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Facts for Advertisers.

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PASSING OF THE COAL STRIKE.

The great strike in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania and West Virginia is over. It has taken five months to accomplish what could have been done in a day under an industrial system operated with less arrogance and greed. From the first the miners stood ready to arbitrate, the operators standing back on the theory that to arbitrate would in a measure look as if they had conceded to a recognition. Believing that the miners were unable to hold out any length of time, they settled down to a policy of "starving the anarchists into submission." In this they reckoned unwisely. The cause of the miners was just, and the more the public became apprised of the true and awful conditions under which the miners and their families were compelled to exist, the more they rallied to the cause of the oppressed and condemnation of the oppressor. Week after week dragged by and still the operators haughtily disregarded any effort to effect a settlement. At last the coal bins in the great markets of the East became exhausted, cold winter coming on, and the clamor for fuel became so great that something must be done. The miners still held out the hand of arbitration, and the operators still maintained their haughty defiance. As there was little likelihood of the miners and operators getting together and bridging their differences, President Roosevelt issued a call for a peace conference between the presidents of the coal companies and the representatives of the miners. The result of the conference was a proposition made by President Mitchell in behalf of the miners, to abide by the decision of a board of arbitration selected by President Roosevelt. This proposition the operators rejected, and contended that nothing short of a complete and unqualified surrender of the miners would be tolerated. They even demanded that the President provide them with Federal troops to assist them in opening and operating their mines. The conference having failed, President Roosevelt sought every opportunity to reach the matter in a legal way. Finding none, he continued to work upon various plans that would bring the battle to an end. Governor Odell of New York took a hand in the controversy, and censured the operators for their arbitrary stand. The great metropolitan newspapers generally, the public, and the wise men of the East, condemned the policy pursued by the coal barons. The pressure finally became so great, and the unrest amongst the people so decided, that the operators agreed on last Tuesday to leave the matters in the hands of a board to be appointed by President Roosevelt, upon certain conditions expressed by themselves in the selection of the commission, as follows:

"First—An officer in the Engineer Corps of either the military or naval service of the United States.
"Second—An expert mining engineer, experienced in the mining of coal and other minerals, and in no way connected with the coal-mining properties, either anthracite or bituminous.
"Third—One of the Judges of the United States Courts of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
"Fourth—A man of prominence, eminent as a sociologist.
"Fifth—A man who by active participation in mining and selling coal is familiar with the physical and commercial features of the business."

This was met by a counter proposition from Mitchell that the board be increased to six, and that the miners have the privilege of naming the appended arbitrator. This was agreed to, and at 1 o'clock this (Thursday) morning at the temporary White House, in the presence of President Roosevelt, the two contending forces agreed to leave the matter to a board of six arbitrators to be appointed

by the President of the United States, and to abide by their decision. The President immediately announced the personnel of the board, as follows:

Brigadier-General John M. Wilson, of Washington, D. C.
E. W. Parker, of Washington, D. C.
Judge George Gray, of Delaware.
E. E. Clark, of Cedar Rapids, Ia.
Thomas H. Watkins, of Scranton, Pa.
Bishop John L. Spalding, of Peoria, Ill.
Carroll D. Wright, of Washington, D. C., Recorder.

The selection of the board was satisfactory to both sides, and Mr. Mitchell has announced that he expects to have the miners back to work by next Monday.

Thus the curtain falls once more upon the greatest industrial tragedy of modern times. There were 147,000 men of all nationalities, creeds and conditions, standing as one man under the leadership of the greatest labor general of the age. It was simply a battle of the industrial giants—money on the one side and the wage earners on the other, backed by the public and fortified behind the buttress of humanity and right.

The settlement of this great controversy is the beginning of a better understanding between employer and employee, and will act as a peacemaker in future difficulties between capital and labor.

The rioting and depredations done by some miners in the coal fields is to be deplored, and is neither countenanced by the unions nor the right kind of union men, but in such a heterogeneous mass of people it is an impossibility to keep them all bridled. Realizing the suffering and sacrifices that many were subjected to, it is marvelous that there was not an insurrection. As it is, the coal miners have won a great battle, aided by the people, and a restraint has been placed upon unwholesome combinations of capital that will be far-reaching in its beneficence.

A strain has been lifted from the public that should be provided against by law. If a more equitable system of legislation was administered and forced, the miners would get a reasonable living wage, and the dividends on stocks would be confined to a legitimate valuation. If this had been done, the passing act would never have found place upon the great industrial stage.

THE REAL OFFENDER.

The misleading cry of "Stop thief," while the crier does the thieving, is characterized by the coal operators when they demand military to force the miners to observe one law, while they (the operators) violate another. It is quite right that the miners should be restrained to keep the peace, even if they are made desperate from hunger and exposure to the cold. Violence never has added one beneficial result in controversies of this kind, and is discountenanced by the better element which dominates the union of today. But if these great employers of labor had been forced to observe the constitutional law of Pennsylvania, the industrial wars of 1900 and 1902 would have been unknown, as prior to the invasion of the coal trust, the individual and independent coal operators paid their workmen a living wage. It was after the coal fields had been absorbed and acquired by these railroads that the grinding process began. As fast as a force of miners became proficient and in a degree independently American they were supplanted by the poorer and illiterate workmen of Southern Europe, until finally there were no other foreign workmen to secure of this character. Had it been possible to utilize the Chinaman in coal, the exclusion act would also have been ignored. But Chinamen make poor miners, excepting in the placers. So the poor Slav and Hungarian gradually absorbed the American spirit of organization and independence, and the cost of living became so high, and their employers so intolerant, that they have at last, with good leadership, become good union men.

But the operators' cry for law appears ridiculous when they are operating contrary to the following two sections of the Constitution of Pennsylvania:

"No incorporated company, doing the business of a common carrier, shall, directly or indirectly, prosecute or engage in mining or manufacturing articles for transportation over its works; nor shall such company, directly or indirectly, engage in any other business than that of common carriers, or hold or acquire lands, freehold or leasehold, directly or indirectly, except such as shall be necessary for carrying on its business; but any mining or manufacturing company may carry the product of its mines and manufacturing on its railroad or canal, not exceeding 50 miles in length.
"No railroad, canal, or other corporation, or the lessees, purchasers or managers of any railroad or canal corporation, shall consolidate the stock, property or franchises of such corporation with or lease or purchase the works or franchises of, or in any way control, any other railroad or canal corporation owning, or having under its control, a parallel or competing line; nor shall any officer of such railroad or canal corporation act as an officer of any other railroad or canal corporation owning or having the control of a parallel or competing line; and the question whether railroads or canals are parallel or competing lines shall, when demanded by the party complainant, be decided by a jury, as in other civil issues."

FOR GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF COAL.

The 186 delegates representing 11 states who attended the interstate conference on the coal situation at Detroit, Mich., last Thursday, adopted resolutions urging the President to institute civil proceedings looking to the

enforcement of the interstate commerce act against the coal companies and criminal proceedings against their officers; petitioning the Governor of Pennsylvania to call a special session of the Legislature of that state to condemn all the coal-carrying roads and sufficient of the mines to supply the demands of the people. Further, the resolutions petition the President to call a special session of the House of Representatives, and to recommend to the House the appointment of a committee with full power to investigate the cause of the strike and to place the blame therefor. A supplemental resolution offered by Judge Frank E. Garvin, of Indianapolis, was also adopted and ordered attached to the main resolutions. It urges that the President at once institute proceedings to dissolve "the present combination of the coal operators," and to have a receiver appointed to operate the mines.

During the afternoon, while waiting for the report of the resolutions committee, the conference was given over to general debate on the coal situation. The speakers almost unanimously favored Government ownership of the mines, and the enthusiasm with which this was received by the delegates showed that a majority of them favored it as a permanent solution of the coal question.

Senator Mason was the first speaker. He outlined his plan to have a special session of Congress pass an act authorizing the appointment of receivers for the mines and their immediate opening. Judge Frank E. Garvin, of Indianapolis, also advocated the appointment of receivers for the mines. Rev. Rufus A. White, of Chicago; John W. Kelly, of Marion, Ind.; Victor L. Berger, of Milwaukee; Rev. Father Murphy, of Flint, Mich., and a number of others advocated Government ownership of the mines, and were loudly cheered by the delegates. Professor B. M. Thompson, of the University of Michigan, urged the passage of a law compelling capital and labor to settle their differences before some tribunal. Mayor Jones, of Toledo, urged as a solution of the strike the giving of a large voluntary contribution to the miners' relief fund. "A great relief fund," he said, "will result in the operators opening the mines at once."

STATS OF THE COAL TRUST.

Governor Robert M. La Follette, of Wisconsin, in a speech delivered at Milwaukee, on September 30, said:

"Ninety-five per cent of the entire coal field is owned and controlled by eight railway companies. The lines of these eight companies furnish the sole available means for transportation of anthracite coal to market. In pursuit of a settled policy these railway companies have forced private owners to sell their coal mines and coal lands at half value, first, by increasing the freight rates, and, second, by refusing to carry the coal for private owners at any price whenever such owners could not be brought to terms by the establishment of exorbitant transportation rates. Owning the coal and owning the railroads over which the coal is transported to market, they fixed the freight rates at an exorbitant figure in order to make consumers pay dividends on the overcapitalization of the railroads and coal mines.

"While rates for other and like products have fallen, anthracite coal rates have been advanced by the railways until they are nearly twice as great as cotton or wheat. They limit the supply in order to force a strong demand and high market price. As shown by sworn testimony upon trials and investigations, more than \$200,000,000 in excess of a fair market price has been exacted from consumers.
"This coal trust bears harder upon the unfortunate, helpless labor than mines the products at the wage level of a generation ago than upon the consumer, who in these days must purchase, hat in hand. Its attitude of indifference to the appeal of press and pulpit suggests utter contempt for public opinion. This is typical of the oppression which awaits the people of this country unless the Federal Government is empowered to strip this combination of its unlawful power."

New Zealand has done the most daring things ever attempted by any modern government. The New Zealanders claim that New Zealand is a country without strikes. Laborers and employers have their disputes there as elsewhere, but the one cannot quit work, or the other lock out workmen, pending a settlement of the dispute in the courts. It is also a country without paupers or poorhouses, for injured workmen are cared for by their employers. The aged workman is pensioned by the government as a soldier of industry worn out in the ranks. The government owns not only the postal system, but the express service, the telegraph lines and the railroads. Recently it has purchased a coal mine to supply its locomotives with fuel, and it intends to compete with private mines in the sale of coal to the public far enough to keep the price of coal down to a reasonable figure. There is not a pauper in New Zealand.

John A. Hobson, a well-known sociologist, prophesies serious conflicts in England between organized capital and organized labor. He says that in England the organization of labor, from the nature of things, is far less firm than capital. Still, the organization of labor is going on rapidly, especially where machinery is greatly used and skill is

required; the trades unions object to the employment of nonunion men, in order to protect their organizations. The employers of England are about to try to break down the labor unions and to break down the principle of collective bargaining. The House of Lords has decided that unions can be sued. This will pave the way for endless litigation, in which, because of weaker resources, the unions may be ruined. "English workmen," he says, "will turn to politics if they have the brains. In the meantime, as trade declines, we will see a series of big strikes and lock-outs."

The attitude of the coal barons has brought on them invective from many sources other than the hungry and half-clothed miners. At Lynn, Mass., last Saturday, at a mass meeting, called for the purpose of aiding the striking coal miners, Mayor Hurley, of Salem, created a sensation when he said that, if he had his way, he would hang President Baer and the other operators on the nearest tree. He said he did not mean to kill them, but he would use them as he would a dog, by putting a collar around their necks and raising them to a limb of a tree two or three times, until they would be willing to arbitrate. Mayor Hurley said he believed in extreme measures, and that they should be adopted now. Resolutions of sympathy with the miners were adopted. A telegram of encouragement was sent to John Mitchell, and a large sum of money was collected.

The cost of living has been discussed before the arbitration committee sifting the grievances of the employees of the Union Traction Company, of Chicago. Tables presented in behalf of the men showed that the price of 37 necessary articles had gone up and 15 decreased, while the street-car men have worked at the same wages for 16 years. The average advance in the cost of living was given at 40 per cent in five years. Meats showed an advance ranging from 15 to 65 per cent. House rents ran from 40 to 66 per cent, while no estimate could be placed on coal. The men urged that this heavy increase in the cost of living and the advances made in other trades should be weighed when the question of giving them a higher scale is taken into consideration.

Money is neither a guarantee of manners nor brains. For instance, take Baer, representative of the excessively rich; and Mitchell, on the side of the excessively poor. The millions of readers in the world will bear witness to the arrogance of the one and the diplomacy of the other in the several conferences relative to the strike difficulties. Under the greatest stress and reason for provocation, Mr. Mitchell maintained an equanimity that was truly marvelous. Not a harsh word escaped him, while the operators were spitting forth calumny and invective every time they opened their mouths.

The Cigarmakers' Union, of San Francisco are urging the independent retail dealers to back the union in their campaign for the union label as a means of their own amelioration. The great tobacco trust is already beginning to treat the retailer shabbily, and they are puzzling themselves, endeavoring to find a remedy. The cigar trust, as a rule, employs almost exclusively child labor—mostly girls—and low wages is the rule. Let the retailer handle only union-made goods, and, above all, absolutely decline to deal in trust-made cigars, and his battle is more than half won.

In next week's issue the Labor Press will endeavor to give the names of all the unions and the amounts they have subscribed to the coal miners. The largest amount given by one union will be the Carpenters, which gave \$1500 in one sum, but this is not a greater amount in proportion than some of the other unions have made, and in several instances not as great. But the donation is a most liberal one, and is deserving of special mention, as are the others already mentioned in another column of this issue.

THE STOVE WILL NOT BE HOT.

A. R. Lawton, secretary of the Federated Trades Council, will leave Saturday morning for a trip to the Siletz timber district in Lincoln County, where he has taken up a quarter section of fine timber. He will be absent for a week or more, and will go 65 miles by rail, 42 miles by wagon, five miles afoot and three miles by boat. Including his bedding, cooking utensils, food, water bottle, matches, etc., he will carry a full-grown stove upon his back across the mountains. On account of the price of coal he has concluded to use wood for his stove, cut upon his own timber claim.

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