

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., DEFENDS COMPANY IN STRIKE

Younger Rockefeller Declares Issue Is Single One of Recognition of Union.

HIGHER WAGES CONCEDED

Outsiders Accused of Fomenting Discord When 90 Per Cent of Employees Are Satisfied With Their Conditions.

NEW YORK, April 28.—John D. Rockefeller, Jr., tonight issued a statement defining the position he, as director of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, had taken in regard to the mine strike now in progress in that state which has cost the lives of many men, women and children and caused large property loss.

The statement in full, which was given out after Mr. Rockefeller and his personal attorney, Starr J. Murphy, had worked over it all afternoon, follows: "In view of the inaccurate accounts which have appeared in the press regarding my interview with the committee on mines and mining, I think it proper to make the following statement: "In that interview, which was held by Mr. Starr J. Murphy, one of the directors of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, was present, we pointed out to Dr. Foster that of the many coal companies in Southern Colorado, we were interested solely and as minority stockholders in the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, which controls about one-third of the output of that state.

"Unfolding Declared Sole Issue. "After a long and full discussion of the question in all its aspects, Dr. Foster was unable to make any suggestion which did not involve the unionizing of the mines or the submission of that question to arbitration.

"We stated to him that if the employees of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company had any grievances, we felt sure the officers of the company would be willing now, as they have always been in the past, to make every effort to adjust them satisfactorily. We showed the director that all the points which are claimed to be at issue with the exception of unionizing the camps, the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company had voluntarily granted to its employees long before the strike was called or talked of. These points are: "First—The eight-hour day. This was established by the company for all of its coal miners some time ago.

"Second—Semi-monthly pay. When this question was raised by one or two miners in one of the camps of the company, the officers without delay decided to pay the miners in that particular camp twice a month, but all of the miners employed by the company.

"Third—Check weighman. For several years the company has raised no objection to the employment by the miners of their own check weighman, as is done in Eastern Colorado, where union labor is employed. In order that new men might understand their right in this matter, some time since the officers of the company caused to be printed and distributed to all the camps circulars which should be posted in all the mines, stating that the company had always encouraged the miners to employ their own check weighman.

"Fourth—Company stores. It has been charged that the employees of the fuel company are obliged to buy at the company's stores. The stores, however, are under strict instructions to say to all that they are at liberty to trade where they wish. The company is glad of their patronage but their standing will not be affected one way or the other by their action in the matter.

"Fifth—Wages. In spite of the fact that no dividends have been paid on the common stock of the company since our connection with it—a matter of at least ten or twelve years—and only \$780,000 has been paid on the preferred stock, of which the greater portion represented payment of interest on an accrued dividend which had accumulated during many years, the company voluntarily increased the wages of its miners last year by a total amounting to \$300,000 a year and of its steel employees by a total of \$250,000 a year.

"The wage scale compares favorably with that of similar mines, whether union or nonunion, in any part of the country.

"In addition to the above the only matter which has been raised by the union is the unionizing of the company's camps. On this question of the open shop, namely, the right of every American citizen to work on terms satisfactory to himself without securing the consent of the union, I reiterated to Dr. Foster what I said in my explanation before the committee on mines and mining in Washington a few weeks ago—that we regarded this as a matter of principle, which could not be arbitrated.

"In reply to his request for some suggestion to the Colorado strike could be terminated, we said to Dr. Foster that if the President would make a public statement that the Federal troops were being sent to Colorado for the purpose of enforcing obedience to the law and securing to every citizen the right guaranteed to him by the Constitution to be protected in his life and liberty, whether he chooses to work as a member of a union or not, it would go far to terminate the deplorable conditions which now exist.

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, do hereby admonish all good citizens of the United States, and all persons within the territory and jurisdiction of the United States, against aiding, countenancing, abetting or taking part in such unlawful proceedings, and I do hereby warn all persons engaged in or connected with said domestic violence and obstruction of the law to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes on or before April 30."

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GLOBE THEATER ELEVENTH and WASHINGTON

Today, Thursday Friday, Saturday

ANOTHER PROGRAMME OF FAMOUS STARS

"Lord Algy" With Arthur Johnson Lottie Briscoe Hiram Mitchell

"The Spirit and the Clay" With Naomi Childers Darwin Karr Wm. Shea and Kate Price

"Fanny's Melodrama"

With Lilian Walker Wallie Van James Morrisso James Laekaye

10c ALWAYS 10c

per cent wage increase; an eight-hour day; the right to trade and board where they please; enforcement of the state mining laws, and abolition of the "guard system." The operators contend that the miners receive adequate wages, and that most of the other demands had been complied with prior to the calling of the strike.

All efforts to settle the controversy have failed. Clashes between guards and strikers occurred in numerous camps. Governor Ammons, on October 28, called out the National Guard for strike duty.

Since the strike began miners and their families have been cared for in tent colonies established by the United Mine Workers of America.

A truce was declared between the two factions while a Congressional committee conducted an inquiry, which began February 25 and continued to March 7, with hearings at Denver, Trinidad and Walsenburg.

The Governor, the Adjutant-General's office and other state officials spent a busy day receiving reports on the progress of the fighting, issuing orders for the disposition of the militia and other protective measures. There was a pause in these activities and evident signs of relief when the intelligence was flashed through the state that Federal troops had been ordered to Colorado. Almost immediately state officials, union leaders and citizens turned again to the task of preparation for eventualities until their arrival.

Near the close of this day of excitement, acting under orders from Colonel Lee, Assistant Adjutant-General, Detective Felts arrested W. T. Hickey, secretary of the Colorado State Federation of Labor, on the road to the Boulder County coal fields, and confiscated from his automobile 20 rifles and 1000 rounds of ammunition. According to Lee the ammunition was of the soft-nosed variety. Later Hickey was released on parole.

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