

thousand eight hundred men for the northern mines, meaning that they had changed their working forces about eight times in one year. Does that not signify that the miners were actually on strike?

Mr. Welborn says: "It was planned outside of the state of Colorado, led by outsiders and financed from the outside." As one who had something to do with the planning, I can say that the greatest of the plans were made inside the companies' properties by the men working in the mines, and the most valuable suggestions came from that source. "Led and financed from the outside." What does this speak for the way they conducted business and treated employes when outsiders could step in and advise and finance men struggling for their rights? Does it not show that all hope of the miners themselves bettering their conditions was crushed by their employers, so that they welcomed the assistance of their fellow-workmen in other parts.

His statement as to why the strike was brought about is ridiculous. How could any set of men bring about a strike so great as this in a non-union field if there was not something radically wrong; something for which the men themselves saw the need of a strike to remedy that condition?

He speaks of men who would (in his opinion) have left the employ of the company had it recognized the Miners' Union. He leaves the inference that the Mine Workers came into the State a little over a year ago, when the facts are headquarters have been maintained in this State for from ten to fifteen years.

Why does he not tell the number who were compelled to leave the employ of his company because suspected of union membership just prior to the strike? In one day sixteen men went to the Mine Workers' office at Trinidad and said they were fired because they were suspected of being members of the union. Of the sixteen only one was a member. So bitter was the company against the union that the minute a man was suspected he was discharged, and the union had but to report men as being members who were not, and who would not join, to have them dismissed from the companies' employ.

That the effect of the union's demand would be the discharging of his loyal employes is not the truth. We point to other States to convince him that miners who worked in those States prior to unionizing of the mines are still working there.

The Miners' Union is not trying to build a ring around a few thousand coal miners, keeping others from making a living in that business, but perhaps Mr. Welborn, being used to the idea of monopolizing things for the few, cannot see that any other institution could exist for any purpose save that of monopoly.

He says that the men are opposed to the acceptance of the truce proposals, etc. There is no doubt but what they would sign petitions saying they were opposed to this, just as did the miners before the strike sign petitions saying that they did not want to strike.

He speaks of "our duty" to protect the miners now at work. Had one-half the effort been made previous to the strike against the injustice and robbery of the employers employing these miners that is now being made, or claims to be made, toward protecting them

from an imaginary enemy, there is little doubt but what there never would have been a strike in Colorado with all its attendant evils.

One of the coal company's attorneys before the Congressional Investigation Committee laid great stress upon the assertion that men have the right to work for whom they pleased, what they pleased and when they pleased. The witness asked whether this same attorney would consent to his exercise of that right on the following day by appearing at the attorney's office demanding a job carrying law books from the office to the court room at \$5.00 a day, working four hours per day and only working every other day. The attorney ceased questioning on this golden right of the American workmen to work for whom, when and for what he pleases.

E. L. DOYLE.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, December 1, 1914.

The Labor War.

That the President has no power to seize the Colorado coal mines was the substance of an opinion rendered on November 25 by the solicitor of the Department of Labor and by officers of the Department of Justice, to whom had been referred the resolutions demanding such action of the American Federation of Labor. President Wilson announced on November 29 the appointment of a commission through which future differences between operators and miners may be settled. The commission consists of Seth Low, former mayor of New York; Charles W. Mills of Philadelphia and Patrick Gilday of Clearfield, Pa. In a statement explaining the appointment of this commission, the President recounted the futile efforts made by the Government to bring peace, from the beginning of the trouble to rejection by the operators of the three-year truce proposition which the miners had accepted. This act of the operators, the President declared, the country regretted. He had waited in the hope of a change in their attitude which he now feared to be in vain. He does not feel at liberty to withdraw the Federal troops under the circumstances and states further:

I have, therefore, determined to appoint the commission contemplated in the plan of temporary settlement, notwithstanding the rejection of that plan by the mine operators, and thus at least to create the instrumentality by which like troubles and disputes may be amicably and honorably settled in the near future, in the hope—the very earnest and sincere hope—that both parties may see it to be not merely to their own best interest but also a duty which they owe to the communities they serve and to the nation itself to make use of this instrumen-

tality of peace and make strife of the kind which has threatened the order and prosperity of the great State of Colorado a thing of the past, impossible of repetition so long as everything is done in good temper and with the genuine purpose to do justice and observe every public as well as every private obligation.

[See current volume, pages 947, 987, 1044.]



In a report to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, published on November 23, Reverend Henry A. Atkinson, who investigated the Colorado trouble for the council, declared that the coal companies control the government of the counties where their mines are located. "They have brought about the election of the judges, sheriffs, coroners and assessors." Jefferson Farr, sheriff of Huerfano County, has been in office fifteen years, is known as "king of the county" and orders things in accordance with the wishes of the coal companies which have secured his election. It is impossible to enforce the law since the courts are practically closed to those who have incurred the enmity of the coal companies. Thirty years of such oppression has taught the miners that their only hope is the union. Individually the men can do nothing. A man who protests will be discharged and if he makes too much trouble will be dealt with by gunmen. Concerning the militia, Mr. Atkinson says:

The soldiers were gladly received by the strikers, for they expected they would have some protection, but their hopes were in vain. It soon became evident that the militia was under the control of the coal companies.

Men and women were thrown into jail without any charge being lodged against them and held incommunicado.

The militia, instead of aiming to maintain order and secure justice, was used to break the strike.

Speaking of the unions Mr. Atkinson declares:

The right of workmen to organize has been and is being denied by the un-American and un-Christian attitude of the mine operators, who thus deprive their employes of an essential means of self-defense, the right to bargain collectively for their labor.



Objection was raised on November 24 by Governor Ammons of Colorado and Governor-elect Carlson to investigation of labor conditions in the coal fields of the State by the Commission on Industrial Relations. In a joint telegram sent to the Commission and to President Wilson they asked that the inquiry scheduled to begin on December 1 be postponed. The Commission took no action on the protest. [See current volume, page 1115.]



The board of arbitration chosen to settle the

controversy between 98 western railroads and 64,000 employes began its hearings at Chicago on November 30. The arbitrators for the railroads are H. E. Byram and W. L. Park; for the unions are F. A. Burgess and Timothy Shea, and for the Government Charles Nagel, former Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and Federal Judge Jeter C. Pritchard. [See current volume, page 756.]



Commission on Industrial Relations.

The date for the public hearing on the American land question by the United States Commission on Industrial Relations has been fixed as December 14-17, inclusive. The hearing will take place in Dallas, Texas. The members of the commission will hear testimony of representative renters, landlords and students of the land question. Among the subjects that will come up for consideration are the growth of a feeling of unrest among the rural population and the work that is being done by the Renters' Union of America. This organization of land renters has been very active in the southwest for the past three years. Taxation as a means of destroying land monopoly will also have consideration. Rural credit plans and organization for the marketing of farm products will be important topics. [See current volume, page 1115.]



Capital Punishment in Arizona.

Eleven men are to be executed at Phoenix, Arizona, on December 11, unless Governor Hunt intervenes. The carrying out of the death penalty had been delayed pending the popular vote on abolition of capital punishment on November 3. The measure was defeated by a small majority. Governor Hunt has been overwhelmed with requests to intervene, many of which came from individuals who voted against abolition, but was reported on November 24 to have expressed himself as follows:

The people of Arizona wished the death of these men. I intend to see to it that they have their wish. I may even decree a hanging bee in the public square. If what the voter intended was an object lesson, it had better be as thorough a one as possible, since there must be a carnival of death, it will be better to hold it where every man, woman and child will be able to see the whole ghastly proceeding. When we have sent eleven men to death together, I hope that every voter who voted against the amendment on November 3 will feel a sense of personal guilt. If Arizona stands before the world as a barbarous State, it is they who will be responsible.

[See current volume, page 1143.]



Chicago's Telephone Fight.

An attempt seems to have come to naught to shut out representatives of civic organizations of