

for a life and death battle between organized labor and organized capital. They knew that a strike was now inevitable, and were not surprised when the President of the United Coalminers declared a general strike a few days later. The miners were determined once for all to make a desperate fight for their rights as men and privileges as citizens of a free country.

Thus the great strike was a reality at last. The events that took place during it, and the sufferings it caused to so many millions of innocent persons is but too well known. How the strike stretched out from weeks into months and the approaching winter made itself painfully evident, the question of fuel for the cold weather became the all-absorbing topic of discussion, throughout the world. When the coal at hand had been sold at enormous profit to the trust, and no more could be bought at any price, then the indignation of an outraged people was vehement in its condemnation of the grasping trust, whose greed for gain made them insensible to the suffering of their fellow creatures. Then the haughty coal barons who but a few weeks before, when entreated to end the strike at any cost, had declared, through their President, that, Divine Providence having placed the coal mines in their hands, and with them the destinies of the miners and as consequently resisting them was sin, nothing but an unconditional return to work could be considered, trembled at the out cry made against them, and endeavored to resume the work of the mines with the aid of non-union men. But their efforts were in vain, and although, at their request, the whole military force of the state were there to protect their men, there were very few to protect. How through the offices of the President of the Country the strike was finally settled and both parties consented to arbitrate is at present the topic of too many newspaper articles, to necessitate any further comment from me. Suffice it to say that with lighter hearts the whole world looks forward towards the winter, convinced that want of fuel shall not be the cause of suffering to them.

Mr. Atkins and John Curby however do not share in the general joy and they have good reasons for not doing so, as they are at present