

SIDE OF THE MINERS

President Mitchell Talks to the Peace Board.

OFFICIAL HEARING IS BEGUN

Union Leader Makes an Eloquent Plea—Attorney for the Operators Shows Their Hand in Questioning Mitchell.

(Continued from First Page.)

testimony that the contention of the company that the miners' union was an irresponsible organization, and that agreements, therefore, could not be safely entered into, was well founded.

During the hearing, the statement was brought out for the first time since the late strike was begun that the union had disbursed \$1,500,000 among the union and nonunion men who were on strike. One of the questions which came up before the commission was the advisability of hearing counsel on behalf of the nonunion men who remained at work during the strike. Attorney J. J. Lennan, one of the attorneys for the nonunion men, asked the commission what his status before the arbitrators was. Judge Gray informed him that the question would be taken under consideration, and that an answer would probably be given him tomorrow.

Mr. Mitchell, before taking the witness stand in the forenoon, presented the miners' side of the case in a 500-word statement. It took him 40 minutes to read his address, and he was listened to by the commissioners and operators with the closest attention. It is not improbable that Mr. Mitchell will be on the stand all day tomorrow, and probably longer. It is the intention of the miners to next call on Rev. Peter Roberts, of Mahoney City, who has an intimate knowledge of anthracite mining, and is the author of a book on the subject. During the hearing all the attorneys took copious notes, and it looks as if the investigation would be long drawn out, unless some arrangement for curtailing the cross-examination of witnesses is agreed upon.

As early as 9 o'clock the corridors were crowded with people of all classes and conditions, eager to gain admittance. Only a few of them, however, got through the door, as almost every seat was occupied by members of the miners' union, company officials and other officials and representatives of the miners. The proceedings opened shortly after 10 o'clock, when Judge Gray announced that the commission would hear the representatives of the miners first.

Mr. Mitchell said he would file a further statement on Monday in answer to some of the allegations of the operators.

MITCHELL'S PLEA FOR MINERS.

Vivid Picture Is Painted of the Hard Lot of the Coalminer.

SCRANTON, Pa., Nov. 14.—As soon as the peace commission, which was ready to proceed, President Mitchell made his plea for the miners. He prefaced his statement with the hope that the commission "would succeed in establishing a relationship between the operators and the miners that will insure peace and stability in the industry for an indefinite period." After reciting the demands for increased pay for the miner, a shorter work day for the laborer, the weighing of the coal and an industrial agreement, the refusal of all of which led to the strike, Mr. Mitchell spoke as follows on the question of higher wages:

"Of the 17,400 men and boys employed in and around the mines, strippers, washmen and breakers in the anthracite coal fields, 64,072, or 42 per cent, are employed on contract or piece work, the remaining 83,000, or 57 per cent, are employed by the hour, day, week or month. Of the 64,072 contract men, 57,894 are miners and 26,268 are miners' laborers."

"The work of a miner and a miner's laborer is extremely hazardous. In fact, it is more dangerous than employment in any other important industry in the world. The number of persons killed and injured is greater than in any other industry. Each day the anthracite coal mines are in operation two and six-times persons lose their lives and three times as many are maimed, and yet these men receive less wages annually than is received by men performing precisely similar work in other fields, under more favorable and less hazardous circumstances."

A Short and a Hard Life.

"The number of years a man can retain his health and strength in this industry is limited. If he escapes death or injury by falls of rock or coal, he cannot escape attacks of miner's asthma. There is scarcely a miner who has not contracted this malady. The miners are compelled to work in powder smoke, in foul air, many of them in water, and their work is difficult and exhausting. Reputable insurance companies will not issue policies to this class of workers. The risks are so great that the premiums would be prohibitive to men whose earnings are so low. The entire 20 per cent which they demand as an increase in their wages would not suffice to carry an insurance of \$100."

"It seems but fair and just that wages paid these classes of workmen should be as high, if not higher, than wages paid to skilled artisans in other industries. It is certainly not unjust to ask that these miners should receive as high wages as are paid to miners in the bituminous coal fields, in the silver and gold mines or in the iron ore and copper mines, in all of which work is less hazardous, freer from liability to disease, requiring less expense and less skill, and is better paid than labor in the anthracite coal fields."

In supporting the demand for the reduction of the hours of the day laborers, Mr. Mitchell said it amounted to a demand of 20 per cent increase of compensation for \$3,000 men, or 57 per cent of all mine employees. Continuing, he said:

"The eight-hour day is the standard working day in the mining industry. Eight hours constitute a day's work in the coal mines of Great Britain, in all the silver, gold and copper mines, and in all the bituminous coal mines in the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Kentucky, Western Pennsylvania and the Indian Territory."

Shorter Hours Mean More Coal.

"The reports of the United States Geological Survey demonstrate that more coal has been produced annually since the inauguration of the eight-hour work day than ever before. Each miner produces more coal per working day in eight hours than he formerly produced in ten hours, and there is no reason why the same results would not be obtained in the anthracite field. The bituminous workers receive in many instances 20 to 40 per cent higher wages for eight hours' work than are paid in the anthracite mines for 10 hours' work."

Defending the third demand, that coal shall be weighed and paid for by weight, and that 250 pounds shall constitute a ton, Mr. Mitchell declared the present method

of measuring the coal produced by the miners in the Lackawanna, Wyoming and Lehigh regions has "been the source of more discontent than any other of the many injustices imposed upon the miners, and that the present discontent among the workers until an honest system has been established. Paying for coal by the car or by the ton weighing 2740 to 2150 pounds is a flagrant injustice. The cars have been made larger, more toppling is required, and there has been no corresponding increase in the amount paid per car or per ton. The miners have been forced to produce a constantly increasing amount of coal for which they receive no additional compensation."

"The miner should be paid for every pound of coal he mines that is sold by the operators. If 250 pounds constitute a ton when coal is sold to the consumer and when railroad companies are paid for transporting coal to market, what justice can there be in denying the miner the right to be paid for his labor upon the same basis?"

"The anthracite companies, not satisfied with an extra legal ton of from 2740 to 2150 pounds, have a system of docking which they appropriate an additional part of the miners' earnings. A miner is docked all the way from 500 to 1000 pounds upon a car as a penalty for loading impurities, for which he has already been penalized to the extent of from 700 to 900 pounds in excess measure of weight; in other words, he is punished twice for the same offense."

"A system somewhat similar but less unjust obtained in a portion of the bituminous coal fields many years ago, but the miners are, for which he is paid upon the basis of a legal ton, they are not only permitted but are encouraged by the operators to employ check weightmen to see that the product of their labor is properly weighed and a correct record made thereof."

Unionism Is Explained.
Mr. Mitchell then took up the fourth demand of the miners for a trade agreement with the necessary machinery for the adjustment of local grievances. He outlined the history and policy of the United Mineworkers of America and explained that by its constitution, anthracite and bituminous mineworkers had home rule for the local government of local affairs.

"The only manner," he said, "in which the National organization is permitted to interfere is that before a strike is inaugurated by the district organization the approval of the president of the National union must be obtained, but the president of the National organization has no authority to inaugurate a strike. Thus the coal mine operators are afforded a greater measure of protection against strikes than they would have under a separate and independent organization."

"As to the responsibility of the mineworkers' organization, Mr. Mitchell said: 'At the present time the United Mineworkers of America has contracts with the operators of 14 states and districts, fixing the amount the miners shall receive per ton, the amount the various classes of labor shall receive per day, the number of hours which shall constitute a day's work, and the methods and machinery for the adjustment of local grievances by joint conference with the mineworkers. These are mutual contracts which are advantageous to both miner and operator, and protect the public against the effects of strikes and lock-outs.'

"Where the United Mineworkers of America is recognized and contracted with, the responsibility of disciplining its members. The trade agreement has proved effective in restraining workmen from engaging in local or general strikes. There has been no strike of any magnitude in any of the coal-mining states in which trade agreements exist. We seek to establish the same method of adjusting the differences in the anthracite field."

Operators' Objection Not Valid.
"It is said that the competition between anthracite and bituminous coal is a reason upon which the anthracite operators oppose a recognition of the miners' organization. This objection is neither valid nor consistent is clearly demonstrated by the fact that many of the railroads, which are controlled by the same men who control the anthracite coal mines enter into trade agreements with railroad organizations, a majority of whose members are employed upon other and competing roads."

"We demand recognition because we know that permanent peace and friendly relations can only be maintained through a trade agreement with the organization which our people have elected to join. Fully 96 per cent of the employees of the anthracite coal mines are members of it from choice, they desire to retain their membership in it. It was the United Mineworkers of America that conferred with the President of the United States in relation to the submission of the issues involved in the coal strike to this commission; it was the United Mineworkers of America that was requested by the President to end the strike; it was the United Mineworkers of America that declared the strike at an end; it was the United Mineworkers that sent the men back to work, and it is the United Mineworkers of America that is pledged to accept the award of this commission."

"Failure to recognize the organization was the cause of the many local strikes against which operators and mineworkers jointly complained. There have been many local strikes during the past year, the fault of which rests upon operators and miners alike. The miners, failing to secure redress for their wrongs—the companies having refused to treat with their representatives—had no choice but to submit to injustice or inaugurate a strike. 'Recognition of the union does not mean dictation or interference by men not employed by the companies; it simply means that officers selected by the mineworkers shall exercise supervision over the organization, or shall counsel with the mineworkers as to how their trade affairs shall be conducted. The miners have as much right to select such spokesmen to act for them, to present their grievances, to manage their affairs, as have the stockholders or any one of the anthracite coal companies to elect their officers to perform like functions.'

Plan to Prevent Strikes.

"For the information of the commission, we herewith outline more specifically a plan of procedure, which if adopted, would prevent local strikes and preserve peace and harmony during the time covered by the award which you are empowered to make."

"First—The rate of wages, the hours of labor, the method of weighing and paying for the product of the miners' work should be incorporated in an agreement between the representatives of the miners, the coal companies and the representatives of the organization of which complainants in this case are members."

"Second—There should be a committee of conservative mineworkers selected by the employees of each colliery. It should be the duty of this committee to cooperate with the mine foremen in the adjustment of local disputes which cannot be settled between the mine foremen and mineworkers."

"Third—Should the mine foremen and mine company fail to adjust the grievance complained of, the matter in dispute should be referred to the company superintendent and a general grievance committee, which should be composed of representative mineworkers from each colliery operated by any one company. Should they fail to adjust it, it should be referred to the general manager of the coal company and the district president of the miners' organization, and should they fail to adjust it, they should call on the services of some disinterested person whose function should be the pending an adjustment in the manner set forth, the mines and the miners should continue at work."

Mr. Mitchell concluded with a plea for the children. He said:

"Our little boys should not be forced

into the mines and broken up early in life; our little girls should not be compelled to work in the mills and factories at an age when they should be in school. These children are the future citizens of our Nation, and the parents should be enabled to earn wages sufficiently high to give them at least a common school education, so as to equip them to bear the grave responsibilities that will ultimately devolve upon them. The wealth and the future of the nation are not to be measured by its palaces and millionaires, but rather by the enlightenment, contentment and prosperity of its millions of citizens who constitute the bone and sinew of our land."

HARMONY SCHEME FOR UNIONS.

Machinists and Metal-Workers in 'Community of Interests.'

CHICAGO, Nov. 14.—The community of interest plan is being taken up by the International Association of Machinists and the United Metal-Workers, which come close together in the 500 machine shops in Chicago. The "handy man," who is common in shops of the smaller size, found a home in the community of interest plan. He was able to work as a machinist or as a metal-worker, as the occasion demanded, and his dual capacity led to disputes and jurisdiction. An agreement has been ratified in the Chicago district which takes in all the territory within a radius of 25 miles from the City Hall, whereby the two unions shall plan to have every man employed in a machine shop, no matter what his work.

The new plan will do away with friction which has seriously embarrassed contractors. On several occasions the differences between the two unions have resulted in long and costly delays to big buildings, as well as strikes in machine shops.

MARINES TO QUIT PANAMA

American Move Is Prompted by Appearance of Yellow Fever.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—As a measure of protection in view of the appearance of yellow fever, it has been decided to order the marine battalion away from the isthmus of Panama. They will be taken on board the Paygher to Culebra Island, where they will go into camp and remain for the present.

The flagship Wisconsin will probably proceed leisurely up the Pacific Coast to San Francisco, and if another vessel is needed at Panama, the cruiser Boston, at San Francisco, will be sent there. The Montgomery, now cruising in Haytian waters, being no longer required in that vicinity by reason of the practical cessation of hostilities, will be sent to Colon to replace the Panther, in case it is necessary to have a warship in that neighborhood.

VENEZUELA AGAIN QUIET.

Irons Taken Off Rebel Leaders—President Castro.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—Mail advices received here from Caracas, Venezuela, are to the effect that a report had reached the capital city that the irons had been taken off General Jose Manuel Gaitanero, who had been a prominent figure in past revolutions and an aspirant for the Presidency. Mail advices show that the government now treats the revolution as a proclamation concludes by saying:

"The most sublime triumph has this day crowned the efforts of patriotic heroism. After a day of gain and sorrow, bloody struggle recorded in our history, 6000 heroes have obliged 10,000 mercenary assassins, hired for the misfortune of our country, to bite the dust."

"General Matos and his followers have now an opportunity to rejoice in their victory. In the seven days of unceasing battle they have slain 10,000 of their country run in torrents. Three thousand killed and wounded is the least these unnatural sons of our beloved country have caused. They will be the blood of the nation, and in all places by the sight of widows and orphans, the only legacy which they have transmitted to their families, and so it will be with all who have unjustly and wickedly taken part in the most unreasonable and criminal of revolutions."

"The God of nations has crowned our just and patriotic cause with a peace and triumph, the doorway of her grandeur and prosperity is an evident fact."

Bolivia to Issue Money for War.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—Congress is authorizing the emission of \$1,000,000 in paper currency to cover the cost of the expedition to Acre, and has placed the debt upon the Northwestern colonies, which involved in the debt the Republic of La Paz, Bolivia. Preparations for the expedition, which will consist of 1000 men, already have commenced. If President Pando takes personal charge of the expedition, First Vice-President Velasco, Minister of War Montez will accompany him, leaving Second Vice-President Capriles temporary head of the Republic. Great enthusiasm is expected to develop in part of Central and Western Pennsylvania, where they are not, they work together in harmony. There is no difficulty between the two unions, and there is no question about the right of a man to deal with whom he pleases. What the commission would like to know is whether your organization, or you as representing the organization, approve of using the boycott as a weapon to an extent outlined in the resolutions read a while ago? What you call a 'scab' laborer brings in question all provision dealers, and those who furnish the necessities of life are warned to refrain from furnishing such necessities to the so-called 'scab' laborers, or their families."

Violence at Recent Strike.

Speaking very slowly and with an evident desire to answer the questions upon the commission, Mr. Wilcox asked: "Mr. Mitchell, during the late strike there was considerable violence in the anthracite region, was there not?" "There was some violence, but to what extent I am not fully informed."

Mr. Wilcox then read the proclamation of Governor Stone, of October last, calling out the entire division of the National Guard of the state and continuing his questions, he asked: "In your letter to President Roosevelt of October 16, you said 'there have been few crimes and a number of misdemeanors charged to those on strike.' You recollect that, don't you?" "Yes, sir," was the response.

"Has anything been done to discipline those people?" "I understand that where the miners were guilty of lawlessness they have been arrested and are under indictment."

"I mean anything done by your organization." "We have no method of punishing a man who has committed a crime, except action from the courts. We have a record that any man who has been arrested is a member of the United Mineworkers of America."

Mr. Wilcox asked what method was taken to inquire into the subject, to which Mr. Mitchell responded by saying that an examination of the union's books of crimes committed failed to show the connection of any union men with them. Continuing, he said:

"We take the position that courts are established to determine the innocence or guilt of any one arrested, and until then we have no right to proceed against him. We have in every possible way tried to persuade our men from committing acts of violence."

"There are no rules on the subject?" "Our organization has no rules governing the subject," was the witness' reply, "because few of our members ever commit crime."

Mr. Wilcox asked if Mr. Mitchell approved of the methods of the miners during the strike in Hopkins County, Kentucky, but Mr. Mitchell insisted that he

MITCHELL ON THE STAND

MINERWORKERS' LEADER TESTIFIES BEFORE PEACE BOARD.

Operators' Attorney Closely Questions President, but Apparently Makes No Point.

SCRANTON, Pa., Nov. 14.—After President Mitchell had finished stating the miners' case to the peace board this morning, Judge Gray called for witnesses. Mr. Darrow said the miners would call Mr. Mitchell first. It was agreed that all witnesses should be put under oath. Mr. Mitchell was then sworn.

He said that 99 per cent of the anthracite miners are members of the union, and that the president or executive board never ordered a strike except on the affirmative vote of the miners themselves. Responding to several questions, Mr. Mitchell explained the relationship between the union and the bituminous operators, and said that by reason of the contracts entered into by them there had been no strikes. Where no contracts were made, he said there had been strikes of considerable magnitude. Through the amicable relations with the bituminous operators, Mr. Mitchell said wages had been increased since 1885 an average of 50 per cent, and that there had been a reduction in hours of from 10 to eight. The price of fuel, both bituminous and anthracite, he said, had gradually increased.

The work of miners has been characterized as the most hazardous in the world. Last year 33 men were killed in the mines and 1200 injured. The number of deaths in the bituminous fields in proportion to the number of men employed was not so great as in the anthracite regions.

Soft Coal Wages Higher.

Mr. Mitchell said the wages paid in the bituminous fields were from 40 to 50 per cent higher in some classes of work, and 20 to 30 per cent in others, than in the anthracite region. He had visited the homes of miners in this region and in the bituminous fields and, generally speaking, the conditions in the soft-coal fields were better than in the hard-coal territory.

He said the agitation for higher wages was begun two years ago. This had crystallized into a demand to be paid by weight, which, his opinion was, was the only honest method of determining the amount the men earned. He spoke of the increased size of the coal cars, and the demand of the coal operators that more "top" should be put on which he said had been a source of more trouble than any one thing he knew of.

"Were you willing to submit to arbitration?" Mr. Darrow asked. "Always," said Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Darrow's next question brought out the first public statement made since the late strike was inaugurated regarding the amount of aid given the strikers. Mr. Mitchell said that \$1,500,000 had been distributed among the workers, and that nonunion men on strike had shared equally. He said that, although he had had no dues, he said he did not know of a single instance wherein his organization had failed to keep its contracts.

"What do you say as to the ability of your organization to maintain discipline and assist in the settlement of questions, and help in the harmony of the management of the coal industry?" Inquired Mr. Darrow.

Responsibility of Union.

Speaking very deliberately Mr. Mitchell answered: "I would say that our experience as an organization demonstrates conclusively that discipline can be maintained where trade agreements exist. As a matter of fact, in those states where we have trade agreements, if any of our local unions were to attempt to violate agreements, or refuse to go back to work when called upon to do so, we would put them out of the union. Our agreements take precedence over our own law. The agreements must be kept inviolate."

"When the direct examination of Mr. Mitchell was concluded, Mr. Wilcox, for the operators, cross-examined Mr. Mitchell regarding the general workings of the organization. Mr. Wilcox asked if there was any provision in the United Mineworkers' constitution which authorized the expulsion of men who violate agreements."

Mr. Mitchell said he would have such authority because that had been the policy of the organization. "Usually," he said, "the process of enforcing the agreement is the agreement itself. The agreement does not specifically contain any provision for turning a man out of the organization, but it does confer power on its officers to interpret it and to expel any member who violates it. The interpretation is the law."

"Then you are now making the law?" asked Mr. Wilcox.

At this point a recess was taken until 1 o'clock.

In the afternoon Mr. Wilcox resumed the examination of Mr. Mitchell. "What methods do you adopt to prevent strikes?" he asked with nonunion men?" asked Mr. Wilcox.

"Well, originally," said Mr. Mitchell, "in the bituminous fields all the mineworkers in the states where they have contracts are members of the organization. In part of Central and Western Pennsylvania, where they are not, they work together in harmony. There is no difficulty between the two unions, and there is no question about the right of a man to deal with whom he pleases. What the commission would like to know is whether your organization, or you as representing the organization, approve of using the boycott as a weapon to an extent outlined in the resolutions read a while ago? What you call a 'scab' laborer brings in question all provision dealers, and those who furnish the necessities of life are warned to refrain from furnishing such necessities to the so-called 'scab' laborers, or their families."

"I should say, Mr. Chairman," responded Mr. Mitchell, "that the union, as

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Many of the ills from which women suffer are of a transient nature and do not come from any organic trouble and it is pleasant to know that they yield so promptly to the beneficial effects of Syrup of Figs, but when anything more than a laxative is needed it is best to consult the family physician and to avoid the old-time cathartics and loudly advertised nostrums of the present day. When one needs only to remove the strain, the torpor, the congestion, or similar ills, which attend upon a constipated condition of the system, use the true and gentle remedy—Syrup of Figs—and enjoy freedom from the depression, the aches and pains, colds and headaches, which are due to inactivity of the bowels.

Only those who buy the genuine Syrup of Figs can hope to get its beneficial effects and as a guarantee of the excellence of the remedy the full name of the company—California Fig Syrup Co.—is printed on the front of every package and without it any preparation offered as Syrup of Figs is fraudulent and should be declined. To those who know the quality of this excellent laxative, the offer of any substitute, when Syrup of Figs is called for, is always resented by a transfer of patronage to some first-class drug establishment, where they do not recommend, nor sell false brands, nor imitation remedies. The genuine article may be bought of all reliable druggists everywhere at 50 cents per bottle.

few of no lawlessness committed by the union men. The strikers, he said, had been put out of the company's houses. Judge Gray—Do they encourage it? Mr. Mitchell—They do. There are times during great excitement, such as prevails in a strike, that members and local unions, in mass meetings, may feel justified in advising their friends and brother members not to purchase from storekeepers who supply goods to a non-union man."

"That is not the question," said Judge Gray. "What we would like to know is whether you justify the attention which is drawn from those who have offended you of the necessities of life, of things by which men live, and, therefore, are their life?" "I should say emphatically no," retorted Mr. Mitchell.

Judge Gray—That was the purport of the resolution which was read, and we expected the question to be brought up to that, and as this is for the information

of the commission, I thought it worth while to ask the commission. The commission at 4 o'clock adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, with Mr. Mitchell still on the stand.

Flyer Strikes Freight Train Head-On.

WASHINGTON, Ind., Nov. 14.—The Royal Blue Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern Flyer, St. Louis to New York, was wrecked 20 miles east of here this morning. Several persons were injured, one fatally.

The flyer was running 60 miles an hour and struck a freight train head-on. Both engines were smashed. The engineers blew their whistles before they jumped. The one fatally injured is a tramp.

SALEM, Nov. 14.—(Special.)—State Senator C. W. Fulton, of Clatsop County, was a visitor at the Capitol today. He called on his rival for the Senatorship, Governor T. T. Geer.

THE MISSISSIPPI BUBBLE



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"The Mississippi Bubble," by EMERSON HOUGH, is one of the truly great romances. It is truth and art combined.—The Boston Journal.

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