

MARKLE'S SIDE OF IT

Independent Operator's Answer to Miners' Demands.

THE MEN WERE WELL TREATED

Grievances Complained Of Had Never Been Presented by Miners Until Agitators Got to Work Among Them.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 4.—The answer of G. B. Markle, independent operator, to the demands of the miners was made public here today, and will be submitted to the strike commission when it meets in this city tomorrow. The answer was written by John Markle, managing partner of the firm. It says that the miners, who are working under a 20 years' lease, dating back to 1880, employ 2400 men. A physician and assistant, who are paid by subscriptions from the men, are always on the premises, while a nurse is employed by Mr. Markle. Stores for the sale of general merchandise are maintained for the accommodation of the men, but they are not required to deal there. The answer says that demands were presented by the miners in 1927, when an agreement to settle differences by arbitration existed between the miners and the company.

"Work at the mines," says the answer, "continued uninterrupted until the latter part of 1929, when John Mitchell made his headquarters at the mines, and endeavored to organize the Markle employees. In September, 1930, another list of grievances was presented, and the company agreed to arbitrate, but the men struck before their grievances had been submitted to arbitration. Finally differences were adjusted and the men returned to work on October 23, 1930."

The answer continues: "From that time until the strike was declared last May, the condition of labor in our mines was altogether satisfactory."

The answer says that between 1930 and 1932 many requests were made for the correction of alleged grievances, which were all taken up and considered and acted upon; but neither individually nor collectively, orally or in writing, did the men make any complaint or demand for the method of collecting the dues for the doctors nor was attention called to any defect in respect to ventilation or unfair treatment of the men, nor to the use of the cars, nor as to the sloping, nor the docking, until April, 1932, and we had every reason to believe that, taken as a whole, the men were entirely satisfied with the conditions of their employment.

"In the course of the hearings at Scranton complaint was made of the size of the cars, but in reality the size has not been changed, as will be proved by the testimony of the men, which will be produced. It was also alleged that the docking was excessive, but the accountant will testify that it was less than 2 per cent. It was also alleged that the full 10 per cent advance was not given. The manner in which the advance was computed was repeatedly explained to the men, and it will be shown by the expert accountant that it was correctly calculated."

Referring to the appointment of the commission, Mr. Markle says:

"As we had not been parties to the correspondence under which the Anthracite Strike Commission was appointed and the strike declared off, we were not willing to permit our men to return to work without a distinct understanding that they would be able to do so without being made a party to the commission. Notice was accordingly posted that those wishing to secure employment should call at the office and bring with them the brass checks which they had. When this notice was posted we were informed that some of the men objected on the ground the men should be taken back in a body, and the rumor was started to the effect that the men were required to sign an ironclad agreement as a condition of going to work. Many of the notices were torn down, pickets were stationed in the neighborhood of the office and along the line of the road to prevent men coming to the office, where they might have learned the truth and arranged for a resumption of work."

"Meanwhile, it had been rumored that the same men who had been making trouble during the strike were taking a leading part in intimidating and threatening any one coming to the office and returning to work. On the morning of Monday, October 27, 1932, I ordered notice to give up possession of the houses to be served upon 13 men who had been active in preventing the men from resuming work. No attempt was made to collect the arrears of rent which had accrued during the strike, and the notice to quit having been served October 27, judgment in ejectment was entered November 5, and the parties evicted on November 6, 1932."

"The net earnings of the evicted men for the year 1932, according to the statement, started from \$250 a month. The man who was killed as a result of his own negligence. He was not indebted to the firm at the time of his death. His earnings for the previous six months were \$220. February to July, inclusive, amounted to \$220. Mrs. Chippe had nothing on account of rent or coal. Henry Coll, one of the evicted men, had always rendered good wages. Mr. Markle states, "The evidence as to his wife did not die in consequence of the election, which occurred November 6, as she lived until December."

MAY BE RECONCILIATION

Crown Princess of Saxony May Yield For Her Children.

VIENNA, Jan. 4.—Reports have been received here from sources closely connected with the court of Saxony of a possible reconciliation between the Crown Princess of Saxony and her husband. The family of the Crown Princess are especially concerned as to the future of the young unborn child, desiring its birth to occur under conditions permitting of proper identification and to prevent possible substitution, which has supposed the Princess might attempt if the Crown Princess family attempted to claim the child. The Crown Princess is reported as even now unwilling to abandon the belief that the unborn child may be her own. While King George angrily insists that his son's fatherless wife be cast aside, it is understood that the Crown Princess places no obstacles in the way of a reconciliation should his wife be willing to come back. It is naturally understood, according to report, that it is possible to permit the Princess to return to Saxony and become Queen, but the suggestion is made of her residence in retirement near the frontier, where she should see her children occasionally.

No effort will be made to negotiate with G. Giron, who is regarded as a ray of light, but it is thought that the Princess might be induced to accept the foregoing proposals on account of her love for her children.

Chinese Minister Will Marry.

PEKING, Jan. 4.—Sir Liang Cheng, minister designated to the United States, will marry the daughter of the Chinese Minister at Paris, Yu Keng, before leaving for Washington. The wedding ceremony will take place at Canton.

Yu Keng's daughter was educated abroad, and speaks English and French. She is one of the few Chinese women of modern education and modern ideas.

No Programme for the House.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—No complete

programme is mapped out for the House for the first week of the new year. The leaders are very anxious to force the appropriation bills ahead as rapidly as possible. The Indian bill is on the calendar, and headway is making in committee with the postoffice, diplomatic, consular and District of Columbia bills. The latter, at least, will be reported to the House before the end of the week. Sherman of New York, chairman of the Indian committee, is ill at Hot Springs, Ark., and his absence may delay consideration of the Indian bill. Until the appropriations bills get into the hopper the House will probably occupy its time with miscellaneous bills brought up under calls of committees.

INDIAN ORDERS CHAPTER

Brilliant Function Succeeding the Durbar—Americans Present.

DELHI, India, Jan. 4.—The Chapter of Indian Orders held last night was one of the most brilliant functions following the durbar. It was attended by Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India, and Lady Curzon; the Duke of Connaught, representative of King Edward, and the Duchess of Connaught; and scores of native Princes. Among the brilliant assemblage were nearly 300 members of the Order of the Star of India and many Maharajahs.

harajahs. About 40 Americans were present. These included Mr. Adair, Mr. L. Z. Lister (myself), Lady Curzon, the Misses Daisy Lister, Henry Philip and family, of Pittsburgh; P. Getty, of Chicago, and Miss Getty and Consul-General Patterson, of Calcutta, and his family.

The hall was aglow with hundreds of electric lights. The silken garments and the uniforms of the Orientals blazing with jewels made the scene a most brilliant one. Lady Curzon and the Duchess of Connaught walked up the hall together, both attired in dresses of white and silver, and wearing diamond coronets. They took their seats behind the golden thrones occupied by the Viceroy and the Duke. During the ceremony of investiture the bands rendered music from the balcony.

When the herald and trumpeters announced the beginning of the function, a red silk curtain at the foot of the hall was drawn aside and the grand procession through the building began. The sight was an impressive one.

This morning Lord and Lady Curzon, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and all the distinguished visitors attended the state divine services conducted by the bishop of Lahore. Thousands of troops were formed in line, and the responses in the service were rendered by the bandmen.

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ARE EASY TO GOVERN

So Says Governor Taft of the Philippine Islands.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR LINGER

Distress Among People Would Excuse More Disturbance—Problem of Ladroneism—Recommendations of the Commission.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The annual report of the Philippine Commission and a separate report by Governor Taft, made public at the War Department today,

the Philippines, but "it has come in a small way in various branches so that the aggregate is very considerable."

The Governor points out among other things from which the country is suffering that of fluctuation in currency. Touching the organization of labor unions, the Governor says that if properly directed the movement may give to the working classes a sense of the dignity of labor and of their independence. He regards the objection made by the Filipinos to the introduction of Chinese into the islands to be logical and justified, and says:

"Another phase of the labor question which does not seem to have had its proper weight in the minds of the merchants of Manila in their demand for the admission of Chinese coolies is the great obstacle which such a policy would present to the opening by the United States of its markets to Philippine products."

"There are in Manila real estate and improvements assessable for taxation amounting to \$1,005,199, while there is non-assessable real property in the city to the amount of \$2,225,000, of which \$12,384,385 is public property and \$12,117,940 is church property exempt under the laws."

Governor Taft commends to the commission the benefits that might accrue from the establishment in the islands of postal savings banks.

Governor Taft tells of the recently organized independent Filipino Catholic church, and says the commission has stated it would take no part in religious controversies.

"The insurrection as an organization to subvert the authority of the United States in those islands is entirely at an end, and the whole of the Christian Filipino population, with the exception of a few thousand people in the Moro country or isolated towns, are enjoying civil government."

"Much remains to be done in perfecting civil government by marshaling the forces of the law against the lawlessness and disturbances and in teaching the people of the Philippines not only that they have rights under the law, but also that they cannot hope to enjoy such rights as require courage and independence sufficient to protect them against attempts by the Filipino 'caciques' or, liberally translated, 'bosses.'"

The report says the Philippine laborers must be taught the independence and dignity of labor under free government, and adds:

"The organization of labor in Manila, while brought about by a crack-brained insane politician, has a political purpose only, will, it is hoped, lead to an organization which will have much to do with inculcating this lesson."

"The Filipino people of the better class have read of the language of the Philippine act with great satisfaction," the report recites, and further along it says:

"The coming year under the trying circumstances which will show how much we may depend upon the conservative and law-abiding character of the controlling elements of the Filipino people."

The commission urges that it is the duty of the United States to secure the Philippines as a stable currency as that used by the people of the United States, and concludes with the following recommendations, which are urged on the attention of Congress:

1.—The establishment of a gold standard in the islands and of banking corporations empowered to issue circulating bank notes under proper safeguards.

2.—The reduction of at least 75 per cent of the Dingley rates of duty upon goods imported into the United States from the Philippines.

3.—An amendment of the Philippine act so that the additional limit upon lands which may be sold to or be held by individuals or corporations from the public domain shall be increased to 2500 acres or in the alternative so that the government shall be given the power to lease for 99 years, upon competitive biddings from the public, lands aggregating in any individual or corporation not more than 30,000. It says this legislation is necessary to the development of the islands, and as the government is offering 5,000,000 of 20,000 acres in the archipelago there is no danger of concentration of ownership in individuals or corporations.

4.—That the Philippine act may be amended by repealing the limitation which forbids an individual or corporation from holding an interest in more than one mining claim.

5.—That the bonds issued by the government under the Philippine act shall be free from state, county and municipal taxation in the United States.

6.—That an amendment be made to the Philippine act giving the power to the government by law to admit a fixed and limited number of Chinese into the Philippine Islands, who are certain to be of great benefit to the islands, and to the government, on the bond of the employer that for every Chinese skilled laborer employed he will employ a Filipino apprentice, and that he will introduce with each year at least one Chinese into the country, and that he shall pay a head tax of not exceeding \$5 for each Chinaman so admitted to the islands, and to the expenses of the enforcement of the law.

The commission thinks unlimited admission of Chinese would be unwise.

HUNTER WAS THREATENED

So Says Sam Castleman, Writing From Guatemala.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 4.—A relative of Minister Godfrey Hunter, of Guatemala, has received a letter from Sam Castleman, formerly of Chicago, but who is now in Guatemala, saying that Godfrey Hunter, Jr., who killed W. H. Fitzgerald in Guatemala City, had been threatened with assassination prior to the killing if he refused to leave the country. According to Mr. Castleman, 35 witnesses at the investigation of the shooting by the Guatemalan authorities said that six men had formed a conspiracy to kill Hunter. None of the men was named in the letter, but it is now in Guatemala City, while two are no longer in the country. Mr. Castleman further says that the shots that killed Fitzgerald were fired in self-defense. He also says that Secretary of the Legation Bailey had been threatened by the alleged conspirators.

Railway Employees Expect Answer.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 4.—Members of the general committee of the Order of Railway Conductors, representing every railroad system west of Chicago, began gathering here today for their meeting tomorrow, when they expect to answer to their request made December 29 for a 20 per cent increase in wages. The franchise will affect about 150,000 men. The early arrivals are of the opinion that it is simply a business proposition, and that there has never been even a suggestion of a strike and that negotiations will be carried on in a friendly manner.

Revolutionists Can't Buy Arms.

PARIS, Jan. 4.—In a dispatch from Caracas, the correspondent of the Matin says that in spite of the successes of the Venezuelan revolutionists, their finances are not such as to permit them to obtain munitions of war. It is undeniable that the situation of the government is growing more aggravated, continues the correspondent, and that its resources are falling.

Restoring Manchurian Palace.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 4.—The restoration by the Chinese government of the Imperial palace at Nukedan, Manchuria, has begun.

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DRUGGISTS

Canadian money received at par. Substation postoffice for quick service. Phone exchange "11." 9 receiving phones. Free photographic dark room. Free demonstrations in pyrography.

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