

OPERATORS ARE FIRM

ANTHRACITE MEN REPLY TO MITCHELL'S DEMANDS.

Stand by the Old Award—Operators See No Reason for New Adjustment—Comparison of Earnings—Black Operators Also Stand Firm.

President Wilcox, of the Delaware and Hudson Company, at New York Friday made public the text of the letter which he wrote to John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, concerning a conference between the mine workers and the operators to discuss the wage question.

In the case of the Delaware and Hudson Company during 1905 the average number of hours worked per day by the employees other than miners was about seven and one-quarter hours per day.

The witness said that he had been taken; "You, and each of you, do repent and pray and never cease to pray to God to avenge the blood of the prophet on this nation."

After giving many other details of the ceremony such as the manner of chanting, he was asked concerning the trial had by the board of Pricham Young Academy as to reasons for the long absence of Cluff from the Mexican expedition.

The witness said Apostle Smoot was among those in attendance; that he had heard the testimony given by the witness himself that the reason for Cluff's absence was because he was living apart with a plural wife.

Mr. Wilcox devotes much space to an argument tending to show that conditions have not changed since the award of the strike commission.

At a meeting of the Illinois coal operators at Chicago, which was held Friday at the Auditorium Hotel, it was decided by a unanimous vote to refuse the demands made by the United Mine Workers of America.

The meeting was executive in character and was attended by 200 coal operators from all over the state.

Between 15,000 and 25,000 homeseekers have started for the west and southwest through the gateways of Chicago, Memphis, St. Louis, Kansas City and Omaha, according to declarations by Chicago passenger men.

John Sebastian, passenger traffic manager of the Rock Island at Chicago, just returned from the southwest, said the movement of homeseekers in that direction was almost beyond belief.

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SMOOT IS AGAIN ON TRIAL.

Investigation is Resumed by Senate Committee.

A Washington special says: The hearing in the case of Senator Smoot was resumed Wednesday before the committee on privileges and elections.

The investigation of protests against Senator Smoot retaining his seat have continued through two sessions of congress, and Wednesday marked the beginning of meetings which the committee is likely to hold intermittently throughout the present session.

The first witness was Prof. Walter M. Wolfe, a former teacher of geology in the Brigham Young College, Logan, Utah, and an apostle of the church.

John G. Carlisle, of New York, conducted the prosecution. A. S. Worthington, of Washington, defended the senator.

Wolfe testified he had been a Mormon until Jan. 1, this year, when his connection was severed through failure to comply with the demands of the fifties. He was asked to tell what he knew of the alleged plural marriage of Prof. Benjamin Cluff and Florence Reynolds, both teachers at Provo.

In detailing what he knew of their relations he told of the Mormon expedition to Mexico. Wolfe said he had been informed at the time by Cluff that he was married to Florence Reynolds and that they lived together on that trip.

President Smith, he said, referred to Florence as "Sister Cluff."

"Twelve times," answered Wolfe, when asked how many times he had been through the endowment house, or temple.

"Did you take any obligations or oaths when you went through?" "Every time," he replied. He said there had been the obligations of chastity, sacrifice and vengeance.

"What do you mean by vengeance?" asked Carlisle.

The witness said this oath had been taken: "You, and each of you, do repent and pray and never cease to pray to God to avenge the blood of the prophet on this nation."

The oath, he said, was taken standing, and at the conclusion each one taking it was required to bow their heads and say, "I do."

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When arraigned Thursday before United States Commissioner Foote the minister said the handwriting of the letters was similar to his, but he could not remember writing those particular letters. He also said that insanity ran in his family.

The arrest of the minister was based on two letters sent to Andrew Keha, a boy living in Bloomington, Ill., and invited him to come to Waukegan to visit the writer.

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DEATH IN MINE EXPLOSION.

At least Twenty-Eight Men Killed in West Virginia.

Advices from Charleston, W. Va., state that at least twenty-eight men are supposed to have met death in a terrible mine explosion in the Paralle mine of the Stewart Collieries Company near Oakhill. Thirty-nine men were employed in the mine and only eleven have escaped alive.

Among those known to be in the mine and supposed to be dead are: Mine boss Miles Pratt and his son (white); four negroes: David Wells, James Swan, George Jones and William Madison.

The explosion occurred at 1:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon and was caused by a pocket of gas, which was struck in a fault in the mine. The explosion was terrific and it is thought that many of the miners were killed outright by it.

The system of fans was completely wrecked and all air was shut off, leaving the men who had not been killed by the explosion to smother to death.

The mine is a shaft about 700 feet deep and the unfortunate miners had little chance of escape.

Most of the entombed men are Hungarians or negroes, who had little experience in mining. They were not expecting the pocket of gas, which is nearly always discovered in mines in the Nanawah region.

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WEEK'S HAPPENINGS

NEWS OF THE WEEK IN A CONDENSED FORM.

Many Federal Projects—Government Spending Vast Sums of Money in Black Hills—Various Improvements Being Made by Uncle Sam.

A Deadwood dispatch says: The federal government has a surprisingly great number of interests and undertakings on foot at present in the Black Hills. It is not an exaggeration to say that there is not another section in the United States of equal size where the government is engaged in so many and such various enterprises.

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DECISION FOR HOMESTEADER.

"Water Right" Claim Rejected by Commissioner.

The people of Lyman County are much pleased over a ruling of the commissioner of the general land office at Pierre on a contest case in which a homesteader filed over what is known as a "water right," the decision being in favor of the homesteader.

The case is locally known as one against the "Wessington Springs Water Right Syndicate." It is claimed that a syndicate from Wessington Springs went into Lyman County and filed water declaratories in a large number of choice quarter sections, and one of them was invaded by Henry Johnson, who began settlement on the tract and offered a homestead filing covering the same tract contained in the water declaratory.

The general land office holds that the evidence of the holder of the water declaratory does not show that he had made the required improvements.

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