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Editor

REGINALD E. HORE

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WESTERN FEDERATION METHODS

Miners in Canada and the United States who belong to the Western Federation of Miners or the United Mine Workers have good reason to be disgusted with the way in which these organizations are being conducted. In Michigan the Federation and in Vancouver Island the United Mine Workers have, during the past year, added to unsavory reputations by deeds of violence and false accusations.

The strike in the Michigan copper district was called on July 23, 1913, by the Western Federation of Miners. As a very large number of the employes of the mining companies are not members of the Federation, bands of strikers were sent unexpectedly into the shops, and the workmen forced to quit. For two or three days the organized strikers controlled the situation, and terrorized the community. Their excesses were suddenly checked, however, by the prompt arrival of 2,500 soldiers, ordered to the district by Governor Ferris.

After several weeks of idleness, it became possible to open the mines again. Immediately the strikers began to abuse the men going to their work. Excited by the false teachings of their leaders, and encouraged by the liberties which the local courts allowed them, the strikers continued their unlawful practices.

In spite of the agitators, the forces at work increased. Then three workmen employed by the Copper Range Consolidated Company were murdered in their beds. The enraged citizens thereupon took a hand in affairs, and the Citizens' Alliance became a prominent factor in the struggle. At the request of the citizens, the grand jury was called upon to conduct an investigation. As a result, several of the agitators, rather than testify, hurriedly left the district, and the molestation of workmen ceased.

Then occurred the terrible calamity of Christmas eve when seventy-four people, mostly children and women, were killed in a panic at Calumet. These people had assembled for an entertainment given by the Women's Auxiliary of the Western Federation. While presents were being distributed to the little ones, someone in the hall raised a cry of fire, and the rush that followed resulted in an almost incredible loss of life.

Here was disclosed to the public the character of the president of the Federation. Without waiting for the facts to be ascertained, he hurried to send off telegrams, in which he insinuated that a member of the Citizens' Alliance had rushed into the hall and raised the cry of fire, which resulted so horribly. The fiendish cunning of the man was calculated to arouse sympathy throughout the country. It is no great credit to the