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NEWS ABOUT WEST VIRGINIA

(Continued from page 1)

high prices charged the miners at company stores, mine guards acting as deputy sheriffs, post offices located in company towns, private roads to the schools and stores, no opportunity to purchase homes, cemeteries upon company grounds, attempts to nationalize the miners, alien ownership of large tracts of land—some instance 21,000 acres. All of these various things appearing in the testimony might be cited as causes leading up to the conditions which the committee investigated. However, it is the opinion of some of the committee that the cause of all this trouble is deeper and more fundamental. The basic cause is the private ownership of great public necessities, such as coal; this coupled with human greed, incident to such ownership, has brought about the deplorable and un-American conditions in the West Virginia coal fields under investigation.

In relation to the hired gun men who have brought the administration of law in West Virginia to the point of absolute collapse and whose most recent activities have been brutal and lawless beyond description, Senator Martine reported: "In no spirit of malice or hatred, but with a view to the country, through knowledge of the true conditions, may right the wrong I charge that the hiring of armed bodies of men by private mine owners and the use of steel armored trams, machine guns, and bloodhounds on defenceless men, women, and children is but a little way removed from barbarism." The 1914 Senatorial Committee found a complete disregard of civil law and in depicting the lengths to which the coal mine autocracy was carried, officially reported that during the period of martial law the chief, the deemed itself bound only by the orders of the commander-in-chief, the governor of the state, and in no sense bound to observe the statutes of the United States or the statutes of West Virginia relative to the trial and punishment of parties charged with crime." The senators found that during this high-handed reign the civil courts were open and holding their regular terms; it also was found that the martial inflicted punishments "unknown to the statutes of the state; the punishment provided for such offenses under the laws of the state."

The report of the most recent senatorial committee has not been

printed and I understand is not to be for reasons of which I am unaware. It is a fact, however, that this recent investigation strengthened the findings of the earlier inquiries and sustains every contention of the West Virginia and their complete disregard for the constitution of the United States and the laws of their own state.

The trouble in West Virginia will not be cured by forcing men into submission while allowing continuance of the evils against which they have so desperately protested. I join with all Americans in deprecating the violence in that state, but it is worse than useless to deal with the surface manifestations while allowing the deep, underlying plutocratic criminality to continue uninterfered with and unchecked.

WORKERS' UNITY

(Continued from page 1)

However, Labor had been able to block the renewal of the treaty for a long period. Recently the parliament had sanctioned an extension for one year, but it was forced upon the Coalition government as a policy that no further treaties with Japan can be of effect until they are ratified by Canada, Australia, South Africa and all the other British Dominions. "The way the workers can prevent war," he said, "is to see that treaties are no longer made in secret; to see that they are framed in the open; in a spirit of goodwill and with respect to the rights of all affected nations." An enthusiastic co-operator, Mr. MacLean urged Canadian trade unionists to develop a vigorous co-operative movement in Canada. The mine dispute could not have lasted half as long as it did, had it not been for the fact that the co-operative movement is an integral part of the British Labor movement. In many cases where the unions had become bankrupt the co-operative movement had made it impossible for those great strike breakers, "hunger and privation" to operate to the detriment of the workers.

EMPLOYERS' GO'Y BLOWS UP AT BALTIMORE

The strike insurance and strike-breaking plan of the Employers' Mutual Insurance and Service Company has hit the rocks.

A commission appointed by the court reports that the company's liabilities exceed its assets by about \$1,000,000 and possibly considerably more. Circuit Judge Dohler has ordered that a receiver be appointed for the company unless it proves it is capable of paying its debts. State Insurance Commissioner Keating was a member of the commission that investigated the company under order of the court. The following recommendation was included in the commission's report: "That an injunction be issued suspending the business of the company and that receivers be appointed to take charge of the estate and assets of the company and to administer the same and wind up its affairs under the direction of this honorable court and that the charter of said company, as an insurance company, be annulled and forfeited." The commission indicates that the 44-hour strike of the printing trades

was the final blow to the company. Organized labor has been ceaseless in its publicity agitation that the company is a strikebreaking institution. This position is sustained by Leroy Lane, assistant to President Edward C. Myers of the company, who acknowledged that the company maintained an employment service to furnish employees to employers who were having labor troubles.

In acknowledging that organized labor exposed this company, Lane pleaded that employers who had insured should waive their claims rather than permit trade unionists to point to this latest victory. "I believe the insured would put beyond any question of indemnity if necessary, the moral effect of continued operation of the company," said Lane. "If receivers are appointed it will be the biggest feather in the cap of organized labor that has ever happened in this country."

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