

West Virginia Coal Operators Deny Use Of Hired Gunmen

Unions Charged With Sending Families of Miners to Tent Colonies Only to Arouse Public Sentiment

WILLIAMSON, W. Va., Dec. 19.—Reports said to be in circulation throughout the country that miners are being oppressed and manhandled in the Mingo coal fields were refuted in a statement issued by the Williamson Coal Operators' Association here to-night.

"It has been brought to our attention," the statement said, "that union leaders are claiming hired gunmen and thugs are employed by the operators about the mines. This is not true. We have never employed any armed guards at any time. Watchmen are maintained, as at other industrial plants, to protect property.

"Our contention is that the men have a right to strike if they want to, but also other men have a right to work and there is no right or reason for dissuading them by persuasion or intimidation. If the strikers will let alone those who desire to work there will be no cause for trouble and any violence will disappear from the district at once. To succeed in having employees strike is to work without fear is our right and our duty.

"Of a possible twenty or twenty-one miners in Mingo County during the last year, there is only one for which a miner is alleged to be responsible, so far as we know."

The statement reiterated that a lock-out in the field does not exist. "Of course," it says, "we have brought men into the field preparatory to operating mines affected by the strike," the statement continued, "but the number has been small in comparison to the total of 300 or perhaps, 400. The men are free to come back to work whenever they wish.

"With the miners returning in numbers proved by our pay rolls, we have been able to begin operations at all the mines in the region which were shut down when the strike was called, with the exception of five.

"It also has been brought to our attention that the union is asserting there are 4,373 children and 1,920 women living in the tent colonies of Mingo County strikers. This is palpably a falsification. A report made by Dr. George M. Taylor, chief sanitary inspector of the State Health Department, shows there are 205 children in the tent colonies and a few more than four score women.

"The arguments advanced by union leaders that habitation in the tent colonies is forced by the alleged lock-out are absolutely a misrepresentation of the facts.

"The colonies are maintained by the United Mine Workers to excite the sympathy of the public. The United Mine Workers' agitators, through transportation for men who come into the fields for employment, back to other fields and obtain work for them there, while requiring their members' wives and children to shiver and suffer in the tents."

Military headquarters to-night reported that quiet has prevailed throughout the entire field during the night.

59,000 Women Take Men's Jobs in Industries

35 Per Cent More Employed Now Than Before War, Trade Union League Says

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—In a statement given out today the National Women's Trade Union League explains the fact that women are remaining extensively in new occupations and gives its interpretation of figures made public by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor. The figures of the Women's Bureau show that women in the ratio of about 1 to every 9 men are employed in the industries formerly employing chiefly or exclusively men.

About 69,000 women are employed by 1,224 big firms in the iron, steel and other metal industries; lumber, leather, stone, clay and chemical manufactures; the making of automobiles, electrical apparatus, agricultural implements, musical instruments, optical goods, rubber goods, clothing, pictures and photographic apparatus, in shipbuilding and on the railroads and streetcars, repair shops, etc.

In other words, there are 36 per cent more women in these industries now than there were before the war, and their position, by their proved efficiency, appears to be a permanent one, the Women's Trade Union League says. Analyzing the figures, the league lays stress on them as indicating women's increased importance in the labor movement. Large numbers, it was pointed out at the Washington headquarters of the league, have been added to the membership of the various international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, more than 12,000 being found on the rolls of the International Association of Machinists, many thousands in the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, the organized timber workers, foundry employees (other than molders), brick and clay workers, oil field, gas well and refinery workers and others.

Some of the unions, however, including the carpenters, pattern makers, molders and barbers, have lost members, a fact which, the league points out, forces the women in those trades to remain unorganized, and, consequently, in view of the increasing numbers of women workers, leaves them a menace to the standards of pay and working conditions for both the women and the men.

Catholics Still at Work On Plans for a Basilica

Church of St. Jean Baptiste Must Be Cleared First of \$160,000 Debt

The Very Rev. Arthur Letellier, R.C.M., superior of the Fathers of the Holy Sacrament, announced yesterday that there has been no halt in the activities to convert the Church of St. Jean Baptiste, Lexington Avenue and Seventy-sixth Street, into a basilica, as a memorial to the American Catholic soldier and sailor dead of the World War.

It was announced some time ago that a movement had been inaugurated to raise \$150,000 with which to clear the debt on the church, as the canon law makes it imperative that a church must be free from debt before it may be formally consecrated.

The Roman Catholic hierarchy never has had a basilica in the United States. There are three in Canada and several in European countries. Basilicas are especially honored in the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Gibbons Said to Have Had Satisfactory Day

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

BALTIMORE, Dec. 19.—After a rather unquiet Saturday night, Cardinal Gibbons was reported to-night to have passed a satisfactory day at the home of Robert T. Shriver, Union Mills, Md., according to Dr. Charles O'Donovan, his physician. He received no visitors during the day, as a complete rest was thought best.

Special prayers for his speedy recovery were offered to-day in many Catholic churches of the city. Some of the priests represented his condition as alarming, but the majority said that his illness was not dangerous except on account of his age.

Bishop Burch Confirms Eleven Bedford Inmates

Service at Reformatory Yesterday Unique in the History of State Institutions

Bishop Charles Sumner Burch of the Episcopal Church confirmed a class of eleven young women, inmates of the state reformatory at Bedford, yesterday, at special confirmation exercises, unique in the annals of New York State's penal or charitable institutions.

It was the first time in the reformatory's history that Episcopal confirmation exercises were held there. The young women who were confirmed were permitted to doff their uniforms of blue and white striped cloth and to attire themselves in white dresses, with white veils fastened with smiles.

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Bishop Burch used as his text "The Consolation of the Individual to the Service of God" and advised the young women to serve God and their neighbors. Each young woman confirmed was presented with a silver crucifix.

Chaplain Young of the reformatory, president, and Mrs. Anna Hedger Talbot, superintendent of the institution, were at the piano, a violin obligato being played by Miss Amy, director of music.

Salvation Army Short in Christmas Collections

Only \$12,000 Received of \$50,000 Asked to Provide Toys and Dinners for Poor

Thousands of New York's poor children and orphans will be without toys this year and hundreds of indigent families will want for Christmas dinners and other embellishments of the yuletide unless an active response is given the appeal of the Salvation Army during the next five days, according to a statement made at the organization's headquarters yesterday. Only \$12,000 of the estimated requirement of \$50,000 necessary to fill its demands for relief has been collected, it was said.

Widespread unemployment and sickness among the poor of the city is indicated by the number of applications made to the Salvationists for Christmas assistance this year, according to Colonel E. J. Parker, in charge of the headquarters at 122 West 114th Street. The number was said to be nearly twice that received last year.

"This will be the hardest Christmas the poor have experienced in years," Colonel Parker said. "Fortunately, the dollar has a greater purchasing power than for some time, but even so we will be unable to care for more than a fraction of the cases applying to us for dinners unless contributions from the public through the kettles on street corners is doubly generous during the next few days."

Sees Food Crisis in 2100

BOSTON, Dec. 19.—The United States will have a population of 197,000,000 persons, or the maximum which its continental territory can sustain about the year 2100, Professor Raymond Pearl, of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, estimated in a Lowell Institute lecture last night. To support such a population, he said, 260 trillion calories of food a year would be needed, and judging from the production of the last seven years, when the maximum population was reached, it would be necessary to import about half the calories necessary for sustenance.

"It seems improbable that the population will go on increasing at any very rapid rate after such a condition is reached," he added.

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Stage Stars Appear In Newspapermen's Midnight Frolic

Prominent Men of Affairs, Including City, State and Federal Officials, Attend; League Holds Its Election

Three hundred newspaper men attended the midnight frolic Saturday at the Press Club following the meeting of the Newspaper Men's Benevolent League. They were entertained by a score of theatrical stars, and it was daybreak when the party broke up.

The guests included a number of city, state and Federal officials of New York, prominent men of affairs and celebrities of newspaperdom. Governor Smith, who is a member of the club, sent a telegram of greetings from a sick bed.

The Newspaper Men's Benevolent League unanimously elected the following officers for the year: George F. Dobson Jr., of The Globe, president; Charles S. Salomon, of The Tribune, first vice-president; John J. O'Connell, of The Times, second vice-president; Miles Bath, of The New York City News Association, and Joseph A. Butler, of The World, assistant secretary-treasurer.

The following were elected members of the board of directors: Don Marquis, Sun; William Beazell, World; Charles E. Seelig, Tribune; Louis Stark, Times; Fred H. Adams, City News; Thornton Fisher, Evening World; Gerald Bridgman, Globe; John J. Lindley, Herald; Arthur P. Corrigan, City News; Peter L. Campbell, American; Nelson Meade, Journal; James E. Durkin, Evening Telegram.

The crowd at the entertainment was so great that there were not enough seats and it was announced that one of the large hotel ballrooms will be secured for the function next year. Bugs Baer and S. Jay Kaufman were in charge of the show.

Louis Mann, George Behan, Frank Tinney and Charles Udell were among the stars who appeared. Then there were "Judge" Walter Kelly, the Duncans Sisters, Harry Dell, the three little Hilger sisters, Frank Fay, Niska, the violinist; George Sessel, Nelson and Cronin, May Brook and Mme. De-Asia. General John F. O'Ryan sat in the audience unobserved until he was made the subject of a funny story by Frank Tinney. Louis Mann and George

Behan did a character act together that was perhaps the hit of the night. The show was characterized as the best vaudeville bill of the year. A dozen other talented actors attended and showed a willingness to go on, but there was not time for them to appear.

War Officers to Organize Captain Ten Broeck M. Terhune, at his home, 70 Park Avenue, to-night will entertain former Governor Charles S. Whitman and United States Army and National Guard officers who served within the State of New York during the World War. At the same time there will be completed an organization similar to the Society of the Cincinnati, with memberships to be handed down to descendants of the organizers, so that the society will be one of permanence.

Probably the most beautiful new Children's Books will be the ARTHUR RACKHAM Editions of Hansel and Gretel and Other Stories

By the Brothers Grimm. Royal 8vo. \$5.00

Snowdrop and Other Stories

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