tending to better the working conditions of the men. It also created the board of conciliation, to

### Preparations for the Present Trouble Began Last Fall When Demands Were Formulated—Operators Refused to Grant Concessions Because it Would Result in Raising Price of Coal

which has been referred most of the grievances that have arisen since the commission's awards were made.

The commission estimated the losses occasioned by that strike as follows:  
Decrease in coal production, 24,604,482 tons.  
Decrease in receipts of coal companies \$46,109,990.  
Wages lost by men \$25,000,000.  
Miners' relief fund, \$1,500,000.  
Decrease in coal freight rates, \$25,000,000.

These figures show a loss of more than \$100,000,000. Besides this there were losses sustained by the railroad workers and employees in other industries and there was a general paralysis in business in a prosperous section of the state.

The award of the Strike commission remained in force for three years until 1903, when it was renewed for another period of three years after the miners had suspended work for about six weeks. When this agreement expired on March 31, 1909, a new president of the miners' union, T. L. Lewis, took up the negotiations for the men. This time the miners did not stop after the compact had expired, but agreed to continue operations pending the negotiation of a working arrangement. After conferring until twenty-nine days after the agreement entered into in 1906 had expired the commission award was again put into effect for another three years with the addition of five stipulations adjusting matters that had come up during the life of the ward.

The anthracite miners began to prepare for the present trouble last fall when they held a convention at Pottsville, Pa., and formulated these demands:

- 1.—A one-year agreement.
- 2.—Eight hours a day for all classes of men.
- 3.—Recognition of the union in negotiating wage agreements and the right to provide a method of collecting revenue for the organization.
- 4.—A more convenient and uniform system of adjusting grievances within a reasonable time limit.
- 5.—A 20 per cent. increase in wages.
- 6.—A minimum of \$2.50 a day for all miners and \$2.75 for laborers for consideration work.
- 7.—That the system whereby a contract miner has more than one works, place in the mine or employs more than two laborers shall be abolished.
- 8.—That the right of check weighing men and check docking bosses shall be recognized and that they shall not be interfered with in the performance of their work.
- 9.—That all coal be mined and paid for by the ton of 2,240 pounds wherever practicable.

During the winter efforts were made to strengthen the union, which met with considerable success, and they came the negotiations. The operators committee, whose personnel remained about the same as in all the former negotiations, found another new man leading the miners, John P. White. Three meetings between the operators and a committee of the union miners were held in New York. At the first the miners presented their demands; at the second conference the demands were refused and at the third session the miners made a reply regretting the action of the coal companies. The operators in refusing the wage increase declared that the profit would not admit an advance without an increase in the price of coal. They proposed another renewal of the Strike Commission award for three years, declaring that it had worked satisfactorily and had brought peace and prosperity to the region.

One feature about a suspension this year is that it would come for the second time in a year when a presidential election is to be held. This may have some influence in a settlement if the tie-up should continue for any length of time.

The anthracite mine workers in their strikes have been aided by law or the statute books of Pennsylvania providing that mine workers before they can become miners must have actually cut or blast coal. They must have miners' certificates. In order to obtain these they must have, under the law, at least two years' experience in an anthracite mine. The law was enacted primarily to safeguard life and property and in times of strikes it operates against the importation of miners from other fields who have not worked in the hard coal fields.

With the exception of a small quantity in Colorado and New Mexico, which yields less than 100,000 tons a year, the only deposit of true anthracite coal in the United States, if not the world, is in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania. It is found in only ten counties and is confined within an area of 484 square miles. In the event of all the anthracite miners, going on strike it would be difficult, in the face of the miners' certificate law, to find a sufficient number of men outside the anthracite regions to break the strike.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ANTHRACITE

Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, 66.75 per cent.  
New England States, 11.34 per cent.  
Western States, 11.44 per cent.  
Southern States, 3.55 per cent.  
Pacific States, .91 per cent.  
Dominion of Canada, 2.32 per cent.  
Foreign ports, .96 per cent.  
Pennsylvania mines the most hard coal of any of the states

Workers of America also shows that the amount of coal mined within the country has practically doubled within a decade reaching 591,596,378 tons in 1909.

Eighty-two per cent of the half billion tons mined in 1910, the report shows, was bituminous coal. Of anthracite coal there were mined in 1910, 44,452,236 tons by 169,497 workers. Workers in bituminous mines numbered 555,522. The total value of the anthracite coal mined in 1910 is estimated at \$160,275,392; of the bituminous, \$469,281,719. Of the 477,117,142 tons of bituminous coal mined in 1910, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania contributed 69 per cent, or 349,028,255 tons.

The total membership of the United Mine Workers of America, as published in its official report of its proceedings here last January, is 256,256. The report gives the total number of mine workers throughout the country at 725,950.

A large proportion of the bituminous coal is mixed by machines, of which there are in use, according to the latest available figures, approximately 14,000. The tonnage thus mined in 1910 was 174,912,292 tons.

There were during the year 2,878 fatalities in mines throughout the country, according to the report. Of these, 91 occurred in the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania and 539 in the bituminous mines of that state. West Virginia was second in the list with

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226, Colorado third, with 523 and Alabama fourth, with 235. The death rate per thousand persons employed in coal mines, compared with the rate in foreign countries, follows:

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| United States            | 3.91 |
| Great Britain in Ireland | 1.47 |
| France                   | 1.17 |
| Austria                  | 1.14 |
| Prussia                  | 1.08 |
| Belgium                  | .85  |

There are approximately 19,000 local organizations of miners in the twenty-five districts of the United States and Canada, according to the report. Of these, approximately 400 are in Districts 1, 5 and 7, the three districts embracing the anthracite fields. The expenses of the organization, according to the treasurer's report, totaled in 1910 \$2,188,331.

While those figures demonstrate the increased quantity, the improved quality was also demonstrated by these facts. "Electrified" beets contain from 22 to 25 per cent. more sugar than the beets raised under ordinary conditions. Electrically grown rice (Hilong) had a protein content of 13 per cent, total nitrogen 19.2 per cent and albumen 18.3 per cent. Barley and oats improved correspondingly.

With tobacco, a rich growth and a 24 per cent. increase of the terminal power of the seeds was observed. The tools became exceedingly strong and the color of the leaves very dark.—Oscar Nagel, in Cosmopolitan Magazine.

### PLANTS HELPED BY ELECTRICITY

In 1902 Pringsheim, a German scientist, showed in Krynchanovitz, near Breslau, that by the application of electric currents to the soil the yield of grain and stalks increased, with barley,

## DIRECTORY SHOWS CATHOLICS GAIN

INCREASE OF 396,808 SOULS DURING YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE 1912 EDITION JUST OUT.

There are 15,915,569 Catholics in the United States according to the 1912 edition of The Official Catholic Directory, published by P. J. Kennedy & Sons of Barclay street, New York. The figures given in the 1912 volume include only continental United States and do not embrace the number of Catholics in any of our possessions.

Comparing the figures of the 1911 and 1912 issues a large gain is seen in the number of Catholics, for the directory of 1912 shows an increase of 396,808 souls for the year. The figure 15,915,569 includes all Catholics and does not deduct 15 per cent. for children and infants as was done by the government in its census of 1906-09. It is of interest at this time, also, to look back ten years and discover what gains have been made. Glancing through the 1902 Catholic Directory published by the Wiltzius company in Milwaukee it is seen that the Catholic population at that time was 10,976,757 and compared with the present total of 15,915,569, a gain of 4,938,812 is recorded for the decade.

Number of Churches Larger. Not only has there been a gain in the number of souls, but there has also been an increase in the number of Catholic churches, in the number of churches, schools, academies and char-

itable institutions during the past year and by referring to The Official Catholic Directory for 1912 it is found that there are 17,491 Catholic priests in the United States. Of these, 12,996 are secular clergymen and 4,495 are members of religious orders. This figure shows a gain of 407 priests.

Four hundred and seventy-eight additional churches are recorded in the Kennedy publication, and the general summary shows that at the beginning of this year there were 13,929 Catholic churches in America. Of these 13,929 nearly 10,000 have resident pastors or, to be exact, 8,256 churches have resident pastors, the other 4,683 being mission churches, that is, attended from neighboring parishes.

There are at present fourteen archbishops in the United States, each of the fourteen archiepiscopal sees being occupied. Three are cardinal archbishops. In addition to these there are two titular archbishops in the United States, both being retired Ordinaries. It is a remarkable fact, and deserves special attention, that according to the directory there is only one vacancy in the bishoprics of this country. The Vicariate of Townsville, Tex., is mourning the loss of its bishop. All told, there are ninety-seven bishops in continental United States, some of these, of course, being coadjutor and auxiliary bishops. In addition there are two arch-abbots and fifteen abbots.

Eighty-three Seminaries. Eighty-three seminaries are discovered in various part of the country and 6,006 students are preparing for the holy priesthood in these seminaries. There are 229 colleges for boys and 791 academies for girls, although there are more students in the 229 colleges for boys than there are in the 791 academies for girls.

One of the most interesting features of the directory's table are the statistics for parochial schools. According to the directory there are 5,119 parishes which have schools attached, with an attendance of 1,323,786. Over and above the parochial schools there are 283 orphan asylums, in which 47,111 orphans are taken care of. Counting the children in parochial schools, the number of young ladies and young men in academies and colleges, and including the orphans and children in other charitable institutions, it is found that at present there are under Catholic care in the United States 1,549,642 young people. Special attention has been given to the directory figures, and as the reports were received from the chancery office of every diocese in the country, the figures must be taken as correct. They are official because they are furnished by the authorities of the various dioceses.

Figures are interesting. The Official Catholic Directory gives an interesting array of figures and perhaps the most interesting are those showing the Catholic population of the various states in the Union. The appended table shows the number of Catholics in the twenty-five states having the largest number:

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. New York       | 2,778,074 |
| 2. Pennsylvania   | 1,616,929 |
| 3. Illinois       | 1,447,400 |
| 4. Massachusetts  | 1,381,212 |
| 5. Ohio           | 745,271   |
| 6. Louisiana      | 583,000   |
| 7. Wisconsin      | 556,762   |
| 8. Michigan       | 554,329   |
| 9. New Jersey     | 502,990   |
| 10. Missouri      | 425,000   |
| 11. Minnesota     | 447,289   |
| 12. Connecticut   | 412,972   |
| 13. California    | 399,509   |
| 14. Texas         | 309,917   |
| 15. Iowa          | 261,625   |
| 16. Maryland      | 260,000   |
| 17. Rhode Island  | 255,000   |
| 18. Indiana       | 227,495   |
| 19. Kentucky      | 154,945   |
| 20. New Mexico    | 140,573   |
| 21. Nebraska      | 130,752   |
| 22. New Hampshire | 124,024   |
| 23. Maine         | 122,547   |
| 24. Kansas        | 121,009   |
| 25. Colorado      | 105,009   |

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