

STRIKE END TALK HELD PREMATURE

Peace at Coal Mines Due to Federal Troops.

PROPAGANDA IS EFFECTIVE

Many Miners Held Good Americans but Subject to Influence of Radical Labor Organ.

BY CARL W. ACKERMAN. (Copyright 1919 by The Public Ledger Co. Published by Arrangement.)

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Nov. 5.—(Special)—Conditions in the West Virginia coal fields tonight are typical of those throughout the country. All talk of a collapse of the strike is premature.

Peace prevails here, but it is due entirely to the presence of United States troops. Some of the operators and a few government officials say that the miners did not want to strike and that many of them wish to return, but my own investigation indicates the contrary.

They have been reading the West Virginia Federation, which is their official organ, their leader and their representative so long that they are in the state of mind of the editor who admonishes them to "go on with the battle."

Miners to Stay Out. As far as the open miners of West Virginia are concerned tonight they will stay out and resist the government and the operators as long as the international headquarters in Indianapolis does not order them back.

A few men may return. Within a week more of the general desire to go to work, but this will be due to economic causes.

The best evidence that there is no pronounced sentiment among the union men in support of resumption of operations is the fact that the operators, who have been discussing the advisability of setting a date for reopening the mines and inviting the men to return under protection of the United States government came to the conclusion today that it would be unwise to do this now because the plan would not succeed.

The coal strike in West Virginia cannot be ended by suggestion or by invitation. The work of the unions and the propagandists has made too deep an impression upon the minds of the miners to be obliterated by the statement that "the men are not in favor of the strike."

Leaders Are Supported. They support the strike. They support their leaders and it is exceedingly doubtful whether any attempt to run the mines at this time would meet with a general response.

This strike has been in preparation for many months. In addition to the educational work of the unions there have been many meetings and rallies of the steel strikers in the coal fields appealing for funds and support for the steel strike. Railroad men, also, have had influence upon the miners.

It was told today by some high state officials of a meeting held some weeks ago in one of the coal counties where railroad employees spoke to the men about the high wages and back pay they received after the government took over the operation of the roads. One of these railroaders said that he received an amount of back pay from the government and the miners were told that if the government took over the coal fields they would meet with the same good fortune.

Another aspect of the preparation for the strike has been revealed by Governor John J. Cornwell, who in a published letter stated that in some sections of the state the miners have been arming themselves in anticipation of an opportunity such as this strike was to afford them, when they could march on the coal fields, seize the mines by force and declare them the property of the workers.

Propaganda Makes Inroads. Federal and state officials are divided in their opinions as to how extensive an inroad the radicals and the propagandists have made upon the miners' thoughts. One federal official who has been here since 1914, in a confidential capacity for the government, made this statement: "The West Virginia miners are not Bolsheviks or radicals by any means. They are just as good Americans as there are in the country, but they have been nourished with propaganda. They have been reading the Federationist. They have been told that if the government would seize the coal fields and operate them that wages for miners would increase as they did among the railroaders."

"Some of them have been told that if they would arm themselves and fight, they could take over the coal fields. But while all of this agitation has been going on, neither the government nor the operators have done anything to present the opposite side of the case."

Then he gave me a copy of the latest issue of the Federationist and pointed to the editorials on King Albert and the industrial conference, which he said were typical of the ideas which are constantly placed before the miners. I shall quote them in full because they present so clearly the kind of editorial ideas which the laboring people read and accept. It is one of the reasons why the Federationist has the most lasting effect. Under the title of "Americanism" the editor of this paper, which is the "official organ of the Kanawha Valley Central Labor Union and Charleston Building Trades council, endorsed by the West Virginia Federation of Labor and districts 17 and 29, United Mine Workers of America," writes:

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY-GENERAL, WHO SPURNS DEMAND THAT STRIKERS' INJUNCTION BE VACATED.



—Photo Copyright, Underwood. CHARLES B. AMES.

self-respecting governor would wipe that infamous spot off the map of the state instead of camouflaging it with an upstart investigating committee. But such is the way of the politicians.

"What this nation needs is a baptism of real Americanism. It needs an Americanism that gives the boot to royal crafters when they come over here. It needs an official Washington that gives more attention to the needs of the workers and less to hereditary parasites. The burden of reconstruction in this country is great enough without spending time and money entertaining the rotten nobility of Europe, American babies, American mothers, American workers need a real, decent human life. Kings do not sit well on the stomachs of American workmen and women, and the quicker the whole gang of them follow the Kaiser, the better for a weary and disheartened world."

The second editorial on "That Industrial Conference," reads: "The industrial conference called to meet at Washington by President Wilson has contributed its share to the grayety of nations. Its conclusions could emanate only from the impractical college professor. The idea of three groups, one representing capital, one the public and the other labor, sitting down to the conference table, and arriving at an amicable adjustment as to how much the capitalists should be permitted to skin labor, is a sight for the gods."

"This nation is cursed with economic illiterates. The high officials are filled with men who know absolutely nothing of economics or the processes of history. The birth of machine technology and the rapid development of the factory system, with its consequent increased exploitation of the worker, means absolutely nothing to these Rip Van Winkles, their twilight sleep is perpetual. They are as blind to the forces now gripping and shifting a new world as though they were still living in the dark ages. If they were not, they would not be wasting their time hobnobbing with captains of industry who believe that the worker has no rights which the bosses are bound to respect."

The thing for the workers to do is to return to their shops and organize. Let them have no illusions about the identity of interest of capital and labor. That is an applied fiction. There is no such thing. The bosses thrive and get fat on the wealth wrung from the blood of the workers through the wage system of production. The bosses must go. That is not the decree of labor. It is the decree of evolution.

Unions To Fight On. When the bosses fight the unions they are also fighting the invincible march of history. They may crack some of the heads of the workers, they may shoot them down like dogs, but they cannot stop the onward march. With each blow from the employers the workers become stronger and more solidified. There can be no defeat. The 6000 slaves who were hung along the Applet ways by the bosses of ancient Rome have contributed their part to the fight for a world of free workers. On with the battle."

While the officials of the international organization remain silent, as a result of the injunction granted by Judge Anderson in Indianapolis, the president of local district No. 17 dispatched a letter to President Wilson on the situation in this state which was given to the press this evening by the writer, C. F. Keeney. Because of the mass of detailed information which it contains and because it reflects the state of mind of the union leaders in West Virginia, I shall give it in full:

Letter Is Quoted. "United Mine Workers of America, Charleston, West Virginia, November 3, 1919.—To the President, Washington, Sir: The following facts are being royally whined and dined (at the workers' expense) by the dignitaries of official Washington, and while his majesty is the first king to live in the halls of congress, the American cabinet is trying to figure out some plan to drive the coal miners back to their jobs. The federal army is being conveniently distributed over the coal fields, and the guns that so recently thundered against the Kaiser of Germany are now doing duty in behalf of the coal kaisers of America. The harlot press is maintaining its customary campaign of lying about the workers, counselling or acquiescing in the suppression of every national right, and virtually suggesting mob violence against the workers who ask for a decent living. Is it this what the masters mean by educating the workers in Americanism?"

"Yes, by Americanism our profit patriots mean a country where the workers have no rights which they are bound to respect. It means a land of starvation, disease, misery and death, with private armies of thugs and gunmen who beat up men who simply ask a right to live a human life. Logan county is the capitalistic ideal of what real Americanism should be. One would think that a

COAL STRIKE PINCH BEGINS TO BE FELT

Curtailement of Railroad Service Started.

MANY STATES ARE SHORT

Strike Situation Itself Shows Little Change—Approximately 425,000 Miners Idle.

CHICAGO, Nov. 5.—Beginning of curtailed railroad service and the pinch of inadequate supplies of soft coal in several states today marked the fifth day of the miners' strike.

There was little change as concerned the strike itself, although operators in West Virginia and Colorado reported gains in production.

The principal developments were: Removal of six passenger trains from service of the Chicago & Northwestern and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroads.

Refusal of the federal department of justice to consider labor leaders' suggestions that the government injunction against the strike be rescinded.

Clothing of Fuel Administrator Garfield by President Wilson with full authority over prices, distribution and shipments of all fuel.

Appeals for fuel made by several Nebraska towns to state railway commission.

Railroad Seizures Protested. Iowa fuel administrator's complaint to Washington against railroad seizures of coal while "luxurious" transcontinental trains continued running.

California coal dealers requested Governor Stephens to ask the fuel administrator to release confiscated coal to prevent a possible shortage there.

Release of coal seized in transit on orders of fuel administration for relief in some districts.

Reports of coal operators of increased production in West Virginia, where 21 union mines were said to be in operation and 100 apparently were doing little pending action in the federal court at Indianapolis set for Saturday.

There was no evidence that the controversy would be short and some statements were made that the fight would be a long one.

Utah Mines Operating. In Utah railroad officials began preparations to clear congested rail lines under fuel administration orders to release coal shipments held up. The Utah miners, or the majority of them, continued at work and all mines remained in operation.

The West Virginia operators announced that union mines resumed operations today in New River section, and that 18 were operating in the northern field and three in the Kanawha district. In five of the ten mines that resumed today the operators said the men returned under the old wage scale, but operated on union and one under open-shop conditions. The Kanawha operators reported two mines still operating under union agreements.

The Colorado Fuel & Iron company reported 64 per cent of normal force at work in its Colorado mines.

Topeka (Kan.) schools were to close tomorrow for one week, a brick factory was closed and many coal dealers' bins were empty and employees laid off.

Miners at Madrid, N. M., were in operation at full capacity today, according to operators, and three at Gallup were running with reduced forces.

Convict Labor Available. Governor Robertson of Oklahoma announced he would await completion of government injunction proceedings before attempting to operate Oklahoma mines with unskilled labor, but said convict labor would be put to work in mines on state lands.

Two passenger trains on the C. M. & St. P. were suspended, officials announced, at Ottumwa, Ia. At Mason City, Ia., the Chicago & Northwestern look off two trains and curtailed freight service and two other local trains between Chicago and Wisconsin points were annulled, although officials made no announcement that the latter two were removed because of the strike.

Consumers to Get Coal. A conference of the coal committees of the central western and northwestern railroad regions today agreed that no diversions would be made of coal from Utah mines, where cars would be shipped by operators in accordance with federal priority orders.

Dr. F. C. Honold of the central western committee sent letters to state boards of control throughout the western states asking for statements of their coal requirements. The railroads of the two regions held 2,750,000 tons of coal seized in transit. Both regions extend to the Pacific coast. Nearly all of that amount will go to consumers, as it was stated today that the 42 railroads entering Chicago had 2,282,000 tons

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MEXICO REFUSES REFUND

American Consul Denied \$150,000 Paid as Ransom to Bandits.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—The Mexican government, according to Mexico City newspapers, has refused to refund to William C. Jenkins, American consular agent at Puebla, the \$150,000 ransom money which Jenkins' attorney in order to procure his release after he had been kidnaped last month.

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