

THE WOES OF MINERS.

Pennsylvania's Legislative Committee Presents Its Report.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Abolition of Company Stores, Which Are Declared Un-American, and an Appeal For a Law Restricting Foreign Immigration.

Harrisburg, June 15.—The joint committee appointed to investigate the condition of the miners in the anthracite coal regions last evening made its report to the senate. Senator Meredith, chairman of the committee, presented the report.

"The testimony taken," says the report, "shows conclusively the deplorable condition of affairs for a period covering about two years, and particularly since the first of January of the present year, since which time the men in and about the collieries have been employed not more than two to three and three-fourths days per week, earning on an average about \$4 per week, upon which, in many instances, they are compelled to support large families. The greatest destitution and want is found in Mahanoy city and its vicinity, Shenandoah and its vicinity, Hazleton and its vicinity, Shamokin and its vicinity and Wilkesbarre and its vicinity."

The report then goes on to say that it seems that the wages now paid are upon the basis agreed upon by the operators and the miners as far back as 1875. The basis is then given, and the committee says that "the manner of regulating the wages certainly appears to be one which shows a strong disposition on the part of the employers to treat labor fairly."

"The committee especially inquired into the subject of company houses," the report continues, "and found in all cases that the houses were roomy and comfortable, and that the rents charged were not in excess of those charged by individuals for houses of the same character in the villages and towns adjoining."

The committee also inquired into the causes which have brought about the present condition of affairs, and although numerous reasons were advanced the majority of witnesses thought it due to the depressed condition of business throughout the country. "The surplus labor in and about the mines," asserts the report, "contributes largely to the present condition of affairs."

Speaking of the foreigners working in the mines, the report says: "Non-English speaking miners and laborers, with English speaking superintendents and foremen, must necessarily produce trouble and render the miner more liable to accidents. The committee is of the opinion that there will be no general prosperity in the anthracite regions until congress shall have passed a restricted immigration law."

Regarding the charges that the high price charged for coal at tide water, thus decreasing the consumption, was the cause of the deplorable condition of the miners, the committee says that for a number of years none of the coal companies, save one, have declared dividends. Upon the question of freight rates the committee is of opinion that the rates charged are not greater than those charged for other classes of freight.

On the subject of company stores the report has this to say: "We regard these stores as un-American." The committee makes these recommendations: First, the enactment of a law abolishing company stores; second, the prohibiting of discounting or negotiating money orders belonging to the miners; third, the enactment of a compulsory semi-monthly pay law; fourth, the repeal of the miners' examining law and the enactment of a law providing for a state board of examiners, and that certificates issued by the board shall entitle the holder to be employed in any mine in the state; fifth, the enactment of a law providing for the appointment of an inspector of coal, to examine the coal as it comes from the mines; sixth, the passage of a resolution requesting Pennsylvania representatives in congress to vote for and urge the passage of a law restricting foreign immigration.

The senate adopted the report.

Tin Plate Workers Will Strike. Pittsburgh, June 15.—A strike in the tin plate industry seems certain, and the conference on the wage scale arranged for this afternoon is not likely to accomplish anything tending to a settlement, as both sides are firm and assert that no concessions will be made. There are 29 tin plate plants in the United States. The total number of skilled workmen employed in the industry is 2,327, of whom 375 are non-union men. The number of cockers outside of tonnage men employed at tin plate plants is 6,255, and a strike for the new wage scale will throw about 8,000 people out of employment.

Immigrant Station Destroyed by Fire. New York, June 15.—The United States government immigrant station on Ellis Island, in New York harbor, was destroyed by fire this morning, but with probably no loss of life. The fire was first seen at 12:38 a. m. by the lookout from the harbor police station. The fire spread rapidly, and in four hours all the buildings were destroyed, together with the valuable records of immigration. All the immigrants were safely landed in this city, minus their personal belongings, which were burned.

New York's Victorious Tailors. New York, June 15.—There was a rush of clothing contractors yesterday to settle with the striking tailors. Thirty contractors opened their shops, and 200 tailors went to work in them. All but 2,500 of the striking tailors have returned to work, and it is expected that all the contractors will yield before next week.

Dr. Angell Acceptable to Turkey. Washington, June 15.—A cablegram received at the state department from the United States charge at Constantinople states that the sultan has issued an irade announcing the acceptance of Dr. Angell as Minister from the United States, and Mr. Terrell has accordingly started for home.

A WEEK'S NEWS CONDENSED.

Thursday, June 10. A miner was instantly killed and another seriously injured in an explosion at a coal mine near Paola, Ill.

General Jacob D. Cox, of Cincinnati, has declined the proffered Madia mission being too busy now with literary work.

Mrs. Buty, wife of a wealthy farmer of Solo, Texas county, Mo., eloped with a 16-year-old boy on the farmer's prize stallion.

Mrs. Nancy Clem, who was tried five times for murder, sentenced to be hanged twice, and finally escaped on a technicality, is dead at Indianapolis.

Friday, June 11. Octagon won the Brooklyn derby, with Buddha second and Dan de Oro third.

Mayor Rice, of Canton, O., has withdrawn as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor.

Two men have been tumbled and feathered at Butte, Mont., and escorted out of town for the city's good.

The young daughter of a farmer of Woodbridge township, N. J., was attacked by a wild pig and seriously wounded.

Rutgers freshmen nearly caused a riot at the commencement of the Rutgers preparatory school, throwing firecrackers into the commencement hall.

Saturday, June 12. Advice from Alaska say that H. G. Bryant and the Philadelphia expedition are now climbing Mt. St. Elias.

James M. Gordy, the wife murderer, was hanged at Georgetown, Del., yesterday. He died protesting his innocence.

J. N. Harbin, a partner of the late Senator Hearst, has been living in a cave in the Mexican mountains for 15 years. His family thought him dead.

A negro campmeeting near St. Nicholas, Fla., was thrown into a panic by the flashing in the sky of the searchlights of the cruisers Wilmington and Vesuvius.

It is asserted that the Vanderbilts have secured the unfinished Midland railroad, in Central Pennsylvania, and will soon have a short line from New York to Pittsburg.

Monday, June 14. Ex-Comptroller Hiram A. Waite, of Port Huron, Mich., was sentenced to five years for embezzling city funds.

The Spanish foreign office has not yet received the expected note from the American government regarding the Ruiz case.

Bushrod Keich, the wife murderer, pleaded guilty at Cleveland for murder in the second degree, and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

It is reported that the Uruguayan revolutionists have captured two large river steamers conveying reinforcements to the government troops.

Tuesday, June 15. The thermometer in Wisconsin yesterday registered 100 degs.

At Flint, Mich., yesterday, W. L. Becker, of Indianapolis, rode a mile on a bicycle in 2.014.

The house of a negro named Dunn, near Hamburg, Ark., took fire Sunday night and three children were cremated.

An incendiary fire destroyed a stable in Missoula, Mont. Fred Stroutser, a jockey, was cremated, as were five trotting horses.

The business portion of Georgetown, Cal., was destroyed by fire. An explosion of giant powder killed Mrs. William Newell.

Wednesday, June 16. The seven-year locust is playing havoc with vegetation on Long Island.

The Henry Ellen coal mines, near Birmingham, Ala., are on fire. All the workmen are accounted for, but the damage may be great.

Edward Bellamy, Professor Parsons, Myron W. Reed and many others have joined Eugene V. Debs in an effort to create a socialistic Utopia.

Francis W. Kennedy, former president of the Spring Garden National bank, Philadelphia, was released from the Eastern penitentiary yesterday.

The distress in Havana has assumed a very alarming character. Many have died of hunger, wheat and vegetables being very scarce. The rich subsist on conserved American food.

STOCK AND PRODUCE MARKETS.

Upward Progress of Prices Brought to a Halt in Wall Street.

New York, June 15.—The upward progress of prices was brought to a halt during the progress of trading today on the Stock Exchange, and earlier gains were wiped out, leaving some important stocks below last night's close. There was no very obvious reason for the reaction beyond the general principle that reaction is always bound to come after advance.

Chicago bids: Balto. & Ohio... 19 1/2; Lehigh Valley... 27 1/2; Ches. & Ohio... 17 1/2; N. J. Central... 33; Del. & Hudson... 108 1/2; N. Y. Central... 109 1/2; D. L. & W... 151 1/2; Pennsylvania... 52 1/2; Erie... 14 1/2; Reading... 52 1/2; Lake Erie & W... 15 1/2; St. Paul... 73 1/2. All assets paid.

General Markets. Philadelphia, June 15.—Flour quiet; winter superfine, \$2.75; do. extra, \$3.00; do. No. 1, \$3.25; do. No. 2, \$3.50; do. No. 3, \$3.75; do. No. 4, \$4.00; do. No. 5, \$4.25; do. No. 6, \$4.50; do. No. 7, \$4.75; do. No. 8, \$5.00; do. No. 9, \$5.25; do. No. 10, \$5.50; do. No. 11, \$5.75; do. No. 12, \$6.00; do. No. 13, \$6.25; do. No. 14, \$6.50; do. No. 15, \$6.75; do. No. 16, \$7.00; do. No. 17, \$7.25; do. No. 18, \$7.50; do. No. 19, \$7.75; do. No. 20, \$8.00.

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