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Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., April 16, 1897.

How Western Coal Operators Beat their Employees.

The Legislative committee appointed to inquire into the condition of the miners in the bituminous coal fields held another session in Pitsburg on Friday last and developed some startling matters, which have been common rumor in Western Pennsylvania for years.

Coal diggers were placed on the stand and Bernard Ball, employed by the Waverly coal and coke company, at Smithton, testified— "I deal at the company store because I've got to. If I don't the company gives me a bad room to work in, which practically means a discharge.

"The store manager daily receives a list, showing what coal each man has dug, and to that extent the miner can get goods at the store. The rent for the company houses is first deducted, and it seldom a miner receives any money. Every two weeks we get an envelope which contains a statement of our account with the company.

"We are not paid for all the coal we put on the wagon. The coal is supposed to be weighed and we are supposed to be paid for it all, but we don't, because we get cheated out of it. There was a limit on the wagons at some of the mines at which I worked, where 2500 pounds were put on, but we were only paid for about 1500 pounds. If we loaded 1500 on the wagon we might not get anything for it. No check-weighmen are employed. We are paid for about one-half the coal dug, as we must take the company's figures.

"The store is run as the Smithton Supply company. The coal company employs a check-weighman some months ago, but he left, giving as a reason that the company would have no checker who was not agreeable to the manager.

"All prices are higher at the company store than elsewhere. For a sack of flour the price is \$1.10, but at the company store it is \$1.15. There is a difference of 2 cents a peck in potatoes. I bought calico for a dress for my wife and paid 7 cents a yard for the goods. The same could have been bought at the other stores at 5 cents a yard.

"About 150 men are employed, but they have not steady work. The number of men employed so the more goods to be processed at the company stores, although there is not sufficient work for all."

The witness explained that miners had to pay out of their own pockets for their tools, oil and powder. Three years ago he received 79 cents a ton, but wages have fallen steadily to 54 cents.

DID NOT GET FULL PAY. John Patterson, a digger for the Port Royal coal and coke company, at Port Royal, Westmoreland county, testified that the company gave work to 30 men four days a week. No check-weighman being employed, the miners did not expect to get full weight. The Port Royal trading company is the name under which the company store is conducted.

John M. Larkin, another Port Royal digger, proved an interesting witness. He was formerly check-weighman for the Waverly company. This concern, he said, forced its men to deal at the company store. He said—

MUST TRADE OUT WAGES. "The pit boss tells each man, as he goes through the mine, to go to the store and trade it out. They have no pay days there; there is no itemized statements on the envelopes, that being done to cheat the ignorant miners. They have days when the company tells the men how much they are in debt."

When he was check-weighman, Larkin said, the cars at Smithton held from 24,000 to 27,000 pounds. At present the cars are loaded in the same manner, but the miners are credited with about 15,000 pounds only.

Witness said that John Harris, superintendent of the Waverly mine, had intimidated the men to remove him by threatening to discharge them. He said such methods are used all over the district. An envelope of the Waverly coal company was offered in evidence. It showed that there was due the miner \$5.50, the miner yet being in debt to the company \$1.50.

Thomas Hays, check-weighman for the Ohio & Pennsylvania coal company, at Cecil, said the mine superintendent operated a store at which the men were expected to deal.

James Robertson, who worked six years for Morgan, Moore & Bain, said he had reason to believe the men did not get full weight. Jefferson Forsyth, employed by the same firm, said that when the men secured a competent check-weighman, the firm generally found another position for him. A company store is kept and check-weighmen are changed often.

Robert Johnston, employed by W. P. Read, testified that mining machines and company stores were responsible for the diggers' condition. One machine required two men and did the work of eight. Chas. Morgan, employed by the New York & Cleveland gas coal company, said miners advocating reforms were discharged. Since December the company's men had averaged \$6 a week.

James Allen, check-weighman at the Nottingham mine, of Henry Floersheim, said, ninety men were employed, when thirty could do the work.

Great Gift to a Church.

Miss Serena Rheinlander, of New York, who is well known for her almost numberless acts of charity and because of her prominence in the social world, has presented to the parish of St. James Episcopal church another royal gift.

This includes several buildings at Eighty-first street and Madison avenue, including a church, a parish house and a rectory, which are to cost in the neighborhood of \$500,000. This gift by Miss Rheinlander will place St. James' parish fourth in wealth among the Protestant Episcopal churches of the city; Trinity, St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas' and St. James' coming in the order named.

Only One Way.

"Did you observe," said a local merchant to a customer, "the handsome advertisement I had Christmas on the bill board?" "No I haven't," replied the customer, "but if you will send the board around to my house I will try and read the announcement. I read the papers and haven't time to go around from place to place and read bill boards." "But you surely saw my ad in the program the other night?" "Didn't go to the show," sentimentally replied the customer "and I understand that there were but few people there." The merchant scratched his head and inwardly resolved that newspaper advertising was good enough for him.

A Slaughter of the Innocent.

In illustration of the aggressiveness and pugnacity of an Englishman, it has sometimes been said that he counts that day lost on which he does not go out and kill something. And yet, when we consider the destruction that is constantly going on of birds in this country, in common with that which is being carried on all over the world, Americans can hardly claim to be better than their fellows in this respect.

Within the last forty years there has been witnessed the almost complete extinction of the buffalo, and now the Smithsonian Institution sends out warning to the effect that civilized man is sweeping the wild birds off the face of the earth at such a rate that before long hardly any species of bird life will survive, except such as are domesticated. The great auk, the home of which was in the cliffs of Iceland and Labrador, is now unknown, and it must be said, largely through the efforts of museum authorities, who are now offering extravagant prices for its eggs.

In Australia, South America, the Sandwich Islands, Madagascar, Guadalupe and other countries, the homes of rich and gorgeous plumage, the inhuman slaughter goes on, while the bright plumaged birds in our own South are being destroyed in such numbers that their skins are shipped to wholesale millinery houses in large boxes and bales.

A bill has been introduced in the New York Assembly to prevent the wanton killing of birds, and it not only prescribes a penalty for killing, capturing and hunting them, but for having them after they are killed, for wearing their plumage in hats, for stealing their eggs and destroying their nests and for trading in their skins. Of course, the excuse is often set up that the eggs are collected for scientific purposes.

There is nothing in the value of such an excuse. There is little need to learn now about birds' eggs; they can be found in museums, they are pictured in works of natural history, and the truth is that eggs so secured are put in private cabinets, where they do no good to anybody.

The country is being scoured from end to end to gratify the longing of hunters for birds, and of women for gay headgear. Let me here tell you a few things that there shall be no more birds on millinery, and straightway women of the world over will follow the fashion without one thought as to the suffering that they have inflicted and the beauty that they have helped to take from the landscape.

Even if the question is looked upon from a matter-of-fact standpoint, it can readily be understood that injury is being done to many interests through this wholesale slaughter. We are beginning to realize the evil that has been wrought by the destruction of our forests, and we can see that in a similar way harm has been done to crops through the killing of birds, and of women for gay headgear.

The picture who makes a dish of bobolinks, and so swallows a whole symphony of melody; the members of gun clubs who want to distinguish themselves for marksmanship, the hunter who only wants to kill something and the woman who carries a whole aviary on her head, are equally culpable.

Appeal to sentiment have been unavailing, and something else must be done to stop a traffic so inhuman and so destructive of an innocent life that gives delight to the eye and the ear and offers a sweet companionship to all who are capable of interpreting the joyous messages of Nature and of loving her gentle messengers.

Which? The Sweet Bye and Bye? or the Sweet Buy and Buy? The other day, as I was clinging to the strap of a Lexington Avenue car, two ladies sat near me, and as one opened her purse to pay her fare, a scrap of paper pasted to the leather was disclosed.

"Is that your shopping list?" asked the other; "it doesn't look like a long one." "No," was the reply. "It is not the list; but it is what keeps the list from being a long one," and she read:

"He who buys what he does not need will never get rich." "What a capital guardian of your capital! You must let me copy that for my leaky purse. Who wrote it?" "I don't know, but I wish I did, for he has saved many a dollar from lightly rolling from my hands since I put it here."

I was intensely interested in the conversation, for at that very moment there lay in my notebook a scrap which I would have brought forth but for the fact that my own corner was reached.

I publish it, for, if the truth which it contains were assimilated, many a pocket-book would remain a pocketbook:

"We are ruined, not by what we really want, but by what we think we do; therefore never go around in search of your wants. If there's one thing you will come home in search of you; for he that buys what he does not want will soon want what he cannot buy." —Colton.

Sources of Gutta-Percha.

Gutta Percha like India rubber, is obtained from the juices of certain trees and climbers. The best is produced by a tree, the Isonandra gutta of the order Sapotaceae, which formerly abounded at Singapore and in all Malaya, but which now tends to disappear under the ravages committed by gatherers. Gutta, in Malay, signifies gum or lime; percha signifies scrap. Incisions are made in the bark, as on rubber trees, and the liquor flows of perfect whiteness, darkening at contact of air. Coagulation takes place spontaneously in a short time. Like rubber, the liquid forms a film on top.

This cream is removed, kneaded into a large lump and plunged into boiling water. Under the action of a high temperature it softens and forms the cake usually found in commerce. Other trees in Malaya and Farther India, in Cambodia and Cochin China, produce good gutta. In Hindu-stan different grades are mixed by the natives. Chinese merchants, in their depots, mix and manipulate to give a good specific appearance to the product, as the price is constantly advancing. As the gatherers also do not scruple to add vegetable debris, earth, or sand, it has become difficult to secure a pure article. An inferior quality is obtained in trees and climbers in Africa and Madag., and, with the development of those countries, more may be expected. —Appleton's Popular Science.

Ornithology.

Tommy—A hat's a bird, ain't it, ma? Ma—Yes, Tommy. Tommy—An it's a great deal bigger'n a eagle, ain't it, ma? Ma—What makes you think so, my boy? Tommy—Cause I heard pa say he an Mr. Jenkins was on one last night.

—To cure a cough or cold in one day take Krumrine's Compound Syrup of Tar. If it fails to cure money refunded. 25cts.

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WE DON'T GUESS

or take for granted. The mechanical features of our bicycles are all proved.

COLUMBIAS, \$100,

HARTFORDS, \$75, \$60, \$50, \$45,

—PRICES THE SAME TO ALL—

"There is no pension paid for worn out brains."

No—nor for worn-out wheels. Buy a Columbia you won't have to pay a yearly pension for repairs, you will save time and annihilate distance and exercise will keep your brain bright and fresh as well as your body.

A few Second hand Columbias at half gains. An \$80 wheel for \$50.

Riding School 3rd Floor Centre County Bank Building.

PURCHASERS TAUGHT FREE.

A. L. SHEFFER,

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Allegheny St., BELLEFONTE, PA.

Receipts and Expenditures.

Here are some plain figures that, if borne in mind, will help to an understanding of the tariff question.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, the revenues of the United States were \$463,963,081, and the expenditures \$358,618,585, leaving a surplus of \$105,344,496.

In the autumn of 1890 Congress passed "a bill to reduce the revenue and equalize duties on imports and for other purposes."

Congress then revised the tariff in the so-called Wilson bill, under which the receipts rose from \$372,802,498 in 1894 to \$330,373,203 in 1895 and \$409,475,408 in 1896, an increase in the two years of \$36,672,910. The expenditures were in the same time reduced by about eight millions, to \$434,673,654, leaving the deficit \$25,203,246.

It will be observed that the receipts of 1896 were nearly fifty-one millions in excess of the expenditures in 1890. This should make plain to the humblest understanding what is the reason of the deficiency and what the remedy should be. Congress is going to work on the wrong side of the ledger. With improving business the revenues would be ample. It is the appropriation that need to be revised. —Philadelphia Times.

Yawning is Healthy.

A celebrated Belgian physician says that yawning is an exceedingly healthy function generally, besides having a very salutary effect in complaints of the pharynx and eustachian tubes. According to the results of late investigations yawning is the most natural form of respiratory exercise, bringing into action all the respiratory muscles of the chest and neck. It is recommended that every person should have a good yawn with stretching of the limbs morning and evening for the purpose of ventilating the lungs and tonifying the muscles of respiration. An eminent authority claims that this form of gymnastics has a remarkable effect in relieving throat and ear troubles, and says that patients suffering from disorders of the throat have derived great benefit from it. He makes his patients yawn either by suggestion, imitation or by a series of full breaths with the lips partly closed. The yawning is repeated six or eight times and should be followed by swallowing. By this means the air and mucus in the eustachian tubes are aspirated.

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.

RUN DOWN IN HEALTH—CONSTANT PAINS IN ARMS AND SHOULDERS—A VALUABLE GIFT—HEALTH, APPETITE AND SLEEP—PAINS ARE GONE.

"I was run down in health and could hardly keep on my feet. The least exertion would cause palpitation and I would feel as though I was being smothered. My nights were sleepless and I felt worse in the morning than when I retired. My liver was out of order and I had constant pains in my arms and shoulders and numbness in my limbs. I was sometimes dizzy and would fall. My son gave me two bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla and they proved of more value than a very costly gift. In a short time after taking Hood's Sarsaparilla I had a good appetite, sleep came back to me and the pains all left me." Mrs. ANNE E. STREETER, 621 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, Pa.

"Everything I ate seemed to produce gas in my stomach. Friend advised me to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. When I had taken four bottles I was able to eat and feel no distress. I could attend to my household duties without the fatigue I formerly felt." Mrs. McVICAR, White Hall, Pa.

HOOD'S SARSA PARILLA.

Is the Best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. Price \$1, six for \$5.

HOOD'S PILLS are the best after dinner pills, aid digestion. 2c.

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—Navel oranges are selling in California at \$5.00 a car load, other oranges at \$3.00. With those prices prevailing it is expected that the next season's orange crop will yield the State \$4,000,000.

—Maple syrup is said to be retailing in Crawford county at 40 cents a gallon.

—Pike county has but one newspaper with 9,000 population, while Cameron with 7,000 has four.

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W. S. GLENN, M. D., Physician and Surgeon State College, Centre county, Pa. 35 41 at his residence.