

Commission on Industrial Relations.

J. L. Hendrick, district attorney of Las Animas County, Colorado, told the Commission on Industrial Relations at Denver on December 12 that the coal companies controlled the courts. In twenty-three years, he said, he has never known a personal injury suit to be decided against a coal company. Juries are usually made up of Mexicans and others who cannot understand English, and all testimony as well as the court's charges are delivered through interpreters. While the militia was in Trinidad, Mr. Hendrick declared that citizens were in fear of expressing opinions lest they be thrown into jail. He had three times asked Governor Ammons whether martial law prevailed and each time was told to "Ask General Chase." On the day following the shooting of three strikers, prisoners of the militia, he had gone with the coroner to conduct an investigation, but Mayor Boughton, in the local command of the militia, denied the right of civil authorities to examine a soldier. The attorney-general of the State had relegated him from participation in the trial of cases against strikers involving charges of violence and murder. F. B. Farber, station agent at Ludlow, testified that it had been known to him for several days before the battle at Ludlow that the soldiers were planning to destroy the tents of the strikers. He said further that Lieutenant Linderfelt started the battle by exploding bombs. Linderfelt followed Farber on the stand and said that the bombs were signals that they were about to be attacked. He admitted having broken a gun over the head of Louis Tikas, the strike leader, who was a prisoner at the time, and was later found dead. Edward L. Doyle testified on December 15 that the federal troops as well as the militia favored the operators. Though the federal troops did not shoot the strikers they assisted in importation of strike breakers. As secretary-treasurer of the local miners' organization he consented to inspection by the Commission of its letter files and records. The hearings concluded on December 16. John R. Lawson told of a message he had sent to President Wilson declaring John D. Rockefeller, Sr., responsible for refusal of the operators to meet the men in conference. State Senator Helen Ring Robinson told of an attempt to get Governor Ammons to release "Mother" Jones from imprisonment. She said the Governor replied by attacking "Mother" Jones' character and was told by her that that was no concern of the Governor of Colorado. [See current volume, page 1211.]



In Kansas City on December 18 Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the Commission, is reported to have stated that the calling off of the strike in Southern Colorado is but a truce, and that the

strike itself was but an incident in industrial war that has been going on since 1876. He is reported to have said further:

The mining industry in Colorado has been anarchy. There is no government there. Never have I seen such an intense sense of injustice as prevails among the miners in Colorado. Never have I known so many irritating facts to cause the sense of injustice. When John R. Lawson of the International Board of the Mine Workers of the World tells the commission that the laws and the justice of Colorado are controlled by seven directors of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, sitting at 26 Broadway and never having seen the mines or the mine workers, the statement is interesting.

When the statement is proved, as it was proved by overwhelming testimony, hardly contradicted, then the statement becomes startling and disturbing.

The elections in many precincts are held within barbed wire inclosures on the company's own grounds. In one of these precincts one hundred votes were counted against the Colorado constitutional amendment to relieve the workers from the risk of injury. Does anyone suppose that those men actually voted to deprive their own wives and children of compensation in case they were killed?

Over in Primero (within one of these barbed wire inclosures, by the way) I saw and talked with the chairman of the school board and the manager of the circulating library. He was an affable man who runs a saloon in a building which he rents from the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. He pays the company \$1,500 a year rent, \$125 a month, for the use of the building which the company says cost it \$3,000. Two years' rent paid for the building. To this saloon-keeper, who is the trustee of the people's reading and information, the minister who presides over the company's sociological department sends what papers, periodicals and books he thinks are good. The Denver papers (except the Denver Express, which favored the workers) and the Saturday Evening Post and Puck and Judge can get past the barbed wire. No other newspapers or periodicals can.

If our commission on industrial relations can clear the way by even indicating what the way is, and can secure this nation from a wrong start to the solution, leaving the work all to be done over again, we will have accomplished far the biggest part of what we hope to accomplish.



Congressional Doings.

The House Committee on Military Affairs agreed on December 19 to an appropriation of \$101,000,000, for the army. No provision was made for an increase of the army or for the creation of a reserve, both of which have been much agitated for recently. Former President Roosevelt on December 16, declined an invitation from Congressman Hobson to appear before the House naval committee to urge a big navy program. Mr. Roosevelt said that he did not believe that he could accomplish anything by appearing. Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt,