

THEY MAY OPPOSE IT

Reports Current That the United Mine Workers of Scranton, Pittston and Some Other Localities Had Voted to Instruct Their Delegates to Oppose the Acceptance of the Operators' Proposition Unless the Companies Would Agree to Discharge the Non-Union Men, Take Back All the Old Employees, Drop the Suits Against the Strikers and Recognize the Union---

Senator Morgan Makes Some Sensible Remarks.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 17.—The correspondence that passed between President Roosevelt and Mr. Mitchell in regard to the settlement of the anthracite strike is as given below. Mr. Mitchell wrote:

PRAISES HIS ORGANIZATION.

We forgive them their arrogant refusal to deal with us, and in this hour when they are forced to acknowledge their inability to operate their mines without our consent and co-operation, we hold out the right hand of friendship and ask them to join with us in securing amicable relations and wholesome conditions in this region. We forgive them even the false accusations which they have made against us. They charged us with being criminals, rioters and anarchists, and our organization they denominated as 'lawless and irresponsible.' They knew and did know that their charges were untrue and without foundation in fact; they know that every officer of the United Mine Workers of America, from the president down, has constantly urged upon its membership the imperative need of respecting the law; that every man who commits a deed of violence is an enemy to our cause," has been our watchword.

Despite these admonitions, supported with all our influence, there have been a few crimes and a number of misdemeanors chargeable to those on strike. But, Mr. President, we make the declaration that the imported guardians of law and order, the company's coal and iron police, have committed more unprovoked murders during this strike than can be charged to the great army of men who have been in idleness for the past five months. We have repeatedly, and in language not susceptible of misconception, condemned the transgressions of those on strike, and we challenge the operators to make it plain to our public utterance on their part in which they have even deprecated acts of violence committed by their hired guards.

We declare that it was unfair and unmanly for the coal road operators to insult us while we were your guests and charge our organization with the responsibility of all lawlessness during the strike. It would be just as logical to charge the American army in the Philippines with being an army of murderers and robbers because a few crimes were committed by soldiers there. Until the millennium there will be crime in every community; human nature is the same, no better and no worse among the half million people dependent upon us in the coal fields as it is everywhere in our country.

The presence of the operators which they were unable to produce coal because of the intimidation which kept workmen who were willing to work from doing so, has proved false, by the fact that the production they demanded has decreased rather than increased the number of men mining coal. A hundred thousand troops could not have enabled the operators to start their mines, for the simple reason that the men who work them are members of the United Mine Workers' Union of America, men who were determined to stand to the last for their right to organize, and through the organization to demand better wages and improved conditions of employment. Deprivation, misrepresentation and troops were not sufficient to drive them into surrender. They stood shoulder to shoulder to the very last.

The operators declared that they would have nothing to do with the United Mine Workers of America, but they have found it necessary to recognize the power of the United Mine Workers of America through you, Mr. President, and to seek terms of peace which will enable them to resume their business of mining and selling coal. The recognition of our strength thus forced upon the operators by a stern necessity we exult over, not in any narrow spirit, but because we believe it marks a forward step to a new era. Upon the foundation laid through war we are ready to join with them in building better conditions and a long lasting peace. The United Mine Workers of America, since its organization in the anthracite field, has constantly sought to establish:

First—Fair wages and just conditions of labor, conditions just to both operators and miner. We have never made demands beyond the ability of the industry to pay, on a basis of equitable division to profits between labor and capital.

Second—Amicable relations between employers and employes, the latter speaking through their organization, and their organization aiding the companies in maintaining discipline, adjusting all difficulties by conciliatory methods, averting local strikes and lock-outs, and securing stable and satisfactory conditions to the industries. Our organization, by the same methods which we have proposed here, has secured just such relations and just such results in the coal fields of the country. Organization, like an individual, must stand upon what it has done and the life it has lived.

We invite scrutiny and investigation of our record and character. In the soft coal fields we have joint conferences with the operators, and with them we adjust differences, we sign joint agreements, together we preserve discipline, settle disputes and maintain harmony and stability in the trade.

We have asked the anthracite operators to inquire of the coal operators how well they are pleased with their business relations with us, whether or not we keep our agreements, and render satisfactory service for wages paid to our members. One business man might thus learn of another what is the character of our organization. Many soft coal operators have publicly declared that they would not dispense with our co-operation, and would deem it a disaster if compelled to go back to the chaotic conditions which existed when their labor was unorganized. On our past records we are willing to stand or fall. We have, time and time again, invited the anthracite operators to adopt these business methods and to deal with us on this basis. Despite repeated rebuffs, we persisted, but they resented any attempt upon our part to organize their employes; they refused our overtures for amicable discussion and possible satisfactory adjustment of wage difficulties in joint conference. They refused to have any dealings with their employes except as individuals; they refused concessions and refused arbitration; they put their backs against the wall of prejudice and their faces arbitrarily against progress; they thought themselves stronger than the great union principle which is making such strides throughout the world; that while combining their corporations and pooling their interests in hard and fast alliances they could deny the men who worked for them the right to organize and speak through their organization.

When the inevitable conflict came on they attempted to justify themselves upon the false plea that ours is an irresponsible organization; when we demonstrated our responsibility they then asserted that we were a lawless organization which was dominating by violence.

When socially attempted to interfere to settle the strike they declared their divinely appointed right to be let alone. When representatives of the national and state governments tried to mediate they resented such "meddling by politicians," but thanks to you, Mr. President, and to the power of public opinion, they have been brought to a realization of the fact that the interests and welfare of the American people cannot be ignored with impunity.

By the eminent tribunal which you have named we have confidence that justice will be done our people. We are glad to have a chance to appear before such a court, empowered to consider and dispose of all the questions at issue. The mine workers have struggled for increased wages and a reduction in the hours of labor; also the relations which ought to exist between the employers and the organization which the men have formed and which are authorized to speak for them.

From this arbitration we hope and believe will come a complete, satisfactory and permanent solution of the trouble which have vexed the anthracite field from time immemorial.

LATEST CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—The latest correspondence between President Roosevelt and John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers, was made public at the White House today. It consists, first, of the following telegram from the president to Mr. Mitchell, dated Washington, Oct. 15:

"I have appointed as commissioners Brigadier-General John M. Wilson, Mr. E. W. Parker, Judge George Gray, Mr. E. E. Clark, Mr. Thomas H. Watkins and Bishop John L. Spaulding, with Hon. Carroll D. Wright as recorder.

"These names are accepted by the operators, and I now most earnestly ask and urge that the miners likewise accept this commission. It is a matter of vital concern to all our people, and especially to those in our great cities who are less well off than the mining of coal should be resumed without a day's unnecessary delay."

MR. MITCHELL'S ANSWER.

Mr. Mitchell answered this from Wilkesbarre, Pa., under date of Oct. 16. After acknowledging the president's communication he said:

"Replying thereto I beg to inform you that your recommendations were submitted to the members of the executive board of districts one, seven and nine, United Mine Workers of America, and they have unanimously agreed to call a delegate convention, to be held next Monday, and which would recommend that all men, now on strike return to the positions and working places formerly occupied by them, and submit to the commission appointed by you all questions at issue between the operators and mine workers of the anthracite coal fields. In connection with this subject we are glad to know that the managers of the coal companies have decided to receive the non-union men, take back all the old employees, drop the suits against the strikers and recognize the union. It was impossible to verify these reports, but they are persistently and generally circulated.

"A significant fact in this connection was the concern of District President Nichols today over a published report that he was the head of a movement to oppose the acceptance of the proposition."

"This report," said Mr. Nichols this evening, "is doing no end of mischief. It has caused our men to view the proposition with suspicion, and when they suspected it they commenced to look for the flaws which they supposed I had found in it. I have heard of locals in different places being disposed to vote against the proposition, and I must admit it is causing some worry at headquarters. I am satisfied, however, that the convention will accept the proposition. I want it stated that the report that I am opposed to the proposition is absolutely false and without foundation. I have been in favor of it from the first."

"Will the leaders of the United Mine Workers give the members any advice or instructions regarding their conduct towards the non-union men?" was asked of Mr. Nichols.

"I do not think so," replied Mr. Nichols.

"It does not seem that we are called upon to ask our men to take these fellows to their hearts and treat them as they would a dear friend.

"In 1901 I advised that the non-unionists be treated in a friendly manner, with a view of winning them over. I do not propose to do it again. As far as the men who continued to work at their own jobs are concerned, I have nothing to say. As for those who went into the mines and took other workmen's places I am of the opinion they are not worth winning to our side. I do not think we want them."

EXPLOSIVES FOUND.

A box of explosives, containing ten links of giant powder, two sacks of gun powder, two sticks of dynamite and a partly burned fuse, was found in a recently vacated house by a non-union man at Grassy Island, near the Thirteenth regiment's camp, last night. A defective fuse prevented an explosion, which would have demolished the building.

QUESTION ONLY PUT TO SLEEP.

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 17.—Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama, now visiting in this city, had this to say today on President Roosevelt's success in bringing about arbitration:

"I am very glad that a modus vivendi apparently has been formed, and I should think the republican situation would be relieved considerably. In a matter where the comfort and prosperity of the whole people are concerned we should not entertain any question of party advantage, but should consider the general welfare.

"But the strike has only been put to sleep for a time. You will find much delicate and attempted legislation manifested this winter in congress and the state legislatures concerning the mines.

"Mr. Hill in New York has taken the

played to break the deadlock.

"If our proffer of arbitration or impartial investigation had been accepted six months ago instead of now there need have been no strike. We have been eager, Mr. President, to respond to the people's demand for coal during the progress of the strike. We have more than once offered arbitration, but we have been met with the reply:

"We will not permit outsiders to dictate to us in the management of our affairs. We have nothing to arbitrate."

"Now that the managers of the companies have been compelled by you and a thoroughly aroused public conscience to recede from this position, with their proud firmness and the heroic endurance of our men and women in support of their rights and of a vital American principle they have won the victory. The poor, underpaid mine workers of these coal regions, who toll hard from early morning until late at night for a livelihood, nobly supported by organized labor in this and other lands, have taught these corporation managers a useful lesson in civic and social duty. We exult over this tribute to the dignity of labor because it is the triumph of right and of good public policy.

"We do not, however, exult over our opponents; we appeal to them now; we have from the first striven to turn their eyes to the future and to co-operate with us in an effort to establish better relations between employer and employes for the advantage of both."

MAY OPPOSE ACCEPTANCE.

SCRANTON, Pa., Oct. 17.—Reports were circulated tonight that the locals of the United Mine Workers in Scranton, Pittston and some other localities had voted to instruct their delegates to oppose the acceptance of the operators' proposition unless the companies would agree to discharge the non-union men, take back all the old employees, drop the suits against the strikers and recognize the union.

NEW ASBESTOS FIND.

The Temiskaming District Rich in Minerals.

TORONTO, Oct. 17.—Evidences are accumulating daily of the great economic value of the Temiskaming district, which the vigorous policy of development embarked upon by the provincial government has opened up to settlement. Following close upon the reported discovery of a large nickel deposit in the district comes the news that an extensive deposit of asbestos has been found in the townships of the northern end of Lake Temiskaming. The discoverer has taken preliminary steps to secure his claims, but owing to the slow means of communication the full particulars of the find will not be obtainable for some weeks. Sufficient has been learned, however, to lead to the conclusion that the deposit is of good quality and very considerable in extent.

GRANBY SMELTER.

GRAND FORKS, B. C., Oct. 17.—During the week ended today the Granby smelter treated 444 tons of ore, a grand total treated to date of 635,260 tons.

FAST STEAMSHIPS.

Subsidy From the Dominion Can Be No Longer in Doubt.

TORONTO, Ont., Oct. 17.—The Telegram's London cable says: The Right Hon. R. W. Harbury, president of the board of agriculture, will next Thursday receive a deputation of the Manchester meat retailers and discuss with them the removal of the restrictions on the importation of cattle from Argentine and incidentally the embargo on Canadian cattle at the same time. The Daily News today says the offer by Canada of a substantial subsidy for the fast line of steamships from the Dominion to England and the proposition from the British exchequer can no longer be open to doubt.

FRACTURED HIS SKULL.

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 17.—C. A. Imberto of this city fell from a street car tonight, and was removed to the hospital suffering from a fractured skull. He is not expected to recover.

QUEBEC, B. C., Oct. 17.—The Quebec Daily Mercury has been purchased by the sons of Hon. J. I. Tarte, publishers of La Patrie.

QUESTIONS ONLY PUT TO SLEEP.

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PREMIER BOND HAS CONCLUDED TREATY

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Oct. 17.—It is reported here that Premier Bond has concluded a reciprocity treaty with Secretary Hay in Washington. The United States government is said to be ready to sign this treaty at once, and to be only awaiting the authority of the British ambassador at Washington, Sir Michael Herbert, to affix his signature to it. It is feared here that Canada will adopt the same policy she did in 1890 when she protested against a former treaty and secured its abrogation. The British cabinet, however, is pledged to permit Newfoundland's treaty to become effective if Canada, after a reasonable effort, is unable to secure a similar treaty herself. Canada has tried to do this several times in the past twelve years, but has failed on each occasion. Newfoundland is now looking confidently to the British cabinet to make good its promise.

All sections of the people in this colony strongly desire reciprocity and a bitter feeling is certain to be aroused if Canada interferes.

"DISCOVERY DAY" CELEBRATION.

Knights of Columbus Observe Anniversary of the Finding of America.

NEW YORK, Oct. 13.—The New York Chapter, Knights of Columbus, celebrated "Discovery Day," the anniversary of Columbus's discovery of this country, at Carnegie Hall last evening. The meeting was the inauguration of what the chapter expects to make an annual celebration. The hall was filled from stage to gallery with an enthusiastic audience of Knights and their friends. Archbishop Farley had been expected to attend, and in connection with the meeting there was to have been something of a reception in his honor, but the death of his sister in Brooklyn on Saturday kept him away.

Victor J. Dowling was chairman of the meeting; and Morgan J. O'Brien, John J. Delany and the Rev. Father A. F. Doyle made addresses respectively on the economic, the social, the political and the religious significance of the discovery.

JOHN REDMOND IS OPTIMISTIC

BOSTON, Mass., Oct. 17.—On the steamship New England, which arrived from Queenstown and Liverpool today, were John E. Redmond, M. P., chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and president of the United Irish League; John Dillon, M. P. for East Mayo; and Michael Davitt. Their arrival has long been looked forward to by all Irishmen, as they are to address the members of the United Irish League, which holds its national convention in this city beginning Sunday night. Mr. Redmond, in speaking of the present condition in Ireland and of matters relating to the United Irish League, said: "The United Irish League is the ruling power in Ireland as truly as ever the Land League was. The government played into our hands by the coercion policy and now the country is aroused. We are on the eve of a settlement of the Irish land question, and after that the national relief government will speedily come to Ireland.

"The Irish party now in the house of commons is the only real opposition in the English parliament, and I believe the day is near at hand when it will have the controlling influence in Great Britain."

The only comment he made on the forcible expulsion of John O'Donnell, M. P., from the house of commons and the reimprisonment of Patrick A. McLean was that it showed that the opposition to the English government in the commons is, in usual, led by the Irish party. In the course of an interview tonight Mr. Davitt said that he was pleased at what happened in the house of commons on Wednesday. He said he had never seen the spirit of the Irish party as it exists today surpassed at any stage in the struggle of the past 30 years.

"Landlordism," he said, "is doomed, and with that destroyed national self-government is certain."

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Sir Wilfrid Has Returned to Canada

(Special to The Miner.)

QUEBEC, Oct. 17.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance, arrived at Rimouski on the Lake Erie at 1 o'clock and left for Quebec by special train about 3 o'clock.

It is expected the prime minister will make his first declaration in reply to the civic address to be presented to him here on his arrival this evening. Elaborate preparations and decorations have been made for Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reception here. Flattering in-light procession will at once start.

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Another Strike Settlement Is in Sight

SANDY HILL, N. Y., Oct. 17.—A settlement of the Hudson railway strike is looked upon as the possible result of a conference held today between President Cochin of the company and the committee representing the striking employes. No announcement has been made as to the outcome of the conference or the matter under discussion.

At Middle Falls last night two soldiers were fired on from an ambush while they were patrolling the bridges. The bullets went over the heads of the soldiers, who at once gave chase and drove the attacking party out of the woods. The soldiers say there were seven in the party and all escaped.

ETS DO DAMAGE.

ME., Oct. 18.—An unbroken path for the middle of the east-state last night, es- apple crop, the greater a yet on the trees.

October 23, 1902
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