

THE STRIKE OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA IN THE WEST.

The strike of the U. M. W. of America in the western collieries is a thing to dishearten all patriots. At this distance it is not possible to judge who is to blame, but a condition of affairs which brings about a stoppage of coal production at this time is something which no government should tolerate and with which no decent man should associate himself. The strike is announced as "a pure formality" seeing that the miners have for several weeks been taking a "holiday." If there is anything worse than a lie it is a euphemism of this nature. The action of the Western miners is casting the same disrepute upon Canadian coal miners as did the action of the miners in South Wales, and in New South Wales, upon the miners of Britain and the miners of Australia respectively. The western situation is one that calls for stern and immediate action on the part of the constituted authorities of Canada, and the public should accept no excuse from any of the parties involved for a cessation of coal production at this critical juncture.

There have been ugly rumors from time to time of the effect of German propaganda in bringing about labor troubles in British Columbia and the Canadian West, and certain evidence given in the Franz von Rintelen trial now taking place in the United States does not serve to dissipate the uneasy feeling that certain well-informed quarters possess with reference to the conscious and unconscious connection of the United Mine Workers of America with the subtle propaganda that the Germans carried on to stop the production of munitions in the United States in the earlier years of the war.

Reference was made in this trial to the Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Hall of the Union Theological Seminary, and now of Heidelberg, and his connection with David Lamar, Frank Buchanan and von Rintelen. The evidence states that when Mr. Hall asked Lamar where he thought the propaganda ought to begin he replied "With the United Mine Workers of America," because he had had previous dealings with that organization. Lamar and Martin, one of the men the Government is prosecuting in the case, went to Indianapolis, Ind., where a meeting of the miners' union was being held. Through the intrigues of these men the United Mine Workers were induced to pass certain resolutions calculated to embarrass the manufacture of munitions of war in the United States. There are certain other interesting details showing how the German agents tried to compromise the late Secretary of State, Mr. Bryan, by working on his well-known peace proclivities. Evidently Mr. Samuel Gompers was not deceived by Lamar and his associates, but the United Mine Workers became the tool of German intrigue, probably without fully realizing the fact.

Whether the coal producers in the Canadian West have been beguiled unconsciously along the same pathway cannot be stated with any definiteness; but the result is the same. The miner who strikes today is an ally of the Kaiser, he is acting a disloyal and a traitorous part. He is doing exactly what von Rintelen spent half a million dollars of German secret service money to cause to happen. And worse still, this hampering of Britain's effort, this disloyalty to the thousands and thousands of brave men that went from Canada West to France, is taking place, not in the United States before the republic entered the war on our side, not in the hyphenated centres of the Middle West of which we have heard so much that evidently was not true, but right here in Canada.—F. W. G.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERS' MEMORANDUM.

Editor Canadian Mining Journal:

Sir,—Your rather startling statement (May 1st), vague as to details, referring to the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, followed by your further remarks on May 15th, gave me no small concern, and being a member of both the Canadian Mining Institute and the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, I have taken the trouble to ascertain the facts relating to the memorandum in question.

The memorandum on National Industrial Preparedness was not presented to the Government by the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, but by four of its members and Sir Charles Ross, almost a year and a half ago. At the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers the attention of the members was called to this memorandum and the suggestions made therein met with such general approval that it was ordered to be printed and distributed among the members. This was the first official notice taken of this memorandum by the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, and was accepted in the best of faith as being compiled by men of integrity and responsibility.

Having read the memorandum—not having seen it before you referred to it—I submit that the plan outlined is an excellent one and deserving of commendation. Further, it was published by the Society in appreciation of the plan it contained and without the slightest thought of making comparisons derogatory to any other organization.

It is unfortunate that any comparisons were made in this memorandum and that figures relating to the Canadian Mining Institute were inaccurate and did not do justice to the mining fraternity. As soon as the attention was called of the Council of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers that the table and the paragraph relating to other organizations were inaccurate, the members responsible for the memorandum were asked to correct any statements therein that were not in accordance with the facts, and it was resolved that all the publicity that had been given to the original memorandum, as far as the responsibility of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers was concerned, should be given to the corrections to be made.

In this connection, I would suggest that it would greatly interest the mining men if you would publish in full this memorandum in your paper, calling attention to the errors appearing in it.

We want harmony and not discord among the technical men of Canada, and the fact that the secretaries of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Mining Institute are today working together in the closest accord in assisting the Honorary Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in distributing and getting in returns from the Research Council's Questionnaire, and are co-operating in an effective manner, shows that there is much to be gained by this meeting on a common ground; and the uniting of forces in this work should augur well for the future relations of these organizations.

Yours, etc.,

R. W. LEONARD.

St. Catharines, Ont., May 26th, 1917.

We are pleased to learn that at last these civil engineers are correcting their statements concerning the technical men of Canada. The memorandum ordered to be published by the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers showed plainly that no effort whatever had been