

ROCKEFELLER AND WALSH IN CLASH

Coal Magnate Takes Vigorous Exception to Questions Asked by Commission Chairman.

DENIES PRESSURE ON COURTS

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Just before John D. Rockefeller, jr., resumed his testimony today before the industrial relation commission, the commissioners met in executive session to consider the "round robin" sent last night calling for more moderate treatment of witnesses. Some of the commissioners did not conceal that they thought the chairman's questioning of Mr. Rockefeller yesterday should have been modified.

After the executive session, the other commissioners did not make public their letter to Chairman Walsh, which it was understood they would do, should their suggestion go unheeded. Chairman Walsh said he did not know what had happened in the executive session.

"The examination of Mr. Rockefeller," he said, "has and will be conducted with due consideration and the truth will be arrived at."

Mr. Rockefeller began today by reading a prepared statement which related to Chairman Walsh questioning on his view of the regularity of the conviction of John H. Lawson, a mine workers' officer. Mr. Rockefeller spoke of similar reflections and said chairman Walsh's questions had been framed to make it appear that Mr. Rockefeller conceded there had been wilful tampering with the courts. His statement followed:

Rockefeller Reads Statement.

John D. Rockefeller, jr., resuming the witness stand today, read the following statement:

"Since giving my testimony yesterday I have read with care the stenographer's transcript of the questions asked by the chairman of the commission in reference to the Lawson trial, and my view of certain hypothetical cases and the course I would take should the facts subsequently prove to be as presented.

"As these questions all relate to a criminal appeal at present pending before the court of this country, I feel that my position cannot be too precisely stated, both as respects the questions already asked and questions of a similar nature which may be addressed—and I therefore desire to give to this commission by opinion on these matters in the form of a written statement which will be unequivocal and admit of no misunderstanding or misinterpretation.

"As already expressed my opinion is that justice should be administered as to be above suspicion and if in any material particular the trial of Mr. Lawson has been wanting in this respect, I for one should desire to see the supreme court of Colorado, to which the appeal has been taken, carefully consider every ground that may be urged and grant a new trial should any material ground be sustained.

No Attempt to Influence Courts.

"I have no more right than has any other citizen in this country to attempt to interfere with or influence the courts of justice, and questions which are so framed as to seek to put me in the position of appearing to consider that there have been wilful tampering with the courts or of stating what I am prepared to do to influence the future course of justice, either as respects Mr. Lawson or any other person, I cannot regard them as other than improper questions and a direct reflection upon those who are charged with the administration of justice. To answer reflections of this kind I must decline to be a party even by inference.

"Were I either directly or indirectly to attempt to influence the judiciary of Colorado as respects the present appeal in Mr. Lawson's trial, I should be guilty of the very procedure against which witnesses before this commission have so strongly protested and which I myself have not less strongly condemned, and I hope that the chairman of the commission will not expect from me replies to any questions which imply that I believe there have been guilty of unlawful or improper acts in the administration of justice or that I entertain a position superior to that of any other citizen of the republic either before the law or towards its administration."

When Mr. Rockefeller concluded, Chairman Walsh said:

"If there are any questions I ask that you think should not be answered, you should state the fact and the commission will consider what should be done. I suppose your high regard for law extends to all officers charged with administration of the law?"

"Yes," said Mr. Rockefeller.

"You haven't a contempt for officers of the law who do not your bidding?"

"I don't undertake to direct the officers of the law."

"Do you undertake to coerce officers of the law?"

"We don't undertake to get officers of the law in any position. That is entirely proper."

Bowers Writes of Governor.

Chairman Walsh then read a letter written to Mr. Rockefeller by L. M. Bowers, former superintendent of the executive department of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company on November 15, 1912, which included the following:

"You will be interested to know that we have been able to secure the co-operation of all the bankers of the city, who have had three or four interviews with our little cowboy governor, agreeing to back the state and lend it all the funds necessary to maintain the militia and afford simple protection so that our miners could return to work or give protection to men, who are anxious to come up here from Texas, New Mexico and Kansas, together with some from states farther east."

Besides the bankers, the Chamber of Commerce, the Real Estate exchange, together with a great many of the best business men, have been urging the governor to take steps to drive these vicious agitators out of the state. Another mighty power has been rounded up in behalf of the operators by gathering together of fourteen of the editors of the most important newspapers in Denver, Pueblo, Trinidad, Walsenburg, Colorado Springs and other of the larger places in the state.

All the governor hobnobbed with Haynes, Lawson, McLennan and the rest of the gang, or either refused or begs for more time to bring the strike to an end, or to simply protect the operators by bringing in outsiders to take the places of those who have left the state and those who refuse to take back under any circumstances. Let us are making a little headway.

There probably never has been such pressure brought to bear upon any governor of this state by the strongest men in it as has been brought to bear upon Governor Ammons. We have published statements of the various men who are, which the agitators disputed, and the

ITALIAN CAVALRY READY FOR WAR—The picture shows a company of the famed Italian horsemen at practice over difficult hazards at the recent maneuvers.



governor expresses great doubt as to its accuracy.

Commissioner Walsh also called Mr. Rockefeller's attention to another letter written to him by Bowers on December 22, 1912, in which the latter said:

"If the governor had acted on September 23 as he has been forced to act during the last few weeks this strike never would have existed ten days."

"We used every possible weapon to drive him to action, but he was glove in hand with the labor leaders, and is today, but the big men of affairs have helped the operators in wrapping the agitators, including the governor. These fellows are cursing him without regard for common decency, so everybody is giving him more or less tariff to keep him from backsliding. The enclosed is a sample of the reactions being sent to him, besides any number of personal letters."

"Do these letters show your policy?" asked Chairman Walsh.

"Did I write those letters?" demanded Mr. Rockefeller.

"No, but you received them," said the chairman.

"But I did not write them, so they can scarcely be said to show my policy," returned Mr. Rockefeller.

"Wanted Officers to Be Duly,"

"I propose to call your attention to six letters written by you, in which you say that you back up these actions by Mr. Bowers."

"The letters mean," returned Mr. Rockefeller, "that there was disorder in Colorado. Naturally every citizen would use every influence to get the public officers to do their duty." He declared emphatically that it was absolutely necessary for him to "back up" the men placed in charge of the coal properties.

Several times he objected to form and nature of the chairman's questions.

When Mr. Walsh asked that Mr. Rockefeller could answer questions as he wished, the tense situation appeared to be relieved.

Knows Nothing of False Weights.

The chairman asked for a telegram from President Welborn of the coal company to Mr. Rockefeller regarding the price of coal during the strike.

"Wasn't it a fact," asked Chairman Walsh, "that the price of coal was raised during the strike and that it was prohibitive to the poor?"

"I didn't know what the price of coal was and had knowledge only of our own coal, not about that of other producers."

"Did you know that Attorney General Farrar of Colorado went to the governor and asked him for the use of the militia to install strike breakers in your mines?"

"I knew nothing of it," said Rockefeller.

"Did your company cheat the coal miners in weight?"

"Never to my knowledge."

"Did the companies with which you combined cheat their men?"

"We never combined with any other companies," said Mr. Rockefeller. He added that the Colorado companies merely joined together to act in the strike.

"Your father paid \$5000 for sending out alleged facts for the coal operators of Colorado?"

"Yes, but it was understood the money was to be paid back by the operators."

Mr. Walsh read a letter by Mr. Bowers, saying "one of two of the competitive companies were cheating their miners through false weights."

Mr. Rockefeller said he knew nothing of that.

Mr. Walsh asked if Rockefeller did not think he, as a director of the company, should take steps to have "criminal saloon keepers" ousted from the mining camps. Mr. Rockefeller returned that state officials should enforce the laws.

Knows Little of Massacre.

Mr. Walsh read several letters written by Mr. Rockefeller promising support to the company officers.

Mr. Rockefeller was acquainted with the details of the Ludlow "massacre" and gave a graphic description of it. Mr. Rockefeller said he had no knowledge of the details.

"On the same day as the Ludlow massacre," Walsh asserted, "did you not learn that there was a little boy killed?"

"I heard a boy was shot," said Rockefeller.

Walsh then called attention to a company statement that the women of Ludlow were smothered and then read a post card addressed to him by a Mr. and Mrs. Snyder at Trinidad, saying:

"We wish to inform you that here is one of the little victims of Ludlow, not smothered, but was shot through the head while carrying his little sister."

"On the back of this card is a photograph of the little boy, Frank Snyder," said Walsh. "Do you wish to see it?"

Walsh handed the card to a messenger, who offered it to Rockefeller.

"You have described it thoroughly," said Rockefeller. He glanced at the card as it was passed to the stenographer.

Walsh read from letters and reports to show that Troop A, a volunteer organiza-

tion, was formed of superintendents, clerical forces and mine guards of the coal companies.

"Do you know that this troop fired into the tents of the women and children at Ludlow and that they looted the dead and set fire to the tents of the people?" asked Walsh.

"I do not."

"I regard any instance where private individuals have to supplement regular authorities to protect life and property as most deplorable." Mr. Rockefeller declared in answering a series of questions.

"Our officers had to use means at hand to supplement the efficiency of the state. I deplore the necessity for putting mine guards into the field."

"As the men of troop A were paid by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, do you not feel a moral responsibility for the Ludlow massacre?" asked Mr. Walsh.

"I would have felt much greater responsibility," Rockefeller replied, "if officers of the company had not made an effort to protect life and property."

Asked if he thought it was right for guards to loot the homes of people, Mr. Rockefeller replied:

"Certainly not, whoever they were."

"Mr. Bowers in a letter recommends Leslie's Weekly," said Chairman Walsh. "I show you a copy of Leslie's Weekly, with a full page Standard Oil company advertisement on the back cover. Is there any connection between these two things?"

"I resent the imputation," said Mr. Rockefeller. "There is absolutely no connection at all."

Questions About Ivy Lee.

Walsh questioned Rockefeller about his employment of Ivy Lee, publicity agent. He called attention to Lee's recommendation that "we cannot be too careful in the use of terms."

"I believe that sound philosophy," said Rockefeller.

"Isn't that a plea for mendacity?" asked the chairman, "or a plea for the use of half truths which amount to mendacity?"

"If I had thought so," returned Mr. Rockefeller, "I would not have touched Mr. Lee or anyone who held such ideals with a ten-foot pole."

Replying to questions based on statements sent out by Lee, Mr. Rockefeller declared emphatically that he never

thought of or referred to the American people "with contempt."

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