

THE ANTHRACITE MINE CONDITIONS

A statement has been issued by John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers, which purports to be a plea for the Pennsylvania anthracite miners. The value of this plea is badly damaged by its being issued after the miners have been on strike for six weeks, but like all Mr. Mitchell's published utterances, the present statement is written in good English, and shows considerable cleverness in evading dangerous admissions. It is doubtless intended to influence people who know nothing of anthracite mining nor of conditions at the mines, yet we shall review it at some length, believing that the truth will not suffer by repetition.

"For more than 25 years the anthracite coal mining workers have chafed and groaned under the most intolerable and inhuman conditions of employment imaginable. Their average annual earnings have been less than those of any other class of workmen in the United States, notwithstanding the fact that their work is more hazardous and the cost of living greater than in any other important American industry," says Mr. Mitchell. This is mere rhetoric and misrepresentation. It is inconceivable that men who came to the mines freely and were free to go at any time should work under inhuman conditions, and it is well known that there has been for many years an excess of labor at the mines. The men have stayed because, when the mines were working, they could make better wages than they could hope to get in any other field open to them. No one can visit the mines in the anthracite region without being impressed by the fact that the miners look well fed and decently clad; their wives and children are rosy and healthy. The great majority of families at the beginning of the strike were living in simple comfort. When the strike began a considerable percentage of the foreign-born went to Europe with the avowed purpose of returning when the strike was over. Such men can scarcely be considered as working under intolerable conditions.

The total number of men employed about the anthracite mines in 1901 was 147,651, but to say that they are employed never to exceed 200 days in any one year, and receive as compensation for their services an average of \$1.42 for a ten-hour workday, thus earning annually less than \$300, is to talk nonsense. In the first place, one of the reasons why the breakers averaged but 197 days a year was because officials of organized labor were actively seeking the seeds of discontent among the men, urging them to strike for all manner of trivial causes. The Delaware & Hudson Company alone reported 123 such strikes during 1901. Mr. Mitchell knows very well that the breakers could have averaged over 197 days just as well as not; the fact is not true that men employed never work over 200 days a year. The records of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Mines show the average number of days that the mines are in operation, but there are many employees who work practically the year round, including firemen, ashmen, pumpmen, fitters, stable bosses and fire bosses; there are also other men, such as carpenters, timbermen, brattice men, track layers and certain miners, who may work on days when the breaker is idle.

Mr. Mitchell takes the sum of money he thinks is paid out daily by the coal mining companies, divides it by 147,000, gets \$1.48 as his result, and says this is the average pay of a mine employe. In doing this he includes breaker boys who get from 45c. to \$1 per day, surface laborers, including superannuated old men at light work, who get \$1 to \$1.50 per day, and boys employed underground.

Mr. Mitchell's statement that the average earnings of anthracite miners have been less than those of any other class of workmen in the United States is not in accordance with fact. Company miners about Wilkesbarre, where Mr. Mitchell has his headquarters, make from \$2 to \$2.50 per day, and miners working on contract frequently make as high as \$100 a month and work less than four hours a day; mine laborers, often men newly arrived from Austria, Hungary, Italy or Russia, get \$1.50 to \$1.75. Surface laborers are paid as much about the mines as on railroads.

The records of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Industry show many times paying far less than the anthracite miners receive to say nothing of farm labor.

Mr. Mitchell complains of the hazardous nature of anthracite mining. The percentage of accidents is certainly greater than it should be, and greater than in European mines. This is partly because of the inherent carelessness of the average miner, partly because the mines in this country are not under such rigid control by the state as those in France, Germany and England, and partly because labor organizations such as Mr. Mitchell's do not try to promote higher standards of work among their members. If a workman is discharged for carelessness or insubordination, the Union insists on his reinstatement, and if the mine superintendent puts a higher value upon life and property than on the behalf of the Union, the result is a strike. Men connected with the United Mine Workers in the summer of 1890 took an active part in a strike that tied up a large mine near Wilkesbarre for several weeks. The mine is one of the most fertile in the United States. The miners struck simply because the company insisted that they should use, to protect their lives and the company's property, an improved type of safety lamp.

It is true that in the settlement of the 1900 strike a reduction in the price of powder was included in the 10 per cent advance in wages. This was distinctly understood at the time, and was accepted as satisfactory by the representatives of the United Mine Workers. Mr. Mitchell perhaps does not know that the largest coal mining company in the Schuylkill region virtually granted

a great deal of it. These companies do not always represent the full strength of the anti-strike element, yet a majority of the men chosen by these lodges as delegates to the Hazelton convention were not in favor of an immediate strike. The convention, however, voted for a suspension of work. What influenced the delegates? Mr. Mitchell knows; the public which is paying part of the expense of this strike does not. Rumors have been heard of a net-work of intrigue and trickery, of influences discreditable to Mr. Mitchell and his associates, of happenings that reflect on Mr. Mitchell's honesty and the integrity of his professed motives. What answered the Hazelton convention?—Engineering and Mining Journal.

It is not surprising that Mr. Mitchell attempts to defend the easily verified facts regarding the restrictions that his union has put upon labor at the mines, and the resulting decrease in efficiency of mine employes, by saying that from 1890 to 1900 the average output per man employed was 2.16 tons per day, while during 1901 it was 2.36. This statement is as misleading as some of Mr. Mitchell's other so-called facts, for it entirely ignores all the economies in mining and preparing anthracite with a resulting increase in tonnage per employe that have developed in the last ten years.

Small breakers producing 400 to 500 tons of prepared coal daily are out of date; they are being replaced by breakers with an output of 2500 tons or more, taking coal from several mine openings; pumping plants below ground are larger; power plants use improved boilers with fuel economizers; conveyors or lines are used for handling material; mechanical slate pickers for separating coal and slate are being introduced; in fact, the tendency of the past ten years has been to increase in every way the output of coal per man. Yet what do the returns of the Bureau of Mines show?

Year	Production	Employed	Breaker days	Average tonnage worked per man per day
1891	43,575,180	30,522	213	6.69
1897	46,947,354	36,932	151	8.42
1898	47,145,174	36,377	151	8.58
1899	54,094,224	36,421	179	8.14
1900	51,217,218	36,332	176	9.90
1901	59,905,951	37,904	197	8.04

The increased output per miner up to 1898 shows how successful the companies were in developing economies underground, and also the effect of the increased output by washers. The steady decline since the United Mine Workers started to organize the anthracite miners in 1898 is also shown; 1899 and 1901 were years of record-breaking production, but Mr. Mitchell's organization did not help. The miners got a 10 per cent increase in wages in 1900; their average efficiency in 1901 was 6.3 per cent less than in 1898.

The published statement of Mr. E. B. Thomas gives the falling off in work per man of the Delaware & Hudson Company's employes as 12 per cent. This statement, based on exact returns, is undoubtedly nearer the truth than the results given in the above table, since the statistics of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Mines, while admirable in many ways, are not compiled with the same care shown in keeping the accounts of a private corporation.

Mr. Mitchell's statement that the operators advanced the market price of coal more than \$1 per ton since the strike began also shows his ignorance of the facts. Coal is selling at retail at New York harbor points today for \$4 a ton above its price in May, but this advance has not gone to the companies that produced the coal. It has gone to retailers, jobbers and speculators. The regular price of egg, stove and nut sizes at New York harbor shipping ports today is \$4.20 per ton. It was \$4.10 in May. It is true that no coal can now be had at the figures named, but this is simply because the union that Mr. Mitchell represents has for over a month been successful by threats, violence and every manner of persecution, in keeping all miners idle who might care to get out coal. The producing companies have practically no coal for sale, and have not had for several weeks, but it is safe to say that if they were to start shipping coal to tide-water tomorrow, they would dispose of it to their regular customers at the regular price.

In regard to Mr. Mitchell's talk about the enormous profits extorted from the public by these discounts, as shown by the selling price of coal last year, it may be said that, in the first place, there is no anthracite trust, in the sense in which that word is ordinarily used, and in the second place, the higher average prices have been partly due to the desire of the operators to distribute production throughout the year. Prices were fixed at a figure which, while slightly higher than that prevailing during the years of depression from 1893 to 1899, can hardly be considered extortionate (the basis being \$4.50 for free-burning white ash coal, f. o. b. New York harbor shipping ports), with discounts to spring and summer buyers. The average prices were higher, because the companies adhered to these discounts. In the past buyers have usually neglected the market during spring and summer, the result being that shipments from the mine were necessarily light, and mine employes frequently for four or five months in the year worked but five or six days a month. Whatever uninformed writers in the daily press may say, there is no doubt but that the new plan of selling coal at certain prices for the current month's delivery will provide the men at the mines with steadier work than they ever had before.

Mr. Mitchell undertakes to show that the mining companies are making enormous profits by citing the testimony of a large individual operator in the Lehigh region. Such testimony is altogether irrelevant. It is a well known fact that some of the individual operators have made money and have made

the United Mine Workers did not always represent the full strength of the anti-strike element, yet a majority of the men chosen by these lodges as delegates to the Hazelton convention were not in favor of an immediate strike. The convention, however, voted for a suspension of work. What influenced the delegates? Mr. Mitchell knows; the public which is paying part of the expense of this strike does not. Rumors have been heard of a net-work of intrigue and trickery, of influences discreditable to Mr. Mitchell and his associates, of happenings that reflect on Mr. Mitchell's honesty and the integrity of his professed motives. What answered the Hazelton convention?—Engineering and Mining Journal.

SUFFERS FROM ELMORETIS.
Dazzling Prospects Affects One Rossland Business Man.

That the application of the Elmore process of concentration will work a revolution in the Rossland camp is now admitted, and already citizens are venturing predictions as to the magnitude which Rossland will attain to in the halcyon days to come.

One business man has burst into rhyme on the subject, and his effort is reproduced herewith. The signature to the effusion is an acrostic conveying the author's name in a simple but ingenious manner. How many readers of the Miner will solve this problem of authorship?

PYRITES OF HOPE.
Maud Muller on a summer's day,
Was shoveling a path, through the snow
That lay
In sickening thuds of unpaid bills,
O'er the low grade properties in Kootenai hills.

There strode a stranger to the door,
With the "Elmore process" for treating
ore.
After feeding on a menu of country rock,
The machine dealt a ream of market-able stock.

Tying her bonnet under her chin,
Maud side-stepped and ducked, to look
at him;
Then leading her left, she grabbed her
grip
And giving him the wink, prepared to
skip.

"Oh, where are you going, my pretty
maid?"
"I'm going to Rossland, sir," she said.
"Say: Come with me and bring your
machinery,
I'll furnish the water and kerosene."
Two souls with but a single thought,
In untaxed twilight, they came and
they brought
To you and me, that we needed the
most;
Bread for our butter and tea for our
toast.

"'Twas the night before Christmas,
In June coming next;
The mines all were working—the
"knockers" perplexed
And as an evidence complete of our
final redemption,
There were twelve thousand souls on
Ross T's—pre-emption.

MORE-EL.
Then tell me not, in mournful blubbers,
Life is but a bob-tail flush;
We'll not be walking on our uppers;
Nit; with all those soles, we'll walk on
plush.

Unpolished WE.

IN THE CZAR'S REALM.
Lutheran Clergymen of Finland Deprived of Their Stipends.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 12.—By order of the Russian authorities seven Lutheran clergymen of Borge, Finland, have had their stipends suspended for refusing to read in their respective churches the ukase relating to military conscription in Finland.

METAL MARKETS.
LONDON, July 9.—Lead \$11 6s 9d.
NEW YORK, July 9.—Bar silver, 62 7-8.

METAL MARKETS.
NEW YORK, July 10.—Lead quiet.
NEW YORK, July 10.—Bar silver 63 1-4.

"Johnny," said his father, "you have disobeyed your mother again. Come out with me to the barn."
Johnny complied.
There was a woodshed on the premises, but the stern parent preferred the barn.
He bent his disobedient boy across his knee and proceeded to punish him in the ordinary method.
"Oh, that hurts!" screamed Johnny.
"I know it, my son," replied his father.
"It hurts you (whack!) a great deal worse (whack!) than it hurts me (whack! whack!) and I'm glad it does!" (whack! whack! whack!)

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SECOND DAY AT HENLEY.

Argonauts Are Beaten By a Length and a Quarter.

BULLETINS.
HENLEY, July 9.—In the fourth heat for the grand challenge cup the Leander Rowing club beat the London Rowing club by a length. Time, 7 minutes 28 seconds.

In the fifth heat for the grand challenge cup Third Trinity, Cambridge, beat the Argonaut Rowing club of Toronto by a length and a quarter. Time, 7 minutes 11 seconds.

In the third heat for the Thames challenge cup Trinity Hall, Cambridge, beat Trinity Dublin by a quarter of a length. Time, 7 minutes 28 seconds.

HENLEY, July 9.—In spite of a dull, threatening morning, exceptionally large crowds assembled here today to witness the second day's racing of the Henley regatta.

HENLEY, July 9.—In the fourth heat for the Thames challenge cup the Royal School of Mines Boat club beat the Thames Rowing club by three-fourths of a length. Time, 7 minutes 42 seconds.

In the second heat for the silver goblets of the Hon. C. Craven and J. W. Knight, the London Rowing club easily beat a pair of the Reading Rowing club, Time, 9 minutes 11 seconds.

In the third heat for the ladies' challenge plate, Eton beat Christ Church, Oxford, easily. Time, 7 minutes 2 seconds.

In the eighth heat of the diamond sculls, F. S. Kelly, Balliol College, Oxford, beat C. S. Titus, Union Boat club, New York. Kelley won easily. Time, 8 minutes 39 seconds.

In the fourth heat for the ladies' challenge plate the University College, Oxford, beat the Radley school by two lengths. Time, 7 minutes 38 seconds.

In the ninth heat for the diamond sculls, R. B. Smith, Leander, beat J. Berrisford, Kensington Rowing club, easily. Time, 8 minutes 58 seconds.

In an interview with a representative of the Associated Press Titus said that Kelley won fairly and squarely and that he had no complaint to make. He said he could not get rowing until he had cleared Temple Island, and that there a strong wind almost stopped him. "There is no denying the fact," said Titus, "that Kelley gradually dropped me and when I tried to spurt the wind took everything out of me."

Titus regrets that he was drawn against Scholtes the first day of the regatta and that he was obliged to row with such a flyer as Kelley today. He says he intends to leave his boat in London and to row again at Henley next year.

LONDON, July 9.—Trinity defeated the Argonauts in the grand challenge. The Argonauts took their defeat in a sportsmanlike fashion and helped to cheer the Third Trinity. They declared the latter to be the best crew they had ever seen and that it would be the winner of the grand challenge cup. The Toronto men were disappointed but not disheartened. They believe that the position on the Bucks side gave Trinity an advantage of two or three lengths.

TORONTO, July 9.—A cable received from R. K. Barker, captain of the Argonauts, says the Argonauts were beat by the best crew in 14 years. The Toronto crew fought absolutely to a finish. They had the worst stations, but no complaint is made in winning the position. The eight are likely to visit Canada next year.

LONDON, July 9.—The London newspapers naturally express their elation this morning that the final heats at Henley will be fought out solely between British competitors, but they sympathize and admire the sportsmanlike qualities of the crew of the Argonaut Rowing Club of Toronto, and C. S. Titus of the Union Boat Club of New York.

The Daily Chronicle regards the defeat of Titus yesterday as so unexpected that there must be some reason as to his ill health to explain it.

The Daily Telegraph says the Canadians covered themselves with glory, even in defeat, and regards Kelley of Oxford as the best sculler ever seen at Henley. This paper says Titus was too easily beaten for his defeat to be explained by anything but want of pace.

According to the Sportsman, Titus would not like to meet Kelley again, although he considers it time an English amateur oarsman should try for honors in American waters.

HENLEY, July 10.—The final heat for the Grand Challenge Cup, Third Trinity, Cambridge beat the Leander Rowing Club.

HENLEY, July 10.—Unsettled weather

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THE A

(Special to the)
VANCOUVER, July 9.—The man who seems to be the same, has escaped a Westminster asylum a letter to the press. He has been hiding in a hole for the wild berries of life in his body. Those whom he conspired with in the asylum wrongdoers say he is not fit for the man is evident his way to Rossland track, but there is no will be captured before week. His communication is a curious document. On June 30 I got and went to the saw worked in April as demanded my pay, when behind when arrested escape from the asylum manager, told me received instructions from the superintendent not to give me the money extracts are to the government agent minister or to Dr. McI also received legal aid I told him that if John Kirkup of Rossland missioner, was my pointed when I was from there on Sept money money Kirkup him, however, that I now and would rat sonally, as I had to in the safe at the as to leave the \$34.75 in no shoes and no pen. What shall an honest a state of affairs? I went at once on to home (meaning Ross

ENORM

(Special to the)
VICTORIA, B. C., were obtained today deal recently made. Steel company by 150 square miles of Sound and will at construction of a big dition to timber the 20,000 horse power where there is a 15-0 will mean the expend of dollars, of which connection with har power and starting, the terms of the ag pany starts work 15th, and the whole completed and open A cruiser has been finds all the timber within a mile of the

SHIPMENTS

Greenwood to be Su From
(Special to the)
GREENWOOD, B. Johnson, manager of company's smelter Nelson today. He sta advice from the manager, Frederic Greenwood for Fern that the Crow's Ne pany resumed today coke to Greenwood. ered probable that local smelter will before the close of The B. C. Copper between thirty and on its Mother Lode been retained for right along, only on lions having been o when the failure of cessitated the clos smelter.

CANNERS ON

Have Posted Price Slight Increase
(Special to the)
VICTORIA, B. C., ners on the Fraser or prices for the ultimatum in reply and the latter can they like. It is a their former sliding of the lowest price Half cents, supposi 600,000 cases, an tu per fish if the pack a number of boats the highest catch be ater and 45 at Lad

CUSTOMS

Third Furnace of Grand Forks
GRAND FORKS, customs revenue co fiscal year ended 447, and the inland for the same period The third furnac smelter, which ha amount of the co operations today.