

Westmoreland Counties, and others are to be entered in the United States District Court against the officers of the parent organization.

Damages aggregating about \$1,000,000 are claimed as a result of the strike that was begun at their mines on April 1st, and to overcome which several hundred thousands of dollars were expended. It is insinuated also that certain operators in the Pittsburgh district have been taking much more interest in the promotion and continuance of this strike than friendliness would suggest, and they also are charged with conspiracy and damages claimed.

Each of the accused miners has seven charges resting against him, and each is bonded for appearance on trial at \$300.00 on each separate charge, making the aggregate \$2,100.

The entry of these suits for damages against the union and its agents, raises a question that has often been suggested, but never threshed out in the courts as to the legal responsibility of unions at law. The now celebrated Taff-Vale case in England is the only known precedent in such a cause, and another is the equally celebrated Bruce Brothers' case tried in the courts of this county, and which Judge Jacob S. Slagle made the first judicial declaration that a boycott is a punishable offence. The Messrs Bruce carried their case to its logical finality by securing judgments against property held by one of the defendants, to escape execution on which (which was never contemplated) it was turned over to a son for a normal consideration, and the son turned his father out of the house, so that the latter lost his home.

Because of the large number involved and the points of law raised, these suits have aroused considerable interest among miners and operators, and their judicial determination will be watched with interest.

GERMAN COMPETITION.

Germany's industrial progress is frequently attributed to cheap transit, cheap mining royalties, and cheap labour. But in competition with Great Britain, it is not strictly accurate to contend that Germany's iron trade is favoured under these headings. That mining royalties do not count for much is proved by the fact that the pitmouth price of coal is higher in Germany than here. That cheap transit does not count for much either has already been explained in connection with Germany's long haulage distances, which completely destroy the alleged advantage of low ton-mile rates. Nor does the German iron industry hold any advantage over the British industry in the matter of cheap labour. Nearly fifteen years ago the British Iron Trade Association delegates to Germany, after visiting the leading iron and steel works there, expressed their "surprise" at finding how very nearly the wages of the German workers approached those of our workers. Mr. J. Stephen Jeans, the secretary, declared that "in not a few cases" the wages for similar classes of work in the two countries "were practically on all fours." Since then wages in the skilled trades have gone up by 22 per cent in Germany against 11 per cent in Britain, and unskilled wages have risen by nearly 50 per cent. in Germany against no rise at all in this country. Wages per worker employed, and per unit of output, are actually higher in the iron group of trades in Germany than in Britain.

No; German's success in the Iron and steel trade is not due either to cheap labour or superior resources—it is not due to any fundamental advantage over this country. |

What then, is the secret of German success? The reply can be given in one word—organization. Without its vast system of syndication—its almost military-like productive and distributive methods—and the organized fostering of export trade by bounties, the German iron industry could not possibly have attained its present status. The production, price, and sale of practically every material and article of iron manufacture, from coal and ore to wire nails are controlled by some syndicate or manufacturers' union. A German syndicate does not, as a rule, control or own any works as do the Americans "trusts" but only the products of the works. Thus a German firm manufacturing a dozen different articles may be a member of a dozen different syndicates, and not a unit of a single trust. The usual syndicate system is for a number of experts to visit each of the works and ascertain its capacity of production and aptitude for any special line of business. Then orders, which are generally received by the central offices, are allocated to the various establishments, each being paid to the geographical situation and mechanical equipment of the several firms in order to effect every possible economy. For example, a Russian or Austrian order would, other things being equal, be allotted to a Silesian works, while an English or French one would go to a Westphalian firm. The whole country is mapped out into trading zones, and if, after careful allocation of orders, any firm is placed at undue advantage in the matter of transit, &c., it is compensated to the extent of the extra carriage. Payments as well as orders usually pass through the central offices, and the syndicate attends to many trade, legal, and other affairs in the interests of its constituents. These German syndicates are manufacturers' trade unions and co-operative societies combined.

In 1897 some of the German iron trade syndicates inaugurated the export bounty policy, and it is this agency which has been mainly instrumental in promoting German competition with this country. The coal, coke, pig iron, and steel syndicates controlling raw materials agreed to supply their associated customers—the iron and steel manufacturers and engineers—with fuel, iron ingots, &c., at cheaper rates when such material were needed to manufacture for export than when required for the home market. From time to time the bounty rates, or rebates, have been increased or decreased in response to the fall or rise in the home demand. If the home demand has been brisk the bounties have been low; if it has slackened, up have gone the bounties in order to promote exports. Thus we have had the spectacle of Germany doing the trade abroad when there has been the smallest volume of trade available.

For the ten months ending March, 1910, the amount of taxes received from the 19 locals of the U. M. W's. in Nova Scotia was \$1,798.17. (A third of this was contributed by Springhill). Judged by the account of the treasurer of the U. M. W's. had not an average of over a thousand. In the ten months the expenditure exceeded the receipts by \$500. From this out the receipts will probably shrink.