

Democrats May Ask

Why organized Labor wants the Referendum. Why, to stop the strikes, and the shootings, and the "Vampire" Judges.

They know that if the people were in power that if we had a REAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, that Labor would get justice.

Public opinion, WITHOUT THE POWER to enforce its sentiments (see the coal strike) is a farce, but Public Opinion BACKED BY VOTES is omnipotent. See paragraph on "Strict Constructionists" in

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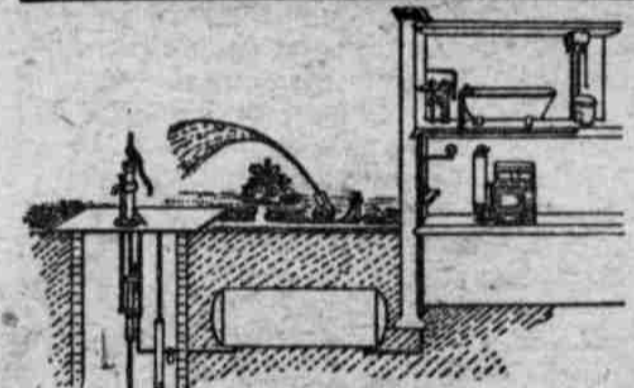
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BAER VERSUS MITCHELL.

George F. Baer, president Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company, and Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal and Iron company, and Temple Iron company. To the President of the United States: We understand your anxiety as forcibly expressed in the statement you read to us this morning to bring about "an immediate resumption of operations in the coal mines in some such way as will without a day's unnecessary delay meet the crying need of the people."

You distinctly say that you "do not invite a discussion of your respective claims and positions." But we assume that a statement of what is going on in the coal regions will not be irrelevant. We represent the owners of coal mines in Pennsylvania. There are from 15,000 to 20,000 men at work mining and preparing coal.

I need not picture the daily crimes committed by the members of this organization. The "domestic tranquility" which every constitution declares is the chief object of government does not exist in the coal regions. There is a terrible reign of lawlessness and crime there. Only the lives and property of the miners of the secret oath-bound order, which declared that the locals should "have full power to suspend operations at collieries" until the non-union men joined their order, are safe.

The constitution of Pennsylvania guarantees protection to life and property. In express terms it declares the right of acquiring, possessing and defending property "to be inalienable." When riot and anarchy too great to be appeased by the civil power occur the governor of Pennsylvania is bound to call out the state troops to suppress it.

He has sent troops to the coal regions. Gradually the power of the law is asserting itself. Unless encouraged by false hopes, order will soon be restored, and then we can mine coal to meet the public wants.

stitution of the United States requires the president, when requested by the legislature and the governor, "to suppress domestic violence." You see, there is a lawful way to secure coal for the public.

The duty of the hour is not to waste time negotiating with the fomenters of this anarchy and insolent defiance of law, but to do as was done in the war of the rebellion, restore the majesty of law, the only guardian of a free people, and to re-establish order and peace at any cost.

The government is a contemptible failure if it can only protect the lives and property and secure the comfort of the people by compromising with the violators of law and the instigators of violence and crime.

Just now it is more important to teach ignorant men, dwelling among us, misled and used as tools by citizens of other states, that at whatever cost and inconvenience to the public Pennsylvania will use the whole power of government to protect not only the man who wants to work, but his wife and children while he is at work, and to punish every man who by instigation or by overt acts attempts to deprive any man of his liberty to work.

Under these conditions we decline to accept Mr. Mitchell's considerate offer to let our men work on terms he names. He has no right to come from Illinois to dictate terms, on the acceptance of which anarchy and crime shall cease in Pennsylvania. He must stop his people from killing, maiming and abusing Pennsylvania citizens and from destroying property.

We will add to our offer "to continue the wages existing at the time of the strike and to take up at each colliery and adjust any grievance." This condition—if the employers and employees at any particular colliery cannot reach a satisfactory adjustment of any alleged grievances, it shall be referred to the judges of the court of common pleas of the district in which the colliery is situated for final determination.

John Mitchell (president United Mine Workers of America), John Fahey Thomas Duffy and D. D. Nichols (district presidents United Mine Workers of America)—Mr. President: At the conference this morning we, the accredited representatives of the anthracite coal mine workers, were much impressed with the views you expressed and the dangers to the welfare of our country from a prolongation of the coal strike that you so clearly pointed out.

Before doing so, Mr. President, we desire to say that we are not prompted to suggest this course because of any doubts of the justice of our claims.

In deferring to your wishes we are prompted by no fear on our part of our ability to continue the contest to a successful issue, thanks to the generous assistance rendered us by our fellow workers in this and other lands; thanks to a justice-loving American public whose sympathies are always on the side of right, we are able to continue the struggle indefinitely.

monstrate to any impartial tribunal the equity of our demands for higher wages and improved environment, we propose that the issues culminating in this strike shall be referred to you and a tribunal of your selection, and agree to accept your award upon all or any of the questions involved.

If you will accept this responsibility and the representatives of the coal operators will signify their willingness to have your decision incorporated in an agreement, for not less than one year or more than five years, as may be mutually determined, between themselves and the anthracite coal mine workers, and will pay the scale of wages which you and the tribunal appointed by you shall award, we will immediately call a convention and recommend a resumption of work, upon the understanding that the wages which shall be paid are to go in effect from the day upon which work is resumed.

Failed. The announced conference between President Roosevelt and the coal barons took place in Washington on October 1 and no agreement was reached. The conference could not reach a decision as to the recognition of the miners' union, which had expressed willingness to submit the question to arbitration of a tribunal named by the president, but these terms were absolutely declined by the representatives of the anthracite coal trust, they declaring that the workers will not be permitted to name terms.

Daniel Wilcox, vice president of the Delaware & Hudson railroad, representing President Olyphant; John Markel, representing the Independent Coal Operators; and President Mitchell of the mine workers' union, with Thomas Duffy, T. D. Nicholls, John Fahey, presidents of districts Nos. 7, 1 and 9 of the miners' union, being the districts where anthracite coal is mined.

The president made an appeal that the contending parties should cease strife in the interests of public welfare. The most important point raised was when the coal operators refused to have any dealings whatever with President Mitchell of the united mine workers, and that they had no other proposition to make safe what was contained in the statement of Mr. Baer, which was in effect that if any man chose to resume work and had a difficulty with his employer, both should leave the settlement of the question to the judges of the court of common pleas of the district in which the mine was located.

Now that the conference between the president and the representatives of the coal strike did not result in an agreement, the plan of the mayor of Detroit, Mich., for a national conference to be held in that city to try to settle the question, is being pushed with activity. One thousand delegates are expected, and the meeting will be held on October 9, for the purpose as stated, of arriving at some plan to stay the calamity which now threatens the comfort, health and even lives of American citizens.

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