

C 10973

Chicago Tribune

JAN 17 1916

LABOR BLAMES U. S. STEEL FOR RIOTS IN OHIO

Report Says Combine Sets
Cruel Wage Standard
for Independents.

TELLS OF BOOZE RULE.

The United States Steel corporation is given a large share of blame for the recent Youngstown steel plant strikes in a report prepared by George P. West of the American Federation of Labor committee on industrial relations.

Mr. West's report was made public yesterday at a meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor. It was read by Basil M. Manley, secretary of the committee, who spoke in place of Frank M. Walsh, chairman of both the industrial relations committee and the federal industrial relations commission.

COLORADO REPORT IN RECORD.

The Colorado coal miners' strike was investigated by Mr. West. His findings were presented to the federal industrial relations commission and are included in the commission's report.

Mr. West charges that the United States Steel corporation methods of handling its employees have been adopted by the Republic Iron and Steel company and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company. It denounces these methods as unfair and tending to drive the men to violence. Former Judge Elbert H. Gary is censured in the report.

REPORT OF FEDERATION.

This is the report:

"The Youngstown riot was the natural outgrowth of a spontaneous and unorganized rebellion against an economic

and industrial régime so oppressive and brutalizing as to overshadow the immediate provocation and render it comparatively insignificant.

"Its chief importance, with its spectacular and appalling loss of life and property, lies in the attention it attracted to the prevalence of widespread discontent among employees in the steel industry not only at Youngstown but throughout the Pittsburgh district, and to the economic conditions that have created a situation that is full of menace.

"Not only is there likelihood of a repetition of the Youngstown riot at any one of the large steel plants, but an investigation discloses that even such a disaster, shocking as it is, must be regarded as trifling when compared with the heavy toll of death and suffering that has been exacted year after year by what have become regarded as normal conditions in the steel industry.

Blames Steel Corporation.

"Of all the significant facts disclosed by an investigation at Youngstown, the most important was the conclusive evidence that full responsibility for the situation there existing lies with the management of the United States Steel corporation.

"Although neither the Republic Iron and Steel company nor the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company are owned or controlled by the steel corporation, their highest officers made it clear that their wage policy is determined by that of the steel corporation, and that competitive conditions govern the wage, even though the scale should fall below that of a living wage.

"There is excellent reason for believing that this strike was directly responsible for the action of Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the steel corporation, in announcing a 10 per cent increase for the 230,000 employees of that corporation.

Says Gary Was Seen.

"It is known on the most responsible authority that the highest officials of the Republic Iron and Steel company sought advice from Judge Gary immediately after the strike began, and that he advised them to resist an advance in wages, and that later, realizing the danger of a general upheaval, he acted promptly to avert a strike and announced the 10 per cent increase, effective Feb. 1.

"Judge Gary's announcement of the wage increase came unexpectedly and did not follow a regular meeting of the executive committee, the directors or the stockholders of the company. All these circumstances are important for the light they shed on a wage policy that ignores the cost of living, the welfare of the workers, and the interests of the community, and that aims to give just enough to prevent rebellion.

"In this instance it becomes apparent

// note -
if more
independent strike

// Independent
Industry?

Interdependence

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Volume C 15

PUBLIC ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
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