

*W.L.K. King*  
*the working paper*

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Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of the following report from Oak Creek under date of September 2nd:

"Every few days new members are admitted into the union at this place.

A letter was received at this local from John McLennon a few days ago in which he stated that he was expecting to get orders from President White in a short time to put on a large number of organizers. These men are to be selected from among the local men who are working, and each man is to be given authority to organize the miners under what is known as the 'Rupe system.' These organizers will have the authority to initiate a man at any place outside of the Local, to collect initiation fee amounting to \$2.00, and will be permitted to keep one dollar of this fee for his services and turn in the other dollar to the Union. They will also be permitted to collect dues from the members initiated by them and keep one-half of same and turn the other into the Local. McLennon stated that these men would be given a receipt book containing 50 cards or receipts; that each receipt would bear the official seal of the United Mine Workers, and each organizer would be required to turn in the stubs to the head officials from time to time and account for the money collected by them. In this way they hope to not only materially increase their membership, but to prevent any one from knowing who their members are except the organizer himself and the official to whom he reports.

McLennon stated that this would enable them to keep a perfect check on the work done by the organizers, and also keep their organization clear of traitors. He said that even if a traitor succeeded in securing a position as organizer, all men initiated by him would be discharged by the companies, and that they would be able to pick him up in a very short time. McLennon gave it as his opinion that this was the safest and most practical way to conduct this work. He also stated that he felt the state of Colorado was now ripe for the work of organizing, and that they intended to commence pushing this work vigorously as soon as possible.

"The officials here claim that the Rockefeller plan is playing into their hands, and as there is to be no discrimination against union men, they will very soon be able to get their members on the various committees, and that the C. P. & I. mines will be the easiest to organize. It seems to be the consensus of opinion that the men will be satisfied for a short time with this arrangement, but that in the course of a few months they can successfully commence to sow the seeds of discord and in a short while have all employees of this company members of their organization, and that these men will readily fall in line when the balance of the state is organized."

Yours very truly,

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