

Wages of the Anthracite Miners.

The Bryanite press has had very much to say about the meager wages of the anthracite coal miners now on a strike. Of course they are careful never to mention the fact that anthracite coal is on the free list and that therefore the coal combine, known as the coal trust, does not owe its existence to our protective tariff laws any more than the three or four hundred colossal trusts of Great Britain, or hundreds of others in this country, owe their existence to that cause. It would appear that there is another side to this wage question. The men do not work all the year, and the practice of the Bryanite press is to conceal this fact and divide the yearly wage by the number of working days in the year, instead of by the number of days of actual work. Thus a daily wage of 85 cents is figured, and this truly starvation wage, if it were true, is the Bryanite answer to the full dinner-pail argument of the republicans and is used as a proof of the grinding oppression of the trusts.

That the readers of THE CHRONICLE may see the other side of this picture, we print the following letter, which appeared a short time ago in the New York Sun. The writer is a resident of Scranton, Pa., and ought to know what he is talking about:

Last week's press dispatches contained an account of one of Mr. Bryan's characteristic speeches in which he was quoted as referring to the condition of the anthracite miner now engaged in his customary decennial strike. In this speech Mr. Bryan drew a pitiful picture of a human being toiling and sweating like a beast of the field all day long in the dark and gloomy bowels of the earth for the meagre sum of 73 cents per diem. What rot!

Having lived in the anthracite coal regions for a period of twenty-eight years I consider that I am privileged to say: What rot!

The interior of our mines is lighted with electricity. The miner of today does not toil and sweat like a beast of the field. On the contrary it is not an infrequent occurrence for a miner desirous of taking a two or three-day outing at some pleasure resort to go into the mine at 6 o'clock in the morning and before noon cut sufficient coal to keep his laborer or laborers—in some cases a miner employs three laborers—working three days to load and send the coal to the surface. Here then is a miner, a brother to the mine, who, in six hours, has worked three "shifts" for which under no circumstance, or circumstances is he permitted to earn a profit of less than \$2.50 for each and every "shift." I use the word permitted because it is an invariable rule, a custom of the trade, in this coal region that if at the end of the month the miner has failed to average \$2.50 per shift a sufficient "allowance" of powder, oil, and yardage is given to him to make that average. If a miner works twenty-five shifts a month his wages can in no event be less than \$62.50. During the month of August last 20 per cent. of the miners in the Lackawanna region cleared over \$90.

Mr. Bryan has been sadly misinformed on this question. If his knowledge of other questions is based on no better information than this, his utterances must be the veriest sophistry.

Method in It.

"You voted for Bryan four years ago, did you?" said the passenger in the skull cap.

"I did," replied the man in the flashy waistcoat.

"And you say you are going to vote for him again?"

"That's right."

"Did you hear or read any of his speeches in 1896?"

"Lots of them."

"Didn't he make a lot of prophecies about what would happen if the country went republican?"

"He did."

"Did any of them come true?"

"None that I know of."

"Don't you think he's either a demagogue or a mighty small specimen of a statesman?"

"I do."

"Then why in the name of all that is decent and consistent are you going to vote for him again?"

"I'll tell you. You know that little eight-eyed Trighammer who used to live next door to me?"

"Yes."

"Well, when McKinley was elected in 1896 little Trighammer was so sure the country was going to everlasting smash that he sold me his house and lot for \$600.

"That was a bargain, anyhow. You've still got the property, haven't you?"

"No, I sold it afterward for \$2,000."

"What has all that to do with your voting for Bryan again?"

"I want to see him elected so I can buy back that house and lot for \$600.

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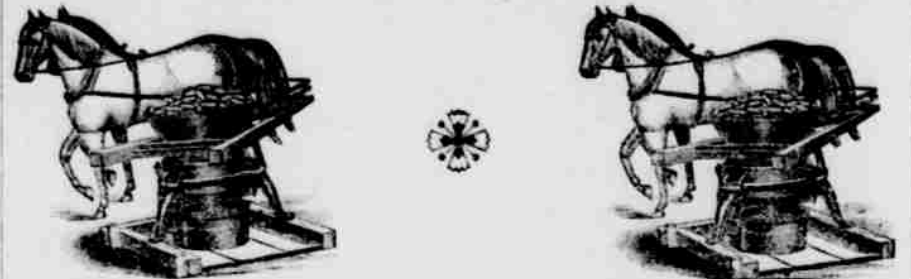
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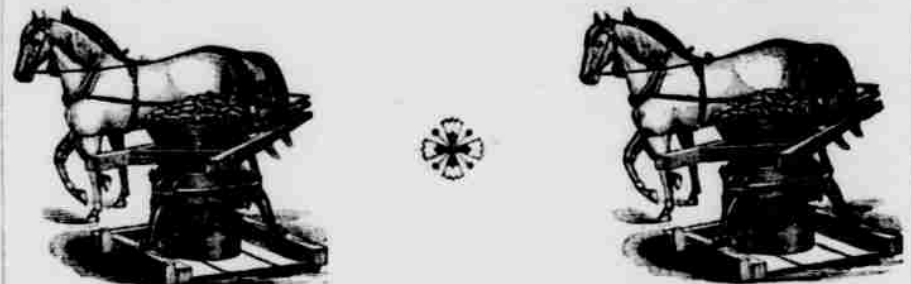
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OUR CHURCHES

Services will be held in the Christian church tomorrow morning and evening by the pastor, Elder Paul Kruger.

Calvary Baptist church—Rev. W. B. Clifton, pastor. Regular services at 11 a. m. and 5 p. m. in the basement of the new church on Union street. Sunday school at 10 a. m.

Congregational church—corner Fifth and Court streets. Rev. Poling, pastor. Morning worship at 11; Sunday school at 12:15; Young People's Society 6:30 p. m.; evening service at 7:30.

Methodist Episcopal church—Corner Fifth and Washington, Rev. C. F. Hawk pastor. Morning worship at 11; Sunday school at 10 a. m.; class meeting at 12:15; Epworth League at 6:30; evening service at 7:30. The first quarterly services will be conducted tomorrow.

Rev. Robert Warner, P. E., will preach at 11 a. m. and will conduct the communion service at the close of the sermon. At the evening service Miss Myrtle Mitchell will sing "Rock of Ages."

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Spokane Mail and Express 9:25 p. m.	Walla Walla, Spokane, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago and East, via Spokane and Huntington; also all points in Washington and Eastern Oregon.	Spokane Mail and Express 9:30 a. m.
8 p. m.	FROM PORTLAND (Ocean Steamships) For San Francisco—Every Five Days.	4 p. m.
8 p. m. Ex-Sunday 10 p. m.	Columbia Rv. Steamers, To ASTORIA and Way Landings.	4 p. m. Ex-Sunday
6 a. m. Ex-Sunday	WILLAMETTE RIVER, Oregon City, Newberg, Seaside & Way Land.	4:30 p. m. Ex-Sunday
7 a. m. Tues, Thurs and Sat.	WILLAMETTE AND YAM-HILL RIVERS, Oregon City, Dayton, and Way-landings.	3:30 p. m. Mon, Wed and Fri.
LV. Hiram daily 8:30 a. m.	SHAKA RIVER, Riparia to Lewiston.	LEAVE LEWISTON daily 9:00 a. m.

Fast Mail departing to go to Heppner or points on Columbia River via Bignood and take No. 2, leaving The Dalles at 12:40 p. m. making direct connections at Heppner Junction and Biggs. Returning making direct connection at Heppner Junction and Biggs with No. 1, leaving at The Dalles at 12:30 p. m.
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" San Francisco	7:45 p. m.	8:15 a. m.
Arrive Ogden	5:45 a. m.	11:45 a. m.
" Denver	9:00 a. m.	9:00 a. m.
" Kansas City	7:25 a. m.	7:25 a. m.
" Chicago	7:45 a. m.	9:30 a. m.
Arrive Los Angeles	1:30 p. m.	7:00 a. m.
" El Paso	6:00 p. m.	6:00 p. m.
" Fort Worth	6:30 a. m.	6:30 a. m.
" City of Mexico	9:55 a. m.	9:55 a. m.
" Boston	1:00 a. m.	4:00 a. m.
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