

Good Showing of Commoner Workers

A GOOD EXAMPLE

Great Falls, Mont.—The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb. Gentlemen: Enclosed find list of 200 subscribers, also draft for \$100, for which kindly send The Commoner to the addresses as given on the enclosed list. Hoping we will be successful with a good progressive democrat for president, Yours very truly, JOSEPH KIRSCHWING, Representative from Cascade County.

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James Devine, S. D.—Find herewith a remittance of \$3.00 to pay for six campaign subscriptions to The Commoner. I am getting six papers and I would not give The Commoner for all the balance of the papers. In my judgment it is the one reliable democratic publication, and should be in the hands of every voter. Keep up the good fight.

Harmon's Record

One of the sure signs of progress in legislation is that which marked the pathway to greater safety for workmen. Greed for dividends, and carelessness and inattention to the needs of the workmen have been responsible for many appalling catastrophes in the field of coal mining in this country, and it has been necessary for legislation to force corporations to do that which humanity ought to have pointed out as vital.

Ohio is a great coal mining state. The business is a profitable one for the owners of the mines, but a dangerous one for the men who do the actual digging. From time to time the legislature of the state has found it necessary to pass mandatory acts designed to throw around the coal miners every possible precaution against accidental death. At the 1911 session Senator Krause, whose name adorns several important pieces of legislation in the interest of labor, introduced a bill to prohibit the sale of low grade and dangerous oils to miners.

The bill, which will be found on page 149, laws of Ohio, 1911 session, is apparently one of considerable importance, covering four printed pages. The first section prohibits the compounding or offering for sale of any oil for illuminating purposes in coal or other mines other than that made after the formula stated. The second paragraph provides for branding of the packages with certain descriptive matter, and the third provides for proper labeling of the contents. The fourth paragraph prohibits the use of any illuminant other than those specified in any mine in the state unless with the consent and approval of the chief inspector of mines.

The second section of the bill penalizes a county coroner who, after receiving notice of a fatal accident in or about a mine, does not make investigation as outlined in the law. It provides also a penalty for every mine owner, agent or lessee, who disobeys any one of the various injunctions put upon him by the mine inspection law with respect to safeguarding the persons of his employees. It provides also for penalties for superintendents, mine foremen or overseers who do not strictly attend to what the law tells them they must do to minimize danger of accident. It also penalizes any one who enters a mine generating fire damp before it is reported by the fire boss to be safe to enter or disregards fire damp danger signals. There are five or six other penal provisions, one intended to prevent the sale of intoxicants about mines, another to punish surreptitious selling of oil placed under the ban, and even the man who uses contraband oil is penalized.

Apparently the law is a determined effort to prevent explosions and accidents of any nature that are traceable to the use in mines, for illuminating purposes, of oil that is below standard, which means that it is dangerous. This bill was passed by both houses of the Ohio legislature, and presented to Governor Harmon on May 17th. He neither signed nor approved it, but allowed it to become a law on June 1st, without his signature.

Another important law in the interest of laboring men which Governor Harmon took no interest in, or at least allowed to become a law without his signature, provided for the creation of a municipal court for the city of Cleveland. Municipal courts are poor men's courts, and take the place of police tribunals and similar outworn paraphernalia of justice in dealing with matters in large cities. They have both a civil and criminal jurisdiction, and have proven their value in those municipalities where tried.

C. Q. D.