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Washington Letter,

By Edward Keating,
Congressman-at-Large
From Colorado.

In all probability, before this letter is printed the House of Representatives will have adopted my resolution calling for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the Colorado coal strike. In any event, action will not be delayed beyond the Christmas holidays. I have asked to be excused from service on the committee—a position I would be entitled to under the practice of the House. I did this because I was anxious to have the Committee made up of men free of bias, either immediate or remote. I could not have lived in Colorado for more than thirty years without having formed pretty definite opinions concerning the conduct of the men and interests that dominate the coal mining industry of our state, and those opinions would doubtless have influenced my work as a member of the Committee. As it is, the Committee will include some of the ablest and fairest men in Congress, they will approach their task without prejudice, and their findings will command the attention of the country.

WASHINGTON INTERESTED.

Official Washington is deeply interested in the Colorado situation and genuinely anxious to see our industrial difficulties amicably adjusted. President Wilson has on several occasions put aside Mexico and the currency to our troubles. It was at his suggestion that Secretary of Labor, Wilson visited Colorado, and he was sincerely grieved when the mine owners so cavalierly rejected the Secretary's good offices.

I wonder how many people of Colorado are familiar with the details of the final proposition submitted by Secretary Wilson to the mine owners and the striking miners? In order that it may be given the publicity which I believe it deserves, I am going to ask the editor of this paper to print it in full, as follows:

Denver, Colo., Nov. 27, 1913.

Messrs. J. F. Welborn, John C. Osgood, D. W. Brown, Operators, and Messrs. H. X. Evans, Archie Alison, David Hannon, Miners, Denver, Colorado.

"In view of the failure of your conference to reach an agreement by which the pending strike of coal miners can be adjusted, I submit the following recommendations with the hope that they may be acceptable to you and this disastrous strike brought to an end:

"First, that the propositions of the coal operators as contained in the memorandum of Gov. Anmons, dated Nov. 27, be agreed to by the miners.

"Second, that the following disputed questions be referred to a board of arbitration:

(a) The question of an increase in wages.

(b) In lieu of the recognition of the union, the question of devising a method by which future grievances and disputes may be adjusted without resorting to strikes.

"The Board of Arbitration to

be composed of seven members, three to be selected by the coal miners; these six to select the seventh member of the board. If through any cause the six members of the board fail to select the seventh member within fifteen days, then the seventh member shall be selected by the President of the United States. The board of arbitration to render its decision within sixty days and its findings on the question of wages to be effective from the date of resuming work.

Third, that pending the decision of the board of arbitration, work be resumed at the mines.

A FAIR PROPOSITION.

Now lets analyze that proposition: First—the strikers were to waive recognition of the union, accept the mine owners proposition, and return to work.

Second,—a board of arbitration was to be created with the President of the United States naming the odd number, in case the members of the board could not agree on that member, and this board was to consider the striker's demand for an increase of pay and, in addition, devise a method by which future grievances and disputes might be adjusted without resort to strikes.

Could anything be fairer? In face of that sort of a proposition, submitted by the personal and official representative of the President of the United States, is any individual or corporation justified in persisting in a course which means bloodshed, destruction of property and the paralysis of the industries of a great State?

The mine owners did not formally reject the Secretary's proposal. Instead they sent an evasive reply in which other issues were raised. Later in private conference they made it very clear that they were not disposed to consider the Secretary's suggestions. If they had accepted the proposal, the strike would have ended within twenty four hours, and Colorado would now be enjoying peace and prosperity.

There is no mistaking the temper of Congress. Without regard to party affiliations members feel that there must be something radically wrong with the point of view of the capitalist who elects to continue a disastrous industrial war rather than accept a plan to "devise a method by which future grievances and disputes may be adjusted without resort to strikes."

MINE ACCIDENTS.

And while we are talking about Colorado's coal strike. I want to call attention to a bulletin just issued by the Bureau of mines entitled "Coal Mine Accidents in the United States and Foreign countries." Colorado achieves a most undesirable prominence in this publication. The figures are of course, official, and their accuracy cannot be questioned. Here are some of the facts developed.

In 1911, the number of coal miners killed per 1000 employed was as follows;

Illinois, 2.27; Pennsylvania, 3.09; Colorado, 6.33. average for entire country 3.73.

In other words, Colorado killed

almost three times as many as Illinois, and practically twice as many as the average for the nation.

But 1911 was a decided improvement on 1910, so far as Colorado was concerned. This is the way the figures stood in the latter year: Miners killed per 1000 employed: Illinois, 1.97; Pennsylvania, 3.07; Colorado, 20.36; average for country, 3.92.

That year Colorado succeeded in killing ten times as many as Illinois and six times as many as the average for the country.

Some of the apologists for the coal companies attempt to explain these figures by talking about the careless methods of the "ignorant foreigner" whom the Colorado mine owners are compelled to employ. We are assured that these unfortunate aliens are responsible for all the "accidents" and that the companies employ every known device to prevent catastrophe.

Many of these aliens were employed in the coal mines of their native countries before they came to America and all the coal mines in those countries are manned by just such "ignorant foreigners" as we find in the mines of Colorado. Therefore a comparison of the death rate in Colorado mines with the death rate in the foreign countries should prove both interesting and instructive. Here are the figures; as compiled by Uncle Sam:

Coal miners killed per 1000 employed in 1911; Austria, 0.93; Belgium, 0.95; Great Britain, 1.70; France, 1.08; Germany, 1.97; Japan, 2.23; United States, 3.92; Colorado, 6.33.

I have selected 1911 because I wanted to place Colorado in the best possible light. I might have used the figures of 1910, when Colorado killed 20.36 out of every thousand as against Austria 0.93 per thousand.

In the light of these figures, isn't it amazing that during the last ten years not a single damage suit has been decided against a coal mining company in Las Animas or Huerfano counties.

A True Dog Story.

It is generally known that people who do not understand, and know the conditions here in this broad open, prairie land, think that we have no interesting local history; but it is an erroneous idea.

We may not have so great a number of local happenings of decided interest as some of our older and more thickly populated communities; but as to their kind and quality we take a place second to none.

And to prove to you our fairness in the matter we relate to you the following story which we know to be a fact.

About a year ago at this very time a family having proved up on their homestead decided to pack their goods in a wagon and drive overland to their former home some four or five hundred miles distant.

Now there belonged to this family a large yellow dog, of no particular breed, who had been raised from a wee puppy by them' and of course he was to follow the wagon something new

for him as he had always been a home loving dog, and scarcely ever left the place.

But with little coaxing he was persuaded to accompany the wagon and he followed them for about two days when one night his longing for his old home got too strong for his dog heart to resist and he left them and came back to the old claim shack.

Now the house had been emptied of all its furniture, the fences were taken down and everything had the appearance of a forsaken homestead.

But did he leave the place that had been his home for so long?

No, and until this day he is there, there at the forsaken, lonely shack, the dismal, barren, bleak hillside awaiting the return of those whom he loves with all the power, all the intelligence of his dog heart.

Thinking no doubt that some day they will return and he will be greeted by the happy shining faces of the little children, and his poor doggy heart become happy again.

And there you may see him as you pass the place strangely reticent, but as you leave the house in the distance you can see him sauntering, slowly back, to keep up a sad gloomy watch.

What faith! What Love! Who can fathom such deep true, yet sad intelligence? We must admit with the great Missouri Senator, "that a dog is man's best friend."

And the story of the dog of old Rome comes to our mind and we say with it, "faithful unto death and after."

IN MEMORY

Maud Adelle Winder was born at Anita, Iowa, Nov. 17, 1896, and died at Hugo, Colo, December 7, 1913, aged 17 years and 19 days old.

When she was but two and one half years of age she and her sister, and their mother were left to make their way alone. She became a member of the M. E. church at the age of nine years, and has been a true and faithful servant of God, who has seen fit to call her to that home prepared for her.

Her early education was received at Anita, Iowa, and after coming to Colorado, she entered the Industrial High school at Sterling, Colo. She entered the Cheyenne county High School during her Senior year and graduated with the class of 1913. Her work in the High School showed the highest excellence.

The sadness of her departure is lessened by the assurance of her faith, and the thought that her short life had been a continued service to her Master.

The flowers sent by her friends and school mates were beautiful, they surrounded her as she lay in her last sleep, and reminded one, in a way, of the beauty she had already found.

The funeral services were held at the M. E. church at Hugo, Colo, Wednesday Dec. 10, 1913. The sermon was a beautiful one taken from the text found in St. JOHN 14:2-3.

In my Father's house are many Mansions; if it were not so I would have told you; I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also.

The second meeting of the County Educational Association will be held at Kit Carson Sat. Dec 20, 1913.

The general subject of this meeting will be the teaching of reading and the manual of reading, one of the Reading Circle books is used as a basis. Miss Lambert, of Denver, a specialist in the teaching of reading will conduct a model class, in third and fourth grade work. The following is the program: Manual of Reading, 1st How to teach the first three grades in reading, by Miss Warner; 10:30 2nd; Review of Manual Reading by Mrs. Kingsley and Lewis J. Roden, 11:00: 3rd, Eighth grade reading and its preparation for High School, by Miss Robertson, 1:15; 4th Report of State Association, by Miss Charlotte Abernathy, 1:45; 5th Model Class in Reading, by Miss Lambert, 2 p m.

This announcement was delayed last week through a misunderstanding. The teachers are urged to help advertise this meeting and promise a good attendance.

PROSPECT HILL.

Walter L. Bales, of Excelsior Springs, Mo. favors us with an occasional copy of his excellent paper. Notable among interesting news items with which its columns abound, was a two column account of ex-Governor Sulzer visit among them and his lecture, "The Treason of Tammany" How warmly he was received there. How he was an Abraham Lincoln type of a man honest to the core, that he was born on the same street, where Aaron Burr was a boy. That Burr was the founder of Tammany and how he laid bare the tricks in that impeachment trial. Sulzer indeed captivated the people of Excelsior Springs.

No doubt most of the RECORD readers received a copy of Hon. Seldomridge's speech before congress on the currency bill. He makes it quite feasible that when that law becomes operative, that great panics will be well nigh impossible. Under government control and the banks so connected that public confidence will have no reason to be shaken and their fear of banks breaking will be a thing of the past. The writer also has at hand a copy of Hon. Claude Weaver's speech before the House of Representatives on the dam question. He is a brilliant representative from Oklahoma. In his classic oration he says "There are three great features of this bill that stand out prominent, like the three bright stars on the belt of Orion.

1st, A system of elastic currency responding to the needs of trade etc. 2nd, The power of government to fix the rate of interest etc. 3rd That the currency shall be based on the products of labor and not on debt; on production and not on speculation. Everybody should have a copy each of these speeches to keep their minds free from the illusive arguments of Wallstreet and its satellite.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Kennard, of Chamberlin, Minn, favored us with an interesting letter last week. This entire community will be interested in hearing from these former favorite citizens. They write how busy they are getting their new farm to rights. Mr. Kennard has sold the timber on his place and now a saw mill and a crew of men are camped near by, chopping, hauling and sawing. Such activities as belong to opening up a farm in the forest are theirs now and you see they are busy. They speak of the winter as mild, farmers plowing up to the 3rd of December. They were well and that is as good news as they could report of themselves, when they get that farm cleared up and out of the woods we will look for them back to their nice place by Arapahog. They are 30 miles from lake Itasca, where the Mississippi river rises. This is getting up in the world some.