

The Corvallis Times

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, DECEMBER 10, 1902.

Editor and Prop.

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POVERTY THERE

WITNESSES TELL STRIKE COMMISSION OF CONDITIONS AMONG MINERS.

Took One Man Seven Years to Save Sixty Dollars and Another Three Years to Pay a Funeral Debt—Tales of the Poor—Other News.

Scranton, Dec 6.—At the session of the strike commission today, Andrew Matthey, a Slavonian, who was employed by the Coxe Bros. & Co., was the first witness. He was the president of his local union, and was told by the company, he said, that if he quit the union he would be given a job. He refused, and when he was given such bad work that he gave up his job. He said he was the means of bringing 14 Slavonian families to this country at the instance of the breaker boss at the Coxe mines. They were promised \$1.10 per day, but received but \$6.50 cents a day.

When the witness was asked by Mr Darrow how many times he had seen the mine inspector in the mines, Commissioner Watson asked the purpose of the question. Mr Darrow said that as a rule, the mine inspector is accompanied by the mine official, and therefore a miner is afraid to make a complaint in the presence of his boss. Mr Mitchell maintained that inspectors should be unaccompanied, and their attention not diverted from bad places in the mines.

John G Strenix, an Englishman, followed Matthey. He said he averaged about \$300 a year, and had worked in the mines for 30 years.

John Farari, an Austrian, formerly employed by the Coxe company, said he was only able to save \$100 in the last seven years.

Jackson Anshack was an interesting witness. He said he received \$1.57 for a day of 12 hours and his assistant \$1.26. On every other Sunday, when he and his assistant shifted from day to night work, they were compelled to work 24 hours, straight without relief. This statement caused a buzz throughout the court room, and every commissioner straightened up and became more interested. In answer to a question put by the commission, he said he was off one day every two weeks this working six days one week and eight days the next.

"Suppose you should fall asleep when you were on the long shift of 24 hours, what would happen?" asked Mr Darrow.

"Well," he replied, "if I slept long enough, the fans would stop and would accumulate and if any explosion took place some men might be killed."

Rev James V Hussie, was the next witness. Drinking among the miners, he said, was at a minimum during the strike. When asked to explain the general conditions as he found them, Father Hussie said that he had lived in the coal regions practically all his life.

"The conditions in that region he said, 'are deplorable.' The miners are barely able to exist. I say this without any coloring, knowing that I am under oath. I realize that what I say is going to the American people, and I want to talk cautiously. I have been in their homes. They are not homes, but merely a habitation, a resting place. They are a frugal, conservatively, reasonable and God-fearing people. We have eight Catholic churches in Hazelton, and they are crowded every Sunday with worshippers and this no doubt true of the churches whose faith is opposed to ours."

Father Hussie said that this was the condition before the strike, and that during their suspension the miners and their families were more pinched and that they barely existed. "Families cannot be kept together," he said. "The boys are sent into the mines almost as soon as they are able to toddle about, and the girls are sent to the mills in the small towns in the vicinity, or drift to large cities. He related instances of poverty and said it took one man six years to pay off a funeral debt of \$200.

In reply to further questioning Father Hussie said that he had examined 50 or 60 miners and

found that only three of them were able to save any money. One was a Scotman, one an Austrian and the third inherited money.

Andrew Matthey who was on the stand at the morning session was recalled to give more information regarding the alleged importation of Slavonians to the Coxe mines. He told how he had been paid to go to Hazelton and meet the "green-horns" who had been shipped by his mother from Europe at the request of himself, who had been asked to do so by a foreman at the Coxe mines.

St Louis, Dec. 7.—Mrs. James K. Abernathy, who suddenly dropped to sleep while reading a newspaper aloud to her husband Friday morning, is still in a somnolent state. The attending physician this afternoon again applied an electric battery and for a moment the sleeper's eyes opened, she made a slight effort to sit up, then sighed and fell back asleep without having uttered a word.

Her breathing is deep, and her heart action is pronounced good. The physician believes her condition is due to the cerebral hemorrhage, and thinks she should awaken her own accord about next Thursday after a period of six days.

The alternative is, he said, that if blood, instead of serum, has congested in the brain, she may pass away while asleep. The principal symptom is a swelling of the arachnoid, one of the three principal membranes of the brain. However I believe her chances for recovery are favorable.

Mrs. Abernathy is a believer in spiritualism, and many devotees of the cult gathered at her home today and surrounded her bed, believing she is in a trance and holding celestial communication and eagerly watching for the conveyance of some sign from the spirit realm by the sleeper.

New York, Dec. 6.—The will of Mrs. Nellie Gore, who was shot and killed in Paris, France, on November 19 last, was filed for probate in the surrogate's office here today. It bears the date of December 11, 1902. Severe Mallet-Provost is named as executor.

By the terms of the will the testatrix bequeaths all her wedding apparel, jewelry, books, etc., to her aunt, Mrs. Hester A. Dickinson, Alameda, Calif. The residue of the estate is left in trust to the executor of the will, and he is instructed to sell the testatrix's property in Mexico and convert the proceeds into personal property. The income of the trust is to go to Mrs. Dickinson and her husband as long as both or one of them lives.

At their death the principle is to be divided between the three brothers of the testatrix, Leslie Stogdill, Charles Stogdill and Edward N. Stogdill.

The petition sets forth that

there is no real property belonging to the testatrix in this state, and that her personal property is worth not to exceed \$1,000.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 6.—Since November 17, when an earthquake shook up Southern Utah and as far north as Salt Lake, daily shocks have been felt in the extreme southeastern portion of the state. According to advices received from Pine Valley, a hamlet in the mountains of Washington county, not a day has passed since that date that at least one earthquake shock has not been felt, and serious alarm is being felt for the safety of the place. Every chimney in the town has been badly cracked or completely tumbled over. At Pinto the shocks have been so severe that the public schools have been abandoned for several days.

About 15 miles south are five or six old craters, and the continuance

of the earthquake shocks has

strengthened the belief that there

has been a fresh outbreak of volcanic activity in the mountains of

that region.

New York, Dec. 6.—A peculiar drowning is reported from Canarsie, Long Island. With \$300 in silver in his pockets, which he had saved for his wedding, Edward Porter was knocked from his sloop while returning to port and was drowned. Owing to the storm his crew could render no assistance, and weighted down by the coin, Porter, although a good swimmer, sank almost instantaneously.

The body was recovered by the Yaquis, tried by a council

of war, and "California Dan" was condemned to death. Wilson being acquitted. In the presence of

Wilson, the Yaquis with dull-saws

KILLED HIS MAN

IN MARSHFIELD

BY GOING TO DUTY

TO THE ARMY

TOOK BODY

TO THE FOREST

TOOK IT OUT

TOOK IT OUT