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FIRST SITTING OF COAL COMMISSION

ALL SESSIONS TO BE HELD AT SCRANTON

Representatives of the Miners To-day Began the Case For the Men.

Scranton, Pa., Nov. 14.—The commission appointed by President Roosevelt to arbitrate the differences between the anthracite mine workers and their employers began the hearing of the miners' side of the case to-day. When the commission opened its session to-day, the only case before it was the preliminary statement of Mr. Mitchell and the replies thereto of the operators. After the workers have concluded their argument the operators will make their defence. It is expected that more than two weeks will be taken up in hearing both sides. The hearings are being held in the beautiful chamber of the State Superior court, in the Lackawanna County court house. The seven commissioners have seats on the bench. In front of them are seats for President Mitchell and his attorneys, the lawyers of the coal companies, the attorneys of the independent operators and newspaper correspondents. The arrangements for the hearings are admirable, and it is likely that the commission will hear all the evidence in this city.

The following is an abstract of President Mitchell's statement to the Anthracite Commission. Mr. Mitchell prefaced his statement with the hope that the commission would succeed in establishing a relationship between the operators and the miners that will insure peace and stability in the industry for an indefinite period.

After reciting the demands for increased pay by the miners, a shorter working day for the laborers, the weighing of coal, and an industrial agreement, the refusal of all of which led to the strike, Mr. Mitchell spoke as follows on the question of higher wages:

"Of the 147,000 men and boys employed in and around the mines, strip-miners, washeries and breakers in the anthracite coal fields 64,072, or 43 per cent, are employed on contract or piece work, the remaining 83,000 or 57 per cent, are employed by the hour, day, week or month. Of the 64,072 contract men, 37,894 are miners and 26,238 miners' laborers.

"The work of a miner and a miner's laborer is extremely hazardous, in fact it is more dangerous than any employment in any other important industry in the world. The number of persons killed and injured is greater than in any other industry.

"Each day the anthracite coal mines are in operation 26 persons lose their lives and three times as many are maimed, and yet those men receive less wages than men in other industries. It is generally true that men performing similar work in other industries under more favorable and less hazardous conditions. The number of years a man can retain his health and strength in this occupation is limited. If he escapes death or injury by falls of rock, coal, he cannot escape attacks of miners' asthma. There is scarcely a miner who has not contracted this disease.

"The miners are compelled to work in powder smoke, in foul air, in water, and their work is difficult and exhausting. Reputable insurance companies will not issue policies to this class of workmen, the risks are so great that the premiums would be prohibitive to the men whose earnings are so low. The entire 20 per cent. which they stand to receive as an increase in their wages would not suffice to carry an insurance of one thousand dollars.

"It seems but fair and just that wages for those classes of workmen should be high, if not higher, than wages paid to skilled artisans in other industries. It is certainly not unjust to ask that these miners should receive as high wages as are paid to miners in the bituminous coal fields, in the silver and gold fields, in the iron ore and copper mines, all of which work is less hazardous, free from liability to disease, requiring less experience and less skill, and is better paid than labor in the anthracite coal fields.

"In supporting the demand for the reduction of the hours of labor per day, Mr. Mitchell showed that it amounted medically to a demand for 20 per cent. increase of compensation for 83,000 men, or 57 per cent. of all mine employees. He said further that the eight-hour day is the standard working day in the mining industry. Eight hours constitutes a day's work in the coal mines of Great Britain, in all the silver, gold and copper mines, and in bituminous coal mines in the different states of this country.

"Defending the third demand that coal will be weighed and paid for by weight and that 2,240 pounds shall constitute a ton, Mr. Mitchell declared that the present method of weighing the coal produced by the miners in the Lackawanna, Wyoming and Lehigh regions has been a source of more discontent than any other of the many injustices imposed on the miners, and there can be no contentment among these workers till a honest

est system has been adopted. Paying for coal by the car or by a ton weighing from 2,740 to 3,150 pounds is a flagrant injustice, he declared.

Mr. Mitchell continued: "The anthracite companies, not satisfied with an extra legal ton of from 2,740 to 3,150 pounds, have a system of docking, through which they appropriated an additional part of the miners' earnings. A miner is docked on the way from 500 to 1,000 pounds upon a car as a penalty for loading impurities, for which he has already been penalized to the extent of from 700 to 900 pounds in excess of impure weight. In other words he is punished twice for the same offence."

Mr. Mitchell then took up the fourth demand of the miners for a trade agreement with the necessary machinery for the adjustment of local grievances. He outlined the history and policy of the United Mine Workers of America, and explained that by its constitution the anthracite and bituminous mine workers had some rule for the local government of local affairs.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out that mutual contracts are advantageous to both miner and operator and protect the public against the effects of strikes or lock-outs. The reports of the United States government on strikes in the mining industry show that the number and duration of strikes has been materially reduced each year since the system of conference and mutual agreement has been introduced. The trade agreements have proved effective in restraining workmen from engaging in local or general strikes. There have been no strikes of any magnitude in any of the coal mining states in which trade agreements exist. The miners seek to establish the same method of adjusting wage differences in the anthracite field.

Mr. Mitchell concludes with a plea for the children. He said: "Our little boys should not be forced into the mines and breakers so early in life; our little girls should not be compelled to work in the mills and factories at an age when they should be in school. These children are the future citizens of our nation; their parents should be enabled to earn wages sufficiently high to give them at least a common school education so as to equip them for better and graver responsibilities which will ultimately come to them."

President Mitchell's statement was closely followed by the operators' side.

President Mitchell took the witness stand and was sworn, after which he was questioned by his counsel, Mr. Darrow. The witness described his life as a miner, and was then examined about contracts, the present strike, the risks incurred by mine workers, wages in coal fields and the grievances of the hard coal miners, especially the so-called "black" system, and the willingness of the miners' organization to arbitrate.

Mr. Mitchell said that \$1,500,000 as financial aid was distributed among the hard coal miners, union and non-union, in the recent strike. He declared that the miners' organization observed discipline wherever it had entered into contracts, as to wages and the like, with the mining companies.

Mr. Mitchell was cross-examined by Mr. Wilcox, of the Delaware & Hudson Co. He was closely questioned about the mine workers' constitution and its provisions. Recess interrupted the cross-examination.

The afternoon session was opened promptly at 2 o'clock. Mr. Mitchell was recalled to the stand to answer Mr. Wilcox's questions regarding interpretations of the union's constitution.

Scranton, Pa., Nov. 14.—The anthracite coal strike commission to-day began the hearing of testimony by which it will determine whether or not the workmen are receiving a fair and just wage for their labor and whether their condition can be improved.

The star witness for the miners was President John Mitchell, who took the stand in the afternoon, and the commission adjourned at 4 o'clock in the afternoon he was still under the fire of the cross-examination by David B. Wilcox, general counsel of the Delaware & Hudson company. It was a trying day for the miners' leader, but he seemed to stand the test well.

Judge Gray, chairman of the commission, asked several questions, and near the close of the session queried Mr. Mitchell as to whether his organization approved the act of withdrawing from or denying the necessities of life to those who had offended the organization? Mr. Mitchell replied: "I should say, emphatically, no."

During the day Mr. Wilcox asked Mr. Mitchell many questions as to the policy of the union, the method of calling strikes and ability of the union to maintain discipline and prevent the members of unions from violating the law, and also as to the liability of the union in breaking contracts. It was apparent to many of those present who understood the situation, that Mr. Wilcox's object was to attempt to prove by Mr. Mitchell's own testimony that the contention of the companies that the miners' union was an irresponsible organization, and that its agreement, therefore, could not be safely entered into, was well founded.

During the hearing the statement was brought out for the first time since the strike was inaugurated that the union had disbursed \$1,500,000 among the strikers.

One of the questions which came up before the commission was the advisability of carrying counsel on behalf of the non-union men who remained at work during the strike. Attorney John Lenehan, of the attorneys for the non-unionists, asked the commission what his standing before the commission was? Judge Gray informed him that the subject was to be taken under consideration,

To Subscribers in Arrears:

A couple of weeks ago we sent accounts to each subscriber in arrears and requested payment of same before the end of the current year. A large number have responded to this request, but there are still a great many to hear from. We wish to have no misunderstanding with any subscriber. The Twice-a-Week Times will not be continued to any person after the end of next month unless paid in advance. The subscription price has been reduced to one dollar a year—less than one cent an issue. We expect to double the circulation before the first day of January next and thus give to cash-paying readers the benefit of the large reduction in price. Those still in arrears should remit the amounts due at once and thereafter pay only \$1.00 a year. Remittances can be made by postal notes, money orders, express orders or registered letters, addressed to

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and that an answer would possibly be given him to-morrow.

It is now understood that Mr. Mitchell will be on the stand all day to-morrow, and possibly longer.

Mr. Mitchell in his address spoke at length on trade agreements; concluding as follows: "For the information of the commission we herewith outline more specifically a plan of procedure which, if adopted, would prevent local strikes and preserve peace and harmony during the time covered by the award which you are empowered to make.

"First—The rate of wages, the hours of labor, the method of weighing and paying for the product of the miners' work should be incorporated in an agreement between the representatives of the various coal companies and the representatives of the organization of which the complainants in the case are members.

"Second—There should be a committee of conservative, representative mine workers selected by the employees at each colliery. It should be the duty of this committee to co-operate with the mine foremen in the adjustment of local disputes which cannot be settled between the mine foreman and the mine worker or mine workers involved.

"Third—Should the mine foreman and committee fail to adjust the grievance complained of, all matter in dispute should be referred to the company's superintendent, and a grievance committee would be constituted of representative mine workers from each colliery operated by any one company. Should this fail to adjust it, it should be referred to the general manager of the coal company, and the district president of the miners' organization, and should they fail to adjust it, they should call upon the services of some disinterested person whose decision should be final.

"Fourth—An adjustment in the manner set forth, the mine and the miners should continue at work."

Scranton, Pa., Nov. 15.—The coal strike commission resumed its sessions to-day. After a few minutes President Mitchell, who was on the stand all day yesterday, again went into the witness box, and his cross-examination by David Wilcox, general counsel for the Delaware & Hudson Company, was continued.

Some of the attorneys connected with the case are of the opinion that some arrangements will be agreed upon before the close of the session. It was a trying day for the miners' leader, but he seemed to stand the test well.

Immediately after the opening of the morning session Chairman Gray, for the commission, addressed John T. Lenehan, who said he represented the non-union men who worked during the strike, and wanted to know what their status would be before the commission. Judge Gray said the commission could not give a decision until after it had carefully considered the matter and promised some sort of an answer to-day.

In addressing Mr. Lenehan this morning the chairman said: "The commission have considered the matter of your application and have decided that it will ask you to submit to them a statement showing whom you represent, by what authority, what points other than those already at issue between the formal parties to this controversy you wish to bring into this hearing, and a concise statement of what you claim or what your position is in regard to the general propositions between the formal and logical parties to this commission, and also state that you guarantee submission to the award of this commission."

After Judge Gray's announcement to

the attorney for the non-union men, Mr. Wilcox resumed his cross-examination of Mr. Mitchell. He submitted abstracts from the proceedings of the Shamokin convention, which formulated the demands which caused the late strike and a copy of the United Mine Workers' Journal, the official organ of the union, and a copy of the Federationist, the official publication of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Mitchell, answering questions by Mr. Wilcox, said that the local unions or mass meetings may direct the operations of pickets.

Answering further questions, Mr. Mitchell said that he regarded as living wages for a miner not less than \$300 per annum, which would cover his actual necessities and permit him to educate his children.

Judge Gray asked the witness if he meant to say he regarded not less than \$600 a year for a miner, would be a wage sufficient to permit the children to avail themselves of the public schools and permit the family to spend a portion of its close without the disapproval of its London correspondent. The only new fact is the care with which officials connected with the Delagoa Bay have been awarded decorations.

The visit of the King of Portugal to Windsor is attended with more formality than has been witnessed at Sandringham, and there probably will be a revival of inventions about the approach of the annexation of a large district in East Africa. The existence of a secret agreement between Germany and England regarding East Africa is not doubted in diplomatic circles, although the circumstances are not considered opportune for carrying out its provisions.

King Edward is reported to be considering the expediency of reviving the old customs of always having a member of the ministry at court, except when he is residing with the Queen at the Palace, says a London dispatch to the Tribune. This change will make it necessary for some member of the ministry to be at Windsor or Sandringham, as well as at Balmoral, whenever the King is out of London. If it is adopted, it will be a fresh proof of the active interest taken by the King in public affairs. There has already been so much evidence of royal energy in this connection that Mr. Labouchere is moved to remark in Truth: "That King Edward VII. is as active in government business as George III. was a century ago."

Shipping Casualties. Forty Persons Who Were Aboard Wrecked Steamer Elingamite Are Still Missing.

Wellington, N. Z., Nov. 13.—Forty persons who were on board the British steamer Elingamite, which was wrecked November 9th, on one of the Three King Islands, off the north coast of New Zealand, are still missing in spite of the careful search which is still being made of the coast and islands adjacent to the scene of the wreck.

Wreckage from the Elingamite has drifted to a great distance from the point where the ship was lost. The 90 survivors of the Elingamite who were rescued a couple of days ago had a painful experience. They spent three days on a barren island where they had to subsist upon shells, until they were rescued by a passing steamer.

Three Schooners Lost. St. Johns, Nfld., Nov. 12.—The schooner Tasso, laden with fish, sank last night in vicinity Bay. Her crew of nine men were rescued at great risk by the crew of the schooner Nelly. The Tasso was bound for St. Johns. The schooner St. Francis, from Labrador, has been burned at sea. Her crew of seven men escaped in the boats. The schooner Harvest has been wrecked on the Island of Quipron at the entrance of Belle Isle Strait. Her crew of seven men were saved by the coast folk.

MR. MAXWELL'S CONDITION. The Member For Burrard Slowly Becoming Weaker.

Vancouver, Nov. 14.—The condition of Mr. Geo. B. Maxwell has not improved during the last day or two. In fact he has been slowly getting weaker, and the friends who are nearest to him have no hope of his recovery.

ARMY RESERVISTS REACH MONTREAL

THEY ARE SEEKING HOMES IN CANADA

Railway Conductor Charged With Conspiracy—Bricklayer Killed by the Fall of Derrick.

Montreal, Nov. 13.—The steamship Lake Ontario is bringing out the first lot of British reservists, who are seeking homes and suitable employment in Canada. They are coming out under the auspices of Sir Alfred Jones.

Tour of Inspection. Hon. Raymond Prefontaine leaves in the morning to make an inspection of the St. Lawrence.

Conductor Arrested. Patrick Carline, Canadian Pacific conductor, was arrested to-day on a warrant charging him with conspiracy. In the Johnson case, testimony was given by another conductor that it was Carline who supplied him with information that travelling auditors were to make an audit of his train. Carline was released on \$1,500 bail. He has been in the employ of the company for a number of years, and had been running between Montreal and Brandon.

Marconi's Experiments. Halifax, Nov. 13.—Marconi began tests at Table Head this morning between his land station and the cruiser Carlo Alberto. He will gradually increase the distance until the attempt is made to connect with Poldhu, Cornwall, Bricklayer Killed. Winnipeg, Nov. 13.—MacGraham, a bricklayer, was killed to-day by the collapse of a derrick while working on the Cocksbutt Plow Company's new warehouse.

The Bankers. Toronto, Nov. 13.—E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, was yesterday elected president of the Canadian Bankers' Association. The annual meeting of the association was held to-day, but the press was not admitted to the deliberations. It is understood the question of circulation was fully discussed.

Going to Bermuda. Justice Lount has so far recovered from his recent serious illness that he will be able to leave for Bermuda next week. He will remain in a warm climate all winter.

Factory Burned. Charlottetown, P. E. I., Nov. 13.—This city was visited to-day by a \$70,000 fire, the most serious one for many years. The large brick structure owned by Walsh & Owen and occupied by the firm and other merchants was destroyed with its contents. The Riley Tobacco Factory was burned, and Rendon's wholesale grocery was badly damaged, besides minor losses being sustained by other firms.

Edmonton, N. W. T., Nov. 14.—Robert Heddel, a farmer residing near Ledoux, was shot and fatally wounded by a neighbor named Charles A. Buckle. Heddel died yesterday of his injuries and Buckle has become violently insane. The murderer had shown symptoms of insanity for some time, and his firearms had been taken from him. He managed to conceal a revolver, however, and when Heddel entered his residence he shot him in the temple. The murderer also pulled the revolver on another neighbor, but it missed fire. The parties are English farmers. Buckle resided alone on his farm.

Not Guilty. Winnipeg, Nov. 14.—A verdict of "not guilty" was returned to-day by the jury who heard the charge of manslaughter laid against Peter Reimer.

At Home. Dispatches from Yorkton state that the Doukhobors have reached their villages and that all is quiet there.

New Bank Building. The Bank of British North America has just completed the purchase of 50 feet on the west side of Main street, next to the Dominion Bank. On this lot the company will early next year commence the erection of a handsome brick building to cost \$100,000 or over. The building will be for banking purposes exclusively.

Will Be Made Cardinal. Ottawa, Nov. 14.—A private message received here to-day says Archbishop Bruchesi, of Montreal, will be raised to the dignity of a cardinal. Mr. Dalozio has not received any confirmation.

Graves of Heroes. The South African Memorial Association have located 86 graves of Canadians. Memorials will be erected over each, and special obelisks at Paardeberg and Kleinharth's river.

Atlantic Service. Halifax, Nov. 14.—President Campbell, addressing the board of trade to-

day, said the board insisted on a Canadian Atlantic steamship service equal in speed to any on the ocean. It should be of the speed of 25 or more knots if necessary; only such a service could be satisfactory or successful.

Canadian Banks. Toronto, Nov. 14.—At the annual meeting of the Canadian Bankers' Association, the feature was the address of Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, and of the president of the Bankers' Association, which was read by the secretary owing to illness. Mr. Clouston's address enlarged on the great prosperity everywhere evidenced, and particularly shown in banking statistics. Assets of Canadian banks, it was shown, now total \$610,928,000, compared with \$553,900,000 a year ago. The surplus earnings had risen from \$36,902,000 to \$41,130,000. Deposits of public banks, which in 1892 were \$161,000,000, are now \$359,800,000, a rate of increase, the president says, which is truly marvelous when contrasted with the number and comparatively slow increase of the population of the country. Commercial loans have risen to \$303,500,000 from \$280,000,000 a year ago. At the present time Canadians have on deposit in banks and loan companies \$400,000,000, or about \$80 per head of population. Referring to the need of increased circulation, Mr. Clouston issued a warning against the proposal to permit the issue of circulation to the extent of the paid-up capital and reserve fund, and expressing doubt as to the substance of reserve funds. Lord Strathcona was elected honorary president, as was also Mr. Geo. Hague, Montreal. Mr. Clouston is president.

Suicide. Montreal, Nov. 14.—Ernest Muir, secretary-treasurer of the Montreal Coal & Trading Company, shot and killed himself at his residence on St. Marks street to-day. Domestic troubles are said to have been the cause of the tragedy. He was 39 years of age.

VOTED MANY TIMES. Exposure in New York Which Has Caused a Sensation—Charge Against District Captains.

New York, Nov. 14.—Two district captains in the Ninth assembly district have been held by Magistrate Barlow in bonds of \$4,500 each to answer charges of violating the election law. The evidence in the case was produced by six colleagues who volunteered their services to the superintendent of elections, McCulloch, one of the young men, is said to be a millionaire. Another is a young physician, and the other four are medical students. They claim to have made themselves noticeable around West 26th street just before election. They were associated with workers, who, after becoming acquainted, disposed of them in various rooms. On election day they say they were provided with slips bearing the names of the men who had registered in good faith, but who had been called away. In this matter they say they voted many times apiece, and for each ballot allege they received \$3. Capt. McCulloch's deputies at the polls were aware of the movements, and the ballots are said to have been marked for identification. The plan came nearly ending disastrously in one booth, where the alleged "repenter" had been provided by mistake with a slip bearing the name of a negro. The exposures have caused a sensation.

DIED FROM TYPHOID. Death of Young Woman Who Was Treated by Christian Science Healer.

Washington, Nov. 12.—Miss Louise Hoge, of Evanston, Ill., who has been ill here for almost a month, and who has been under treatment by a Christian Science healer, died to-night.

Miss Hoge is the daughter of Holmes Hoge, resident cashier of the First National Bank of Chicago. She came here October 17th, intending to act as bridesmaid for her former school chum, Miss Ethel Bogan, of 421 G street northwest. While the wedding preparations were going on Miss Hoge became ill, and she remained at Dr. Bogan's house till her death. No physician of the regular school was called in, but the patient, during a portion of the time of her illness, has been in charge of Mrs. Ellen Brown Linscott, a Christian Science healer, who said to-night that Miss Hoge had suffered from typhoid fever. The parents of Miss Hoge are Christian Scientists, and they gave directions that their daughter should receive medical attention if she desired, but she preferred the Christian Science treatment. She had never united with the Christian Science church, but was in thorough sympathy with its teachings.

The autopsy will be performed to-morrow by Coroner Nevitt, to whom the case was reported to-night. The parents of the young woman were with her all the time of her sickness. They refuse to make any statement.

A HUSBAND'S RIGHTS. Judge Decides He May Bury His Wife Alive.

Emporia, Kas., Nov. 14.—Judge Madden, in the District court, last night decided that a man had the right to bury his wife alive. The city asked for and was refused an injunction to prohibit a "professor" giving an exhibition of hypnotism by burying his wife for six days.