

WESTERN FEDERATION STRIKE DECLARED OFF

The strike of copper miners in Michigan, called on July 22, 1913, to take effect on July 23, has been called off. For several months it has been quite evident that the mines could be operated without using members of the Western Federation. Some of the mines had already more men at work than when the strike was called.

It is no credit to the officers of the Federation that they did not acknowledge their defeat sooner. The prolongation of the strike has been mere waste of the resources of the Federation as well as of the mining companies.

On July 23rd and 24th, finding that many of the mine workers paid no attention to the calling of the strike by the district union, bands of strikers violently drove men from their work and threatened them against returning. Men attempting to go to work and deputy sheriffs, who had been sworn in to guard the various properties, were assaulted. Sixteen men employed by one company were seriously injured. The sheriff found himself unable to cope with the situation and appealed to the Governor of the State for the aid of troops in restoring peace. Governor Ferris sent the National Guard, and a semblance of order was restored. Houghton county and some of the companies engaged men from the Waddell-Mahon Corporation to take charge of a force of about 1,700 deputy sheriffs, who were sworn in to protect life and property.

After the arrival of the troops there was little disorder for a few weeks. Then work was resumed in some of the mines and the strikers resumed their violent tactics in an endeavor to prevent the men from going to work. Gradually, however, the number at work increased in spite of the violence and threats of the strikers. It soon became evident that a majority of the miners were not in sympathy with the strike and that it was destined to failure. Few of the members of the Federation, however, deserted their union, doubtless because of the misleading statements published by their leaders. By instilling false hopes in the minds of the strikers and by paying them a few dollars a week, the leaders succeeded in annoying the companies for several months.

Gradually the men began to realize that while the agitators were profiting, they were themselves gaining nothing by hampering the mining companies and the industry which gives them employment. Their places were being filled by less experienced but more willing workmen. So far as the companies were concerned the strike was over months ago.

Finally, on Easter Sunday, a vote was taken and resulted, as expected, in the defeat of those who wished to continue the strike. The men who return to work will be accepted on the same conditions as before the strike, except that they must first sever their connection with the Western Federation. Before the

strike the companies did not discriminate against this organization. Now they do. On the day before the vote was taken there were many strikers at the mine offices asking to be taken back. On Easter Monday there was another rush for places.

Many of the strikers will be given a chance to work again in the Michigan mines. The companies will welcome them back, believing that many of them have acted merely as instruments doing the bidding of socialistic demagogues. The Federation has gained nothing by its alliance with red socialism. The companies have improved their position as a result of the strike, in that they now have a larger number of men than they can find work for. Not for several years has there been such a demand for work at the Michigan copper mines as there is to-day. It should now be possible to greatly increase the efficiency, to increase the production and to retrieve, in part at least, the losses of the period when the Western Federation wasted in Michigan \$1,000,000 of labor union funds in an endeavor to cripple an industry which gives steady employment to over 14,000 men and pays in wages over \$1,000,000 per month.

The mine managers have stated that none of the new men taken on since the strike began will be dismissed to make places for the strikers who are now clamoring for re-employment. The old employes will, however, be given the preference over new applicants for work. Already many have been taken back. Some will never be re-employed under any conditions. Others will be given work as soon as possible.

In this issue we publish an interesting article on Radium and Its Ores, by R. A. A. Johnston, of the Canadian Geological Survey. The offer by the Ontario Government of a reward to the discoverer of radium ore should stimulate the search for this valuable substance.

Minute diamonds have been found by Mr. R. A. A. Johnston in chromium ore discovered by Mr. D. O'Connor, the well-known Northern Ontario prospector. Mr. O'Connor sent samples of the ore from his claims in Reaume township to the Ontario Bureau of Mines, and it was found to contain chromium and a little platinum. Owing to the similarity of the ore to that of the Tulameen district, B.C., in which Mr. Johnston had found diamonds, Dr. Miller submitted specimens to Mr. Johnston for examination. The discovery of the diamonds resulted. The diamonds are very small and of little value; but the discovery is of interest.

The ore sent in by Mr. O'Connor is chiefly valuable for its chromium content. Concerning the size of the deposit we have as yet no accurate information.

Mr. O'Connor has made many important discoveries in Northern Ontario. His latest promises to result in attracting attention to the possibilities of the country traversed by the National Transcontinental Railway.