

LEGAL FIGHT FOR STOLEN MINE 'BOYS'

Pr Owners Claim Some of "Rescued" Were Not In-situation Inmates

CONDITIONS DECLARED BAD

By Associated Press
Columbus, O., Nov. 24.—Possibility that a legal battle in Ohio courts might provide a sequel to the spectacular "rescue" of fourteen former inmates of the Ohio institution for a strip mine near Turtle Creek, Pa., early yesterday, was being considered here today.

Declaring that the fourteen "boys" had been inveigled away from the institution and put to work at the mine for little pay and under unsatisfactory conditions, representatives of the Ohio Welfare Department with Pennsylvania State police swooped down on the work-ings, bundled the boys into automobiles and whisked them to the State line and Ohio before court action to detain them might be started.

While no active resistance to the coup was offered at the mine, an attorney at Columbus was followed by a statement at Pittsburgh from Frank J. Bentz, manager of Bentz Bros., the Columbus firm which operates the work-ings, to the effect that he would seek recourse in Ohio courts.

Bentz announced that the boys "had been adjudged mentally and physically incompetent by reputable physicians."

One of the boys taken away from the mine, Mr. Bentz declared, had been employed there for seven years, several others for four or five years and the remaining for seven or eight months. They all came voluntarily, he asserted, and were paid regular wages for the work they did.

He denied that living conditions at the operations were bad.

While no comment on Mr. Bentz's proposed action was available here today, Director Max Baugh of the State Department of Welfare, in an announcement last night, declared that incident closed so far as he was concerned.

He would not prosecute the Bentz Company, Maxey said, because it was probable that it could not be proved that force was used to take the "boys" from Columbus.

Statements of the "boys," who, according to Welfare Department officials range in age from eighteen to forty, were to the effect that they had been induced to go to Turtle Creek by promises of high wages "and a good time."

The return of the fourteen State wards to Columbus marks the conclusion of months of effort, it was said at the Welfare Department. The situation first was brought to light here last August and since that time negotiations with various branches of the Pennsylvania State government have been carried on.

After conferences with various agencies, co-operation of the Pennsylvania State police was assured, it was said, and the raid planned in order that long delays through court action might be avoided.

Today the "boys" were back at the institutions here and working on the jobs they had before they departed.

The Ohio agents said last night that the raid was a consequence of official declarations that the young miners were wards of Ohio and were working for low wages under "terrible conditions."

Sergeant Cross, one of the agents, said he made a personal inspection two days before the raid and confirmed the charges.

"Several days ago," said Sergeant Cross, "I went to the camp to ascertain just what the conditions were. J. Bonanza and H. H. Haub, of the Ohio Welfare Department, gave me full descriptions of the missing boys."

"When I arrived there I found the fourteen jammed into a small cut down as a bunkhouse. They were so dirty I could not identify one from the other. I returned to the barracks and reported. Bonanza and Haub showed me their warrants and we decided to raid the camp early yesterday."

"We found the fourteen boys, all dirty, some dressed and some undressed, lying two abreast in double bunks. Sanitary conditions were terrible. The Bentz brothers came out of a house nearby and vigorously protested.

"The boys seemed glad to get away. Some said they were paid \$1 a week. Others declared they received \$8."

Pittsburgh, Nov. 24.—(By A. P.)—The removal of fourteen "boys" from

the Bentz Striping Mine camp near Turtle Creek by Pennsylvania State troopers and Ohio Welfare workers early yesterday is not a closed incident, but will be taken into the courts, it was announced today at the offices of the company.

Officers of Bentz Brothers were in conference with their counsel today and later will go to Columbus with a view to entering the courts of Ohio.

Some of the "boys" who were removed from a box car bunkhouse and taken into Ohio, never were inmates of the institution for the feeble minded, according to Bentz Brothers.

SAN CARLO COMPANY GIVES 'MADAMA BUTTERFLY'

Japanese Soprano Scores Success in Excellent Production of Puccini Opera

THE CAST
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Sharpless..... Marie Valle
Katie Pinkerton..... Yuzo Kikawa
Katsumi..... Yuzo Kikawa
The Baron..... Pietro de Biasi
Conductor—Sigmor Franchetti.

The San Carlo Opera Company continued its Philadelphia success at the Metropolitan Opera House last evening with an excellent performance of Puccini's tragic "Madama Butterfly" with the Japanese soprano, Tamaki Miura, in the title role. The part has been sung here by greater voices than that of Mme. Miura, but her general performance carried conviction in every note as well as in every action that the auditor is hearing a genuine Japanese interpretation of the role, notably in the detail of the acting. Her voice is particularly true as to pitch and excellent as to quality and blended well with that of Barra in the great love scene at the close of the first act, and also with that of Mme. Kikawa in the beautiful duet in the second act. Mme. Miura has evidently made a very careful study of the part both from the nationalistic and the operatic standpoint, as her finished performance shows.

Mr. Barra was fairly good as Lieutenant Pinkerton, better perhaps in voice than in the action, although the role is both difficult and ungrateful. Anita Kikawa made an excellent Susuki and did especially good work with the duets with Cio-Cio-San as well as acting the role well. Mario Valle, who substituted for Richard Bonelli, was thoroughly satisfactory in this part, as he is in all the roles of his large repertoire, and Pietro de Biasi made the most of the short but intense part assigned to the Baron.

The orchestra played the difficult music well, and the stage settings were up to Mr. Gallo's high standard. Sigmor Franchetti conducted.

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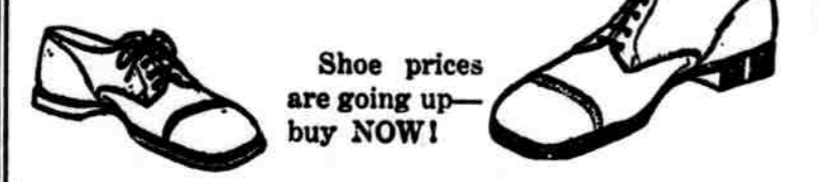
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