

MINERS PAID SMALL SUMS

Many Deductions Made from Pay of Copper Diggers.

WORK IS DONE BY CONTRACT

Miner Strikes Rich Vein and Makes Good Wages Rate is Reduced in Next Contract—Grave Charges Made.

HANCOCK, Mich., Feb. 10.—The congressional investigators resumed their inquiry into conditions in the copper country promptly at 9 o'clock this morning. O. N. Hilton, counsel for the Western Federation of Miners, read into the record...

Despite the fact that it was the coldest day of the winter on the range, the hall was well filled, principally with strikers, then the hearing began.

"We will prove," said Mr. Hilton, "that in many instances the mining company would take out of the employees' pay the amount owed it and then would pay the store keeper and the boarding house keeper from what was left."

At the suggestion of Mr. Casey of the committee, A. W. Kerr, assisting Hilton, explained the system of pay used by the companies. All underground workers, except the miners, he said, were paid a day wage. The miner worked on contract.

William J. Rickard, president of the alumet local of the Western Federation of Miners, then resumed the witness stand and continued the story he began last night.

Mr. Howell asked the witness if a miner was not able to make more by contract than on a fixed daily wage.

Rickard said he could during the term of his contract if he happened to strike good vein, but in that case he was out own when the time came to make a new contract. It was for that reason, he said, that the men demanded a minimum wage of \$3 a day.

"What would happen if a miner refused contract tendered him by a mine boss?" asked Mr. Kerr.

"He would have to work somewhere else," the witness replied. He added that a miner who took such action would find difficulty in finding employment in this section because most of the mines were owned or controlled by one corporation, the Calumet & Hecla. He made the statement that a man of his age could not afford to leave one company's employ because their companies would not take in a new man who was over 40.

The witness told about the miners' local union and its connection with the Western Federation. A strike was ordered by referendum vote, although, he said, the federation officers opposed it.

More Work Demanded. The men insisted on going out, because conditions were growing worse, said Rickard.

"How?" asked Chairman Taylor.

"More work was demanded of the men," replied the witness.

Chairman Taylor asked the witness to give specific instances where more work was required. Rickard said the installation of the one-man drill had put an added burden on the miners and trammers, who were forced to move twenty-four cars of rock daily instead of sixteen or eighteen, as formerly.

"You think, then, that the companies have been increasing their efficiency at the expense of the men?" asked the chairman.

"I certainly do," he answered.

Rickard was cross-examined by Allen F. Rees of counsel for the mining companies.

"You have said that when you were employed in the Atlantic mine you were compelled to patronize the company store," began Mr. Rees. "Do you think you would have been discharged if you had dealt with stores in Houghton?"

"I certainly do."

"Do you know of anyone who was so discharged?"

"No."

MORE CHARGES OF PEONAGE. Helman Says He Was Kept Under Guard of Soldiers. DENVER, Feb. 10.—Further testimony designed to establish charges of peonage...

IN THE COLORADO COAL FIELDS

Witness in Colorado Strike Inquiry Tells of Acts of Military.

SUSPECT MADE TO STAY AWAKE

Soldiers Stationed in Front of His Cell Throw Water on Him—Charges of Peonage Are Made.

DENVER, Feb. 10.—Charges of peonage, illegal imprisonment and anarchy were met by countercharges of violence and insurrection at a stormy session of the federal strike investigation commission yesterday afternoon. State officials and labor leaders were the witnesses.

Ell Gross, superintendent of the Colorado Free Employment bureau, who previously had testified that he believed peonage was practiced in the coal fields, continued his testimony with an attack upon the militia and the military methods of handling the strike situation in southern Colorado. He said that Mario Zeni, arrested as a suspect, was kept awake five days and nights.

"They posted soldiers in front of his cell," he declared, "and those soldiers threw water on him and stuck him with their bayonets when he tried to go to sleep. Zeni afterwards was released."

Organizer on Stand. The house committee called to the stand Adolph Germer, international organizer of the United Mine Workers of America. He testified that he was arrested at Walsenburg, held nine days, then released.

"What was the charge made against you?" he was asked.

"None that I knew of," was the reply. He said some of his mail was never delivered, and that all the letters he received while he was in jail had been opened by the military authorities.

Major Edward J. Boughton, judge advocate of the National Guard of Colorado, cross-examined the labor leader.

"Don't you know you were held on suspicion of importing arms after the disarmament order was issued?" he demanded. "You did buy arms, as a matter of fact, didn't you?"

"I did buy arms," calmly replied the witness.

Representative Byrnes asked Germer how many guns he had purchased.

"I bought twenty-five or thirty rifles," was the answer.

To Protect Property. "I got them to protect our property after mine guards had shot down a number of our people on the streets of Walsenburg, and we had learned that they planned to raid our headquarters."

Edward V. Brake, deputy labor commissioner of Colorado, testified that he had no personal knowledge of peonage in the mines. He declared that at the Colorado Fuel and Iron company's steel works at Pueblo a private employment agency charged workers \$1 a month for keeping them in employment and that the company deducted this amount from wage checks.

"Why did not you prosecute the company and stop this illegal practice?" asked a member of the committee.

"Most of these cases are in Las Animas and Huerfano counties," he asserted. "It's hard to explain these matters to you gentlemen, but anybody who lives in Colorado knows you can't prosecute anybody in those counties."

Hard to Convict. "Furthermore, I can say without fear of contradiction that there's nothing harder in this state than to get anybody prosecuted for anything. It's very seldom you can convict anybody in Huerfano county if he's got any friends," the deputy labor commissioner continued.

"Jeff Farr, the sheriff, selects the juries, and they're picked to convict or acquit, just as the case may be."

"How does Sheriff Farr get elected?" he was asked.

"I'd hate to say, but I have my suspicions."

Fred Herrington, one of the attorneys for the mine operators, leaped to his feet. "I want to protest, for the sake of the dignity of the state," he interrupted. "This has gone far enough. If he has any facts to back up these accusations, he should state them."

Chairman Foster suggested mildly that the committee wished to probe thoroughly into all the causes of the strike. He ordered, however, that the reference to "suspicions" be stricken from the record.

Evans Asks Questions. Then Representative Evans asked: "Do you think you have constitutional government in Colorado?"

"Personally I do not."

Judge Jesse G. Northcott of Trinidad, of counsel for the operators in cross-examination asked: "For what length of time has constitutional government not obtained in Colorado?"

"In my judgment it hasn't obtained since Peabody sent state troops into Cripple Creek in 1904."

"The witness then explained that he did not mean that constitutional government had been suspended all over the state, but that anarchy had prevailed in the strike regions during the various times that he had been occupied by state troops. He admitted, upon further questioning, that he had no personal knowledge of juries having been selected by Sheriff Farr.

Probe in Michigan. HANCOCK, Mich., Feb. 9.—Federal investigation of the conditions in the copper country was formally instituted today by Representative Taylor of Colorado. Casey of Pennsylvania and Howell of Utah, members of the house subcommittee on mines and mining.

Chairman Taylor in opening the inquiry explained the purpose and invited all who could shed any light on the controversy to appear before the committee and testify.

O. N. Hilton, appearing for the Western Federation of Miners, asserted that inasmuch as the committee had decided that the strikers' side would be heard first he would suggest that the causes leading up to the alleged conditions be the first subject of inquiry as necessary to determine the justice or injustice of the miners' contentions resulting in the strike.

"We are prepared to show," said Mr. Hilton, in his opening statement, "that for a long number of years there have been engaged in the mines boys from 12 to 16 years of age and that there has been an unparalleled condition of affairs. I believe we can show that many who entered the mines as boys and who have worked all the time up to the present date, never have averaged \$3 a day for their work."

Prepared to Show. "We will show that it has been impossible for men to get work unless they traded at certain stores," he continued. "When they were hopelessly in debt they were denied houses to live in unless they continued to patronize these stores."

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CAN'T REMEMBER BROTHER

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den, Frances, aged 11, and Frank, Jr., aged 6, he kissed his wife goodbye, remarking, "I've got the best little woman in the world," and went to his office, where he worked for an hour. He then put on his hat and coat and started to leave the room. "Oh, Frank, there's your keys," remarked an employe, pointing to the ring. "I'll be back in a minute," replied Frank. From that moment until this moment not a friend or relative has seen him.

Two weeks to the day, after his leaving, his little girl, Frances, contracted pneumonia, and died within forty-eight hours.

On November 13th by brother-in-law, F. C. Fowler, Kansas City, received a telephone call from Lyons, Kan., from Frank, who declared he had regained his memory and would leave for home at once. He said he did not remember or know where he had been. Fowler, unwittingly, told the unfortunate man of his daughter's death, and as a result received no response over the wire.

"A week later a telegram from my brother was received by Fowler from Hutchinson, Kan., asking for funds to continue his journey from Santa Fe, where he already had transportation. Fowler was asked to meet him there.

"From then until January 1 we lost all track of Frank, when in response to advertisements which I placed in a number of papers throughout the country, I received a message from S. F. Odell at Clear Lake, la., as follows: 'Your add sounds familiar and it may be you are my brother.'

"I wired back the telegram he had on his person when picked up and also wired R. F. Young, mayor of Clear Lake, who responded promptly that Odell was working in the office of the Weekly Mirror of that city. I was preparing to leave for Clear Lake, when I received another message from Frank, saying, 'You are mistaken in man, will see you on way to Denver.'

"The wire from the Omaha police Sunday was the first word we have heard since then."

Clarence Finch spent the greater part of the morning attempting to bring back some trace of memory to the mind of his brother. Pictures of the man's wife, children and home were not recognized by him, but a photograph of his mother he remembered. The brothers left police headquarters and obtained rooms at the Paxton hotel preparatory to their leaving for home Wednesday morning.

Frank remembered that he had worked as police reporter on a St. Joseph daily, and in his pocket carried a knife which he declared he had secured while employed there from a man held for murder by the name of Tom Smith. In an envelope a number of confederate bills were found. "I got them in a poker game at Cliff's place, Va.," he declared with a smile. From a note book it was found that he practically visited every section of the country in his wanderings, of which places he can give brief accounts. Because he was found by the Omaha police his relatives have been saved the expense of a nation-wide search for him.

Finch is 46 years of age and was educated at Baker's university of Baldwin, Kan. Local physicians declare it is possible that association with his folks and home surroundings may bring back his memory.

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"Yes, daughter, that's FINE for SPRAINS" SLOAN'S LINIMENT has great antiseptic power. Use it for cuts, wounds, burns, and the sting of poisonous insects. At all dealers. Price, 25c., 50c. and \$1.00 DR. EARL S. SLOAN, Inc., BOSTON, MASS.

Hotel Colfax COLFAX MINERAL SPRINGS The Most Popular Priced, Strictly First Class Mineral Water Resort in America Special 1914 Winter and Spring Rates \$15.00 Per Week for Rooms and Meals

Number Six, The "Chicago Special" CHICAGO Milwaukee & St. Paul RAILROAD Power That Pays Big Dividends in Results

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Power That Pays Big Dividends in Results Is your power service actually earning money for you? Is it producing results in proportion to its upkeep cost? Perhaps your ledger would tell a different story, if you checked off the entire expense of maintaining your private plant—the inevitable annual charge for depreciation and repairs; the wastefulness in operating the entire plant at full blast, when only a fractional part of its capacity is required; the constant loss of power through friction—faulty shafting and belting. Yet, these are merely a few instances of needless private plant expense.

Central Station Service Has Proved Its Real Worth In scores of different industries actual comparisons prove the economy, efficiency and dependability of Central Station Service. Authentic figures show increased earning power per dollar invested, where power from Central Station has succeeded private plant service. GET OUR FIGURES FOR YOUR PLANT. Omaha Electric Light and Power Co.

Canterbury Ide Silver Collars A brand new Ide Silver Collar with a distinct Trans-Atlantic air. The extreme of smartness without exaggeration of style. Like all Ide Silver Collars it has Linocord Unbreakable Buttons which are so other make—which chafe the collar to retain its original goodness thru months of wear.

PRAY FOR MEN 508-510 So. 16th and Tho. Kilpatrick & Co. SOCIAL DANCING PARTY Every Thursday Evening Fremmer Hall, 24th and Parker Streets THE JOLLY 24 East Floor, Best Music 3c Person.

Charles Comiskey is Reported Better ROME, Italy, Feb. 10.—A consultation in regard to the condition of Charles A. Comiskey, president of the Chicago club of the American league, was held today between Dr. John Edward Jones, American consul at Genoa, and Prof. Giuseppe Bastianelli, a leading Roman specialist. It was decided to submit Mr. Comiskey to an examination under X-rays.

MAN KILLED BY SEISMIC SHOCK AT BINGHAMTON BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Feb. 10.—Rocco Parso, a laborer, was killed as a result of the earthquake shocks here this afternoon. The tremors caused a cave-in of a trench in which he was working.

Commander Booth Improving. NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Commander Evangeline Booth of the Salvation Army, who has been ill for several weeks with pneumonia, is rapidly improving today. According to her physician she will be able to leave her room for a short time tomorrow.

4x18 Brussels Rugs for 198 4x30 Axminster Rugs for 1578 4x50 Wilton Rugs for 2200 4x60 Saxony Rugs for 198 Monday at BRANDEIS