

**BERWIND ASSAILED
IN COAL INQUIRY**

4000 Men's "Bodies Used to Build Up Autocracy," Hyman Committee Charges

FINDS FAMILIES IN WANT

Johnstown, Pa., Nov. 3.—Municipal ownership of the New York Subway system was predicted yesterday by David Hirschfeld, chairman of New York City Committee investigating conditions in the Berwind-White coal mines, in announcing the committee's investigation had confirmed charges laid before New York City officials by striking miners of the Berwind-White Company.

"Coal should not be purchased from operators who do not give their miners a fair living and a square deal," said Mr. Hirschfeld before the committee, which completed its hearings yesterday, left here for New York.

The operators' side of the controversy has not been told. Several of forty were made to have the Berwind-White officials attend committee hearings, but the company refused to participate in any meeting where representatives of the United Mine Workers of America were present.

Commissioner Hirschfeld, in a statement yesterday, said:

"The committee appointed by Mayor John F. Hyman, of New York City, to investigate conditions in the coal districts of Central-Southwestern Pennsylvania, a zone controlled by the Berwind-White Company, has disclosed many amazing facts.

Berwind Controls District
"The district in question, Somerset County, is controlled bodily and politically by a coal corporation of which E. J. Berwind is the moving power. The same E. J. Berwind is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company of New York City and is a director of the Pennsylvania System which hauls coal from the mines.

"The great Berwind-White interests seem to have used some 4000 men's bodies and souls to build up for themselves an industrial autocracy. The committee has heard harrowing stories of hardships endured by the miners and their helpless families since April 6, when the men no longer would endure the sting of the corporation lath.

"We have seen in the tents, in the barracks and in the stables where the miners and their families sought shelter after having been summarily evicted from their homes by the coal and iron police, long lines of babies and women whose feet were bare and bleeding and whose limbs were then clad.

"From the very moment we reached the stronghold of the Berwind-White Company we were accorded no courtesies by that corporation. Their local officials, invited to attend the hearings, refused, but said they would meet the committee privately in their offices. What are they hiding?"

The closing paragraphs of the statement related to the candidacy of Alfred E. Smith for Governor.

miners in the tent colonies here are awaiting with interest the final report of Mayor John F. Hyman's investigation committee, which left Johnstown for New York yesterday. "We are confident that the finding of the committee will favor the miners and be condemnatory of the policy employed by the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company," James Gibson, president of the local union, stated today.



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