

THE COAL TROUBLES.

Argument of Franklin B. Gowen, Esq., in Behalf of the Railroad and Mining Interests of Pennsylvania.

The following is Mr. Gowen's argument delivered before the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee on the 30th ult.

Gentlemen: We are Pennsylvanians, have always been under the impression that our State derived great benefits from having within her borders the only accessible deposits of anthracite coal yet discovered in the United States.

Our neighbors of New York derive their prosperity from and boast of the supremacy of commerce; but when we recall to our minds how feeling and evanescent has been the reign of commercial prosperity in all the countries of the world, and remember that at the beginning of this century Salem was one of the most important ports in the United States, who can tell whether, ere the close of the century, Salem or Boston may not have regressed to a supremacy, or whether the bay of New York may not float upon the waters of the Delaware, or ride at anchor in the harbor of Norfolk?

It is well known that during the late war the demand for coal was so great, and the price so high, that the coal-miners were prosperous and active; coal-mining became exceedingly profitable; the coal-miners were paid high wages; and it was no uncommon occurrence for a good miner to earn a hundred dollars a month.

Let me now ask what has been the effect of the coal trade; so relentlessly exercised during the last two years; I mean its effect upon others than themselves—upon the operators, upon the railroad companies, upon the iron trade, upon the iron interests and upon the State?

Before entering, however, upon this subject, I desire to say a few words in behalf of the coal operator. The coal operator is a man who has a hundred who has appeared here as the executive of the coal-mining industry, but on behalf of the coal-mining industry, and on behalf of the coal-mining industry, and on behalf of the coal-mining industry.

the Wyoming and Lehigh regions were of long duration, the operators of Schuylkill county agreed to work at the three-dollar basis as a minimum.

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when we are doing no coal business as when we are transporting 100,000 tons a week. We cannot discharge our employees, the railroad companies constantly watched, repaired and guarded; every superintendent and agent must be at his post, and receive his salary; wages; they must be paid; we can temporarily dispense with the coal train bands. It is greatly to our interest that the price of coal should be low, because low prices induce consumption, and we make money out of a large tonnage than from high rates of charges.

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the industry of a whole State, they obtained the consent of no one but the few leaders who secreted to the public; the General Council of the Workingmen's Benevolent Association, who have been carried into effect, it is by brute force that they have compelled a large proportion of their members to join in an organization, which is a mere pretext for preventing thousands from leaving it; it is by brute force that this present suspension has been inaugurated, and it is by brute force alone that they hope to terminate it. For three weeks, gentlemen, you have been listening to the testimony of witnesses in the coal regions of Pennsylvania, and the result of that testimony has been a mere pretext for preventing thousands from leaving it; it is by brute force that this present suspension has been inaugurated, and it is by brute force alone that they hope to terminate it.

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dollars a year. How many, or rather how few, of the lawyers, doctors and clergymen of the United States have an income of \$1500 per annum. I am not at all desirous of knowing that in his day, I think he should be well rewarded for his toil; and I am glad when he is prosperous and happy. But those who labor with their hands should yield to those who labor with their minds. There are those who toil longer and harder than the miner, and who are not paid so much; and the favored fortune are indeed distributed by a capricious hand. When we find that the yearly earnings of a miner exceed the average incomes of the three learned professions of this State, we are disposed to think that some of these workmen are disposed to take an agrarian view of this subject of their earnings. I talked a number of times with the members of the Senate, and although I found most of them exceedingly sensible and well disposed towards an amicable adjustment of our differences, there was one who said to me, "Mr. Gowen, you do not say that you should get so many thousand dollars a year, while we only get but hundreds?" I replied to him that I could learn his business, and make his money; and he said, "You would require six years for him to learn mine. This was evidently to him a new view of the case, and if it did not satisfy him, I think it silenced him. But, says the counsel for the Workingmen's Benevolent Association, my clients are entitled to large wages; their vocation is an exceedingly dangerous one; even if they were to die in the coal mines, they would require six years for him to learn mine. This was evidently to him a new view of the case, and if it did not satisfy him, I think it silenced him.

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was restricted to the charge of four cents per ton per mile. The very fact that in another part of the charter power is given to transport, is sufficient to show that the charge for tolls did not include the cost of transportation, and that the coal-mining industry is admitted with this qualification, that where power is given to a company to engage in business there is necessarily to be implied a power to charge for transporting it. Suppose a company chartered with power to make gas and sell it to the inhabitants of Harrisburg, would it be pretended that, because the gas is sold to the inhabitants, the company would have no right to collect its gas bills? Or if a lawyer was created a corporation sole, to practice his profession, would it be necessary to imply that he had the right to collect fees for his services? Will it be pretended to show that a professional man, engaged in an ordinary business, would not be permitted to collect for his services? Will it be pretended to show that a professional man, engaged in an ordinary business, would not be permitted to collect for his services? Will it be pretended to show that a professional man, engaged in an ordinary business, would not be permitted to collect for his services?

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