

TALES OF WRONG

Told by Miners Against Markle & Co.

MANY OF THEM ARE EVICTED

Six Years' Labor Required to Pay Off Rent Debt.

A PECULIAR WAY OF FIGURING

Advance in Wages Transformed Into Reduction—The Price of Powder Raised—Evidence of Blacklisting—Markle Case Closed.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 9.—Tales of eviction from houses owned by C. B. Markle & Co., the narration of the death of a wife as a result of an enforced removal from her home, and the story of a mother whose husband was killed in the Markle mines, and of how she and her two boys struggled for years to pay the Markles the back rent and coal bill she owed them, were the principal features of today's sessions of the commission.

The testimony, as presented by some of the witnesses whose lives are given up to the coal mining industry, was at times pathetic and surprising to the commissioners, who listened to it with undivided attention.

The miners this afternoon concluded the calling of witnesses against the Markle Company, which concern and the conditions surrounding it have been prominent before the commissioners since last Saturday.

"Vindication" for Markle. "The independent operators, in their meeting with the big companies in New York two weeks ago, when they succeeded in blocking the proposed settlement, said the whole matter should be before the commission, so that the country at large would know who is right, and thus vindicate the coal companies, who are willing to go ahead with the proceedings if they are satisfied with the 'vindication' they are now getting."

After closing the Markle case the representatives of the miners called witnesses who had formerly been employed in the mines of several companies to show that a blacklist existed, and that some of the companies had broken the agreement which ended the strike and resulted in the appointment of the arbitration commission. It is the intention of the lawyers for the miners to take up tomorrow the condition of the coal mines in the Hazleton Valley Company and others in the Hazleton region.

High Price of Powder. The first witness called was James McMonigle, a miner, formerly employed by the Markle Company. He said that he was working in was so dangerous that he complained to the company officials that he might be killed. He was told if he worked any other mine he would be given any care. He went out on strike and, after the suspension, he was refused work and evicted from his house.

B. D. Gallagher, another Markle miner, testified that the company charges him 25 cents a gallon for oil that sells in Hazleton, a few miles away, for 15 cents, and 22 cents a quire for blasting paper that can be had for 15 cents. Chairman Gray asked what the outside market price for powder was. Some of the independent operators said \$1.25 a keg, but attorneys for the miners said 90 to 95 cents a keg. The companies are selling it to the miners at \$1.40 a keg.

Andrew Hannik, a Hungarian, told how the Markles evicted him. He was followed by Henry Coll, another Markle miner, who told how his family, including his mother-in-law, who was 100 years old, were set on the road with their household goods. He gave a graphic description of how he was injured many times in the mines. He said one of his legs was no better than a wooden one; he had only one eye, his hands had been crushed, ribs broken and skull fractured. The company gave him nothing until after the employer took up a collection for him, then he was given \$50 after being on the injured list for two years. The company took out of the collection the rent he owed.

In answer to other questions, he said he was one of the 13 evicted by the Markle Company. The only rent he owed was for the months during the strike. The company gave no reason for evicting him.

Driven Forth to Die. Then followed the most pathetic story yet told the commission. The old miner, decrepit from many injuries, told under examination of how the eviction was carried on. The wife was sick and her 100-year-old mother was blind and unable to walk. The day on which they were thrown out was rainy. He took them as best he could to Hazleton, seven miles away, and placed them in a cold, damp, empty house. This was last month, when the atmosphere on the Hazleton Mountain was quite cold. His wife became worse. Medical aid was kindly furnished free by a Hazleton doctor, but it did not help her much.

"We were greatly worried because of our having been turned out of the house, and one night," he said, between sobs, "she died."

"She died?" said Judge Gray, who was pacing to and fro across the room, as he quickly turned when he heard the man's last words.

"Yes, sir; she died; and I buried her yesterday."

All the commissioners and many of those in the courtroom were much affected by the old miner's story. The witness went on to say that he did not know whether the centenarian was alive today or not. She was in bad condition, owing to her daughter's death, when he left the house last night.

No one cared to cross-examine, and Judge Gray said: "That is all, Mr. Coll, and that's enough."

Two more witnesses told of how they were refused work by the Markle Company, and then J. B. Gallagher, National board member of the United Mine Workers of America for the Hazleton district, took the stand and told of conditions as he found them at the mines of the Markle Company. The air in some of the gangways, he said, was so bad that miners' lamps would not burn. If he had a drill

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CHRISTMAS gladness in the air, Christmas buying everywhere. Everybody playing Santa Claus and looking for pleasant surprises for little people and big people. You cannot find more enthusiastic buying than right here in our store. There is so much that is choice and that is certain to please. Our beautiful dolls are quickly finding homes, the doll hospital is daily converting dilapidated darlings into good-as-new beauties. Our Christmas slippers and handkerchiefs are beautiful, and every one wants some; our books are carefully chosen and exactly meet the demand of the season. And toys! Our toys are making just lots of friends for us. Old folks and young folks visit our toy department and linger long enjoying and purchasing the many amusing and pretty things to be found there.



Choice Christmas Novelties in Burnt Wood

The most beautiful and popular novelties of the season. No amateur work among ours. Each piece is unique in itself, being appropriately decorated for the use to which it is to be put, designing and work all done by skillful artists. Among our large variety you will find beautiful panels and plaques in all sizes, nut bowls, book racks, match safes, tobacco jars, cuff, collar, glove and handkerchief boxes, mirrors and trays of all sizes.

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Furniture for that crowning event of the little girl's play time, the tea party. These tables are attractively painted in bright red, they are well made, strong and have legs that can be unscrewed and put on and off easily, so that the table can be stowed away when not in use. Prices this week: Size 8 1/2 x 14 1/2 in. .... 17c Size 12 x 18 1/2 in. .... 35c Size 17 x 24 in. .... 75c Folding wooden chairs to go with tables, this week, each ..... 25c

Christmas Cards and Calendars

You want to make your selection early in order to secure the choicest of our cards and calendars. Our lines of these Christmas goods are lovely and are being sold rapidly. Our Art calendars are veritable treasures, and like our handsome Christmas cards, are in convenient sizes for mailing. We have also a large collection of very tasty little cards to enclose with the present you are sending.

Special Holiday Prices on China Plates

Fine French China, beautifully decorated. One of the loveliest presents you could choose. Bread and Butter Plates Per doz. \$10.00 plates now ..... \$ 8.00 13.00 plates now ..... 10.40 22.50 plates now ..... 18.00 Dessert Plates Per doz. \$ 8.00 plates now ..... \$ 6.40 18.00 plates now ..... 14.40 20.00 plates now ..... 16.00 25.00 plates now ..... 20.00 Dinner Plates Per doz. \$13.00 plates now ..... \$10.40 21.00 plates now ..... 16.80 32.50 plates now ..... 26.00 36.00 plates now ..... 28.80

Christmas Sale Choice Books

You are always safe in selecting a book for a Christmas present. It never fails to please. For the price or for a much larger price you will not find a prettier gift than our beautiful Portrait Edition on sale this week. These books are beautifully bound in cloth of delicate colors, artistically decorated. The type is clear and new and paper excellent. Price this week only 25c

Thrilling Specials in Children's Fairy Tales

Fairy Tales and the dear old Mother Goose, profusely illustrated, cloth bound and with board covers in bright, attractive decorations. Price this week 18c only

An Excellent Special in Ladies' Vests and Pants

Fine white ribbed worsted, nicely made and finished. An excellent \$1.25 quality, special 98c

Ladies' Christmas Garters

Round garters with sterling silver buckles, made of silk elastic, with either plain or frilled edge, in a great variety of shades. Prices 95c, \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$2.00 pair.

Cashmere Hose

A-NICE CHRISTMAS PRESENT—A box of half dozen ladies' nice, warm cashmere hose. Price, per box \$2.75

Beads and Jewels

We have just received a fresh supply of beads and jewels for fancy work.

Boudoir Slippers for Ladies and Children

Something warm, sensible, useful and pretty. Ours are very firm hand crocheted, having ribbon bow in front, with extra quality patent stitched lamb's wool soles. Colors cardinal, pink, blue and black. For sale in our Art Department.

holic started and the lamp went out he would continue work in the dark until his condition became so weakened by the air that he had to go out. So far as he could remember, not one man who was on any of the Markle grievance committees is now working for that company.

Gallagher explained the troubles at the Markle mines after the recent strike to work, when the men refused to go to work because John Markle imposed certain conditions.

Peculiar Way of Figuring. National Board Member Gallagher resumed the witness stand at the afternoon session and explained the powder question as best he could, concluding that part of his testimony by saying that the miners employed by the Markle Company do not get the 10 per cent increase because of the peculiar way the company has of figuring the increase in wages agreed upon at the end of the 1920 strike. The witness presented several of his own wage statements which showed that something had been deducted for a priest. When asked what this meant, he said he did not know. It was taken off his earnings ever since he went into the mines and he simply dismissed it because he did not object to the deduction.

An 18-year-old Hungarian slatepicker employed by the Markles, said that before the strike he received 45 cents and now he received only 25 cents a day. The witness never notified him of the reduction and he still does the same work. He said the breaker boss, who stands over the pickers, often clubbed him, kicked him and swore at him for not picking slate faster.

Mrs. Kate Burns, of Jeddo, was then called to the stand and told a story of how she and her two boys worked 12 years to pay off an accumulated house rent and coal bill due to the Markle Company. She was examined by Lawyer Darrow, and in answer to his questions said her husband was an engineer inside the Markle mines. The husband was killed under ground, leaving her with four children, the oldest of whom was a boy of eight years. The company never offered her a penny, but the employees gave her about \$100 to defray the funeral expenses. After her husband had been killed, she moved from her four-room house into one containing only two rooms, one room above the other, and for the next six years she struggled as best she could to get along.

All Taken for Best. She took in washing, scrubbed for the neighbors, and once in a while she was given the cleaning of the offices of the Markle Company. During those six years, she said, she kept her children at school, and when the oldest child was 14 years old she sent him to the mines to help earn the daily bread. At the end of the first month, the lad brought home his wage statement, showing that the employer owed \$25 for back rent. The boy's wages for the month had been taken off the bill and he came home empty handed. She submitted to this same course of time and again for the next three years, until the mother on the witness stand were by this time welling up and when she added that the money she earned for cleaning the Markle offices was never given her, but was kept by the company for rent, the Commissioners looked at one another in sur-

prise. She said it took the three of them 12 years to make up the debt, the mother's earnings from neighbors being the principal contribution toward the maintenance of the family. The debt was cleared last August. During the six years from the time her husband was killed until the time when the first boy went to work the company never asked her for rent.

This concluded the miners' case against G. B. Markle & Co. except that Mr. Darrow read and had placed upon the records of the Commission John Markle's statement to President Roosevelt at the time of the now famous conference in the temporary White House.

Evidence of a Blacklist. The attorneys for the miners then consumed the remainder of the afternoon by presenting witnesses who had been employed by either the Delaware & Hudson Company, the Temple Coal & Iron Company, or the Erie Company, who testified that after the strike they were unable to get back their old employment. This was done to show that the companies were breaking part of the agreement by which the strike was ended and the commission appointed. On cross-examination it was shown that they had not been re-employed because they had refused to do other work. A carpenter refused to do a laborer's work during the strike; a fire boss declined to be sworn in as a Coal and Iron policeman, and another fire boss refused to do certain kinds of work. One fire boss applied to several other companies, but they also refused him employment. He did not know why the companies would not give him work unless it was because he refused to become a Coal and Iron policeman during the 1920 strike.

Attorneys for the miners told the commission that this witness was placed on the stand to show that a blacklist exists. Counsel for the operators tried to show that he was too old to go back to the mines.

One of the 10 witnesses, who was employed by the Delaware & Hudson Company, admitted that there were too many men at work in the colliery when he asked for reinstatement, but thought the company should have given him work because he had been in his employ for 15 years and always did everything asked of him. He also said he found no complaint with the rate of wages paid by the company.

Guardman Is Reinstated. SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Dec. 9.—William Porter, who last week secured an injunction against President Shafter of the Painters' Union, compelling him to reinstate him as a member of that body, from which he had been expelled by reason of his membership in the National Amalgamated Union, was today temporarily reinstated in that organization.

Street-Car Men Indicted. NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 9.—The Federal grand jury today returned indictments against Ben Commons, president of the Street-Car Men's Union, and 16 members of his organization, for interference with the operation of street cars during the recent car strike here.

THEY KEEP COMING. This season's styles of picture frame materials are exquisite; pretty shapes and finishes to be matched with perfect harmony.

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FUNERAL OF T. B. REED

WHOLE CITY OF PORTLAND, ME., MOURNS.

Great Crowds View the Body, After Which Simple Services Are Held in Unitarian Church.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 9.—Simple but impressive services, consisting of music, Scripture reading, prayer and a brief eulogy, were held over the remains of ex-Speaker Reed at the First Unitarian Church today. The church was thronged with a distinguished assemblage, which included the Governors of Maine and Massachusetts, the Royal Legion, several Grand Army posts, members of the bar, city officials and delegates from nearly every political organization in the state.

The day was one of mourning throughout the city. Many places of business were closed during the afternoon. Public buildings were also closed during the day. The services in the church were held at 2 o'clock, but for some hours the body had been lying in state in the parish-house, where it was viewed by throngs of people. The parish-house finally was closed shortly after 1 o'clock, and the casket was removed to the church.

While the assembly was being seated, Hermann Kotschmar was at the organ. In the front pews were seated the pall-bearers, Joseph Symonds, John G. Small, George E. Bird, Attorney-General George M. Sellers, Judge Clarence Vale, of the District Court, Robinson Williamson, William Bradley and William D. Woods. The organ ceased, and after a brief pause the Rev. John Carroll Perkins, the pastor of the church, read appropriate selections from the Bible, following with prayer.

After a short strain from the organ, Mr. Perkins delivered the eulogy and closed his remarks with a benediction. The casket was borne to the hearse, and while the bells of the city tolled 63 strokes, one for each year of Mr. Reed's life, the funeral railway service in 1844, with the little procession passed to Evergreen cemetery, where the body was placed in a vault to await burial in the Spring.

VETERAN RAILROAD MAN. President Clarke, of Mobile & Ohio, Joins the Majority.

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—James C. Clarke, ex-president of the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and one of the most widely known railroad men in the United States, died last night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. T. Jeffrey, 1842 Michigan avenue, of Bright's disease, with which he was attacked nine months ago. Mr. Clarke was also the father of Mrs. Horatio O. Stone.

Mr. Clarke was 79 years old and began his railroad career at an early age. He was born in Maryland in 1824, and entered railway service in 1844, with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. He saw service as an engineer, conductor, station agent and trainmaster, and in 1865 he came to the Illinois Central Railroad, with which company he was associated for many years, save for a brief interval in

the early '70s, when he was vice-president and general manager of the Erie. Mr. Clarke retired from the office of president of the Illinois Central some years ago, on account of advancing years. He retained the presidency of the Mobile & Ohio until 1888. He had not been physically able to give his attention to active business management for some time past.

Independent Operator Dead. SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 9.—Dr. J. N. Rice, a prominent independent coal operator, who took a prominent part in the present arbitration proceedings, died today from heart trouble. Dr. Rice was a member of the committee which went to New York 10 days ago, which resulted in calling off the proposed settlement negotiations.

Lawyer Falls Dead. DOYLESTOWN, Pa., Dec. 9.—Hon. Robert M. Yardley, a prominent member of the Bucks County bar, dropped dead in his office here today. He represented the seventh district in the 56th and 57th Congresses.

New Representative Is Dead. WASHINGTON, Ind., Dec. 9.—Representative-elect Alkman Carnahan, Republican, of the Second Indiana District, died last night. He had been ill ever since the election.

Sentence on Aichel Suspended. DENVER, Dec. 9.—The Court of Appeals today granted a writ of supersedeas staying the execution of sentence in the contempt case of County Clerk Aichel. Aichel was recently sentenced by Judge Johnson to pay a fine of \$500 and serve 90 days in the County Jail for disregarding the injunction issued in the registration cases.

New Spanish Ministry Steps In. MADRID, Dec. 9.—The new Ministry made its first appearance in Parliament today. Premier Silveira read a royal decree suspending the sitting of the Cortes.

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and impart that chic and snap to the appearance of the wearer that is a distinguishing feature of every garment produced by this house. There is nothing that you can present to the gentler sex, during the holidays, that will be so much appreciated as a fur of some kind, selected from our immense stock.

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