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THE REGISTRAR. State College, Centre County, Pa.

Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte Pa., June 17, 1904.

The Colorado Labor War.

The Mining Camps For Three Years Have Been Storm

isture To Pass The Eight Hour Bill.

Centre-Trouble Precipitated By Failure of Leg-

For three years lawlessness has prevailed

in many of the missing camps of Colorado, and events of Monday are another outbreak on the part of the men who have kept that state in a turmoil and make it the storm

centre of organized labor.

During the time of the troubles many

camps have been practically constantly in charge of the militia. High handed methods have been a feature of both sides of the

conflict and in many instances the most serious kind of strife has been only nar-

The trouble began when the Legislature

failed to pass the eight hour bill, princi-pally because, it is charged, of the influ-

ence of Governor Peabody. Organized labor immediately decided to force the issue, and selected the Cripple Creek dis-

triots as its scene of operations. As soon

as the challenge was issued and the campaign outlined the battle was accepted,

and then armies of non-union men to the

scene. In fact, so many poured into the

district that work was not ready for all

of them. The representatives of the labor unions who conducted the conflict and

forced the issue were declared to be the

radicals in the organizations, and it was immediately seen that they intended to leave no stone unturned to gain the point

Western Federation of Miners in San Juan

they had marked to gain their goal.

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Hack Driver Heir to \$300,000.

Thomas Carter, colored aged 60, left his wife and four children in Indiana some time ago and went to Rome, N. Y., where time ago and went to Kome. N. Y., where he obtained employment as a hack driver. Tresday he was stopped by a policeman and questioned as to his identity. Carter concluded that he was sought for deserting his family. Instead he was informed that he was heir to \$300,000, left by a relative who owned a coal mine.

who owned a coal mine. Carter will return immediately to Indiana and claim his inheritance. The authorities traced his whereabouts through his family, with whom he corresponded oc-

Governor Peabody rallied to the side of the owners of the mines and these were joined by the entire power at the disposal of the State. San Miguel conuty became especially turbulent, but in three mouths, by taking extreme measures, the authorities restored order and the agitators who had precipitated

from Telluride. The instant the militia was withdrawn the warfare was renewed. The radicals and agitators immediately returned to the scene of their defeat, and in a few days the situation was tenfold worse than it had

been at the earlier stage of the conflict. But the audacity and apparent determination of the agitators to turn the section into a hotbed of battle settled their fate. The citizens of the invaded district became aroused and took the law into their own hands. Then followed a reign of terror for the radicals. Agitators were dragged from their beds and homes and sent across the mountains in a special train as a warning to them and to others of their kind that the law abiding people of that section of the disturbed State would no longer tolerate the stirring up of trouble in this

Then the agitators took a course often used by the men they were fighting—they appealed to the law, and from Judge Stevens was procured an injunction. With this behind them they returned to the disturbed district and once more chaos

reigned. Governor Peabody was aroused now, and within an hour of the granting of the Stevens injunction he had ordered a mobilization of the entire National Guard of the State. It was expected that the troops would be sent to Telluride, but the safety of this place was intrusted to one body of local cavalry, while the main body of the soldiers was despatched to Trinidad, the centre of the coal district, where the strikers had been in control since last September. At this place the militia soon asserted itself and in a very short time terror gave way to comparative peace and the disorder that had been rampant had in a measure been checked.

AGITATORS ARE WANTED.

In Telluride, meantime, the agitators who had returned had been met by Gen. Bell, the commander of the militia who first promised to protect them and then gave them full and liberal instructions as to the line of conduct they were to observe. Apparently his advice and suggestions were well received, and for some time the camp in which the agitators were at work enjoyed a reasonable kind of peace.

All this time the soldiers were eager for a brush with the strikers. When they were entrained at Denver not a man had known his destination, and it was a great surprise to the troops when they found themselves at Trinidad, where the Colorado Fuel and Iron company were the chief op-erators. The former had been compelled to suspend operations, in its great steel plant at Pueblo, discharging 10,000 men. Lack of fuel caused shut down and the companies frequently stated that they would be able to resume operations if the strikers did not interfere with the men they had brought from West Virginia and Kansas coal mines, where the pay was not equal to that in the Colorado scale. Three weeks after the inauguration of

Clashes became frequent in the Cripple Creek district, and then the campaigners advanced a stage to the stronghold of the the strike proper two men were murder-ously assaulted. This was the first of the county, and the federation then considered to be practically impregnable, made known its position by ordering a strike which caused a climax.

ously assaulted. This was the first of the serious outrages, and there have been many since. Guard houses were established in the turbulent camps, and miners, including all the members of the executive

been incarcerated. Three thousand of the business and citizens of Victor sent a petition to Governor Peabody for the recall of the troops. The Governor refused point blank the trouble were chased over the mountains

to consider the request, saying to the business men who presented the petition:

"The militia will stay in the strike region until I am satisfied it is not need-

DESTRUCTION IS CHARGED.

Western Federation of Miners is charged with having caused a greater destruction of property and depreciation of values than any other organization in the West. When the fight was first provoked in Colorado it was a question as to whether the mine properties should be controlled by the owners or the employes. The owners were not the aggressors in any in-stance, all the conflicts having been precipitated by the men. The owners re-mained always on the defensive until forced to a decision and then they acted

unanimously and promptly.

Northen Colorado has been known as the open shop for miners, but in the Crip-ple Creek district the loss has been stupenous and the number of outrages so great that it has been impossible to enumerate them. Everything from derailment of trains to ssassination has been chronicled in the camps since the outbreak of the strike.

cost the lives of two men. This happened with the mine surrounded by cavalry pa-trols and with eight hundred armed men within call. A justice of the peace who lecided to bind over some of the strikers for a trivial assault was taken from his bed after midnight and left for dead on jagged rocks, where he was found the next

In September, the Victor "Record," the oldest newspaper in Victor, near which the Independence, Portland and other great mines are located, was suppressed by the military. All the employers, including the editors and printers, were arrested. The "Record" had offended by abusing the militia and had printed articles tending to cause violence and prevent a peace ful ending of the troubles in the district.

Mrs. Emma T. Langdon, wife of the editor, however, and a linotype operator, kept the "Record" from suspending pub-lication. She barricaded the office and defied arrest and got the newspape across the front page of which was printed

Badly hattered, but still in the ring." Ever since the Coeur d'Alene mining troubles, which culminated in a congress ional inquiry, in 1900, the mining region of Colorado and Idaho has been in a state of unrest. The Coeur d'Alene inquiry revealed the details of a far reaching con spiracy and a system of organized orime and lawlessness in which the civil author ities were awed and the law suspended Investigation into the "Molly Magnire" system employed proved that the radicals who precipitated the strike and the suc ceeding troubles did not hesitate to blow up mills and kill their rivals in their de termination to win the strike they had brought about.

In the course of the investigation in Washington one of the men who had been confined in the famous "bull pen" there testified at length as to his experences and tortures there. His testimony was sup-

ommittee in charge of the strike, have plemented with photographs of the pen, and he charged that not only were the physical conditions there fearful, but that his mail had been opened, and when his wife had been seriously injured he was not

allowed to visit her. From that time until the present the radical labor element in the mines has sought trouble at every opportunity and a conflict has been waged between the agitators and the law. Occasionally the battle has come into the open, but all the time it has been in existence, only awaiting the moment to break out in bloodshed and

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