

RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY BRITISH MINERS CONSIDER SOMEONE GETTING UNJUST SHARE OF WEALTH PRODUCED

Ever Since Royal Commission Recommended the Nationalization of the Coal Mines the British Miner Has Been Turning the Facts and Figures Over.

Newspaper readers on both sides of the Atlantic are by this time well informed as to the chief events of the recent labor and unemployment unrest in Great Britain. On the surface these events lack any particularly novel feature, and it is only a closer study of the undercurrents of passion and opinion that provide reliable data for a reasoned judgment. Without a knowledge of these undercurrents the events themselves may be misleading.

The coal strike is a case in point. To the onlooker the difference between 2s. and 2s. 6d. per shift seems much smaller than a matter about which a whole nation is in a ferment, and possible bankruptcy. Is there no easier way out than this?

No Action Taken. These are the questions thoughtfully then asked in Great Britain. Are asking themselves in these first bleak days of winter. To find the answer they need go no further, than the mind of the average worker in a coal pit. At the time of the Coal Commission here, shrewd observers remarked that so much light had been let into the whole problem of coal getting in this country that the industry could never again settle down to the old pre-war profit-making basis. The general public, notoriously short of memory about the things that do not appear immediately to concern it, have forgotten that episode in the history of the mining industry. The mine owners have good reason to try to forget the cross-examination by the representatives of the miners, and the government does not wish to be reminded that they have taken no action as a result of the findings of the commission.

The miners, on the other hand, have been turning the facts and figures over ever since. Rightly or wrongly, they have come to the stern conclusion that someone is getting an unjust share of the wealth they toil daily to produce. Put any human being with a feeling of injustice to work long hours hewing coal in the bowels of the earth, and what is more likely to happen than that it should burn its way into his thought until no advice of trusted leaders, nor fear of consequences, will break his determination to do everything within his power to right the wrong.

Issue to Be Forced. Those who are in a good position to judge the miners' process of thinking, are convinced that this, more than any other factor, caused the rejection of the scheme of the datum line, and indirectly, therefore, the strike. The story of an actual experience with miners only this summer will serve to reveal the reasons behind this conviction.

A professor, of reasonably moderate views but broad sympathies, spent a considerable portion of the summer months at a holiday guest house much frequented by miners. When the first party arrived he engaged them in conversation about the coal situation, and to his surprise found them much more interested about the question from a national point of view than from the standpoint of their own wages. "The Government," they said, "have had the findings of the Independent Coal Commission to the effect that an in-

whose records show fair and moderate service. This represents a clear gain for industry in Government.

The new Congress also will show an increased number of men who hold "union cards." Incomplete checking up of the results so far shows fifteen elected to the new Congress with the probability that final counting will show more than twenty, possibly twenty-five.

It is not to be said that the election was satisfactory in every respect. Every forward looking man and woman must feel some deep regret because of the great plunge toward reaction. But democracy will right itself at the proper time and mean while the actual tabulation of results in Congress, the law-making body, shows a definite and specified gain for all that makes for progress and a response to the needs of our time.

The non-partisan campaign of the American Federation of Labor was primarily and most effectively a campaign in congressional districts. Its results were gained in the primaries and in the election. These results will serve as a constant reminder to all servants of special privilege and the ever-present and always impressive fact will be before the new Congress that fifty of the unfaithful and the hostile were defeated by the organized workers of our Republic.

A notable American has said, "I would rather be right than be President." To be engaged in a righteous cause, to fight for freedom, for justice, for peace, and human brotherhood, is of greater concern to the human family than is a passing success. The labor movement of America, recognizes the tremendous struggle of the masses of the people in all history to obtain the right, and the setbacks they have often had to endure and the sacrifices they have had to make, decade by decade, cycle by cycle, in the march and the trend of the nation of America, forward, onward and upward.

Shortly the names of the men who have been re-elected and of those who have been unfaithful and defeated will be published by the American Federation of Labor.

Senator Harding has been elected President of the United States. He will be as much my president as of any other citizen in our country. In any way that the American Labor Movement, including myself, can be of service it will, of course, be our duty and our pleasure. Statement by Samuel Gompers.

Every man in the House whose record of service was perfect has been re-elected. Incomplete checking already shows that fifty congressmen who were inconsiderate and hostile have been defeated.

This is one of the most impressive features of the entire election. Fifty time servers have been beaten. Against these fifty who were defeated the working people have elected from fifty-five to sixty men

A. F. OF L. POLITICAL POLICY JUSTIFIED

President Samuel Gompers Issues Statement.

The non-partisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor is more completely justified than ever and the fulfillment of separate party action more convincingly demonstrated.

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"The Police Department needs 500 men at once; the Criminal Code is full of dead letters. 'The police men say that 'brassards' are 'ornaments,' and they tell the Safety Director, 'a policeman is always on duty; they are at present trying to find somebody who should head one of their number.' 'Business' should cut down defects, but the people are entitled to police protection."

"Surpluses give the province a good financial name; but peaceful pursuit of business should be protected. A drug store clerk is shot dead in daylight in a store. 'Recorder's Court' earns over \$150,000 yearly; the policemen earn this. Is the Recorder's Court a good business?"

"Give the policemen the 500 sustaining arms they need at once. The public demand them. 'Helpless victims are regularly 'taxed' to pay this. Policemen know this is not policemen's work. They admit it. It's too easy. 'People are being arrested for throwing papers in the streets. How about adulterated food, adulterated drugs, mislabeled food?"

"Don't park your car more than 30 minutes. How about the Meat and Canned Goods Act and the Dairy Industry Act? 'Is being drunk an offence when

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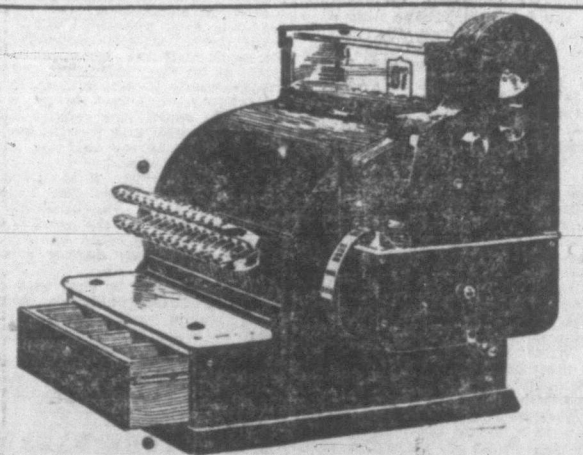
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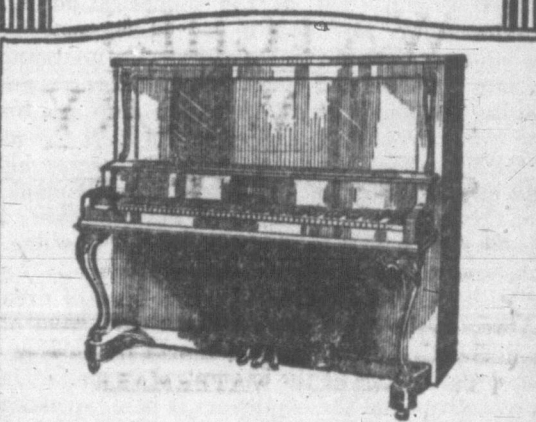
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