

MINE SHUT DOWN IS NOW COMPLETE

The Anthracite Workers Obey Scale Committee's Order to a Man.

SOFT COAL OPERATORS SIGN

Philadelphia, April 3.—There was a complete suspension of mining operations in the anthracite region in accordance with the order issued last week by President Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America, and the scale committee of that organization, with the solitary exception of the Peoples' Oxford colliery, an independent colliery near Scranton, which employs about 500 hands. This mine was kept in operation during the strike of 1902. Every colliery was open as usual and in readiness for the workers, but there was no response to the blowing of the whistles other than the appearance of the engineers, firemen, pumpmen and others whose presence at the mines is necessary to preserve them from injury and who were exempted in President Mitchell's order.

The action of the miners occasioned no surprise on the part of the operators who, while they offered work and protection to those who might desire to go into the mines, did not anticipate the acceptance of their offer. That the fact that most of the mine workers when they left the workings on Saturday took their working materials with them was indicative of their intention to remain away from the mines until ordered to return by President Mitchell. The best of feeling between operators and miners is reported from all sections, and the hope that a satisfactory agreement may be reached at the conference in New York is expressed by both sides.

Significance is attached by the miners to the fact that there is no apparent attempt on the part of the operators to import non-union labor, and they regard this as a favorable sign.

The miners' leaders are careful to assert that no strike has been declared, the suspension being merely a business necessity, as the miners have no arrangement with the operators until the scale is adjusted by the committee.

During the day in several of the districts groups of men picketed the approaches to the collieries, but their presence was unnecessary. In the vicinity of Scranton most of the washeries were operated. The washeries produce only steam sizes from coal already run through the breaker and screened, and it is not likely that there will be any opposition from the miners to the operation of these washeries, as their production is insignificant.

In the anthracite region there are about 400 collieries, employing 160,000 men and boys. Most of these, about 150,000, are affected by the order to suspend work, the remainder being the engineers and others exempted by President Mitchell.

The only disturbance that marked the closing of the mines occurred at Moosic, a small town near Scranton, where John Shepherd, a civil engineer at the Consolidated colliery of the Pennsylvania Coal company, was shot in the hip by Anthony Coplosk, a mine worker. Coplosk had an argument with a mine guard, during which he shot at the latter. The bullet went wild and struck Shepherd, who was standing nearby.

During the day squads of state constabulary, a police body organized under an act of the last legislature, patrolled various sections of the coal regions, but found no disorder.

OPERATORS SIGN SCALE

Strike of Soft Coal Miners Will Not Be Extensive.

Indianapolis, April 3.—Information received so far at the national headquarters of the United Mine Workers of America indicate that the strike of soft coal miners will not be extensive for any length of time, many operators already having expressed a willingness to grant the increased wages asked by the miners' union.

The prospective situation in the various fields, so far as could be learned, follows:

Indiana—Nearly all operators in the south end of the state and many in the centre will sign the advance wage scale, according to the miners, but the operators' chairman says only a few will grant the advance.

Ohio—Six coal companies have declared their willingness to pay the 1903 scale.

Illinois—Many mines are in operation. Operators all over the state have expressed a willingness to sign the 1903 scale.

Western Pennsylvania—Almost all bituminous mines in Pennsylvania will grant the 1903 scale and resume operations soon.

West Virginia—No strike on.

Iowa—Operators and miners meet today (Tuesday) when it is expected, an agreement will be reached to reopen mines at once.

Michigan—Good prospect of settlement.

Kentucky—No strike.

Southwestern District—All the coal mines of Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma are idle, the 25,000 miners having struck. It is expected that numerous operators will sign the scale soon, although none has done so yet.

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PASSING ALONG THE STREET

one windy, rainy day, a man was observed whose appearance made him conspicuous among other passersby. While they hurried along with faces expressing disgust and worryment, their clothes wet through and bedraggled he tramped contentedly along looking as unperturbed and as well groomed as if it were a bright June day.

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