

or all of them. An organization of such men would therefore not be conducted in the same manner as the work in an eastern trade union where the men have not had the use of fire arms for a generation and where the orderly, quieter ways of civilization obtain.

The miners in the Coeur d'Alene district in Idaho were very well organized and went on strike in 1892. A number of them were imprisoned and the cases were fought clear to the United States Supreme Court. In 1893, they with the miners of the western states, felt the necessity of coming together and the Western Federation of Miners was formed. A strike took place in the Cripple Creek district in 1894. This was followed by the Leadville strike in 1896 which was the first fully tried out of the strength of the Western Federation, then a very young organization. In 1899 another struggle took place in the Coeur d'Alene which reached its climax in the explosion in the building used as a mill by the Bunker Hill and Sullivan company. The Federal troops were called in and the first bull pen established. Some of the miners were punished by the Federal court and sent to jail for contempt and others to the state penitentiary in Idaho.

The growth and influence of the Colorado branches of the organization was such that a movement then began to take the headquarters away from Butte, Montana to Denver, Colorado. While this