

FIRST FINDING OF THE COMMISSION

Whatever Decision Is Made Affecting Wages Will Retroactively Take Effect Nov. 1.

COINCIDES WITH THE MINERS' CONTENTION

Another Preliminary Finding Is Likely to Be Made Regarding the Questions Which Were at Issue During the Strike—With These Out of the Way There Will Be No Particular Occasion for Haste in Framing the General Report—Independent Operators Notified That They Are Welcome to Present Their Case—Commissioners Visit the Manville and Take a Trolley Ride Through the Mining Suburbs.

The mine strike commission yesterday gave out a statement making public a decision that any change made in wages shall take effect as of today, Nov. 1. The statement reads as follows:

"Voted, unanimously, that if the commission, at the conclusion of its hearings and deliberations, makes any award affecting existing rates of wages, such awards shall take effect from Nov. 1, 1902."

Will Facilitate Calculations.

This is the first decision made by the commission and an important one. It will facilitate calculations, in that it gives notice to both parties to keep records of earnings, but in addition to this, it will have the effect of tending to relieve any restlessness that might result from the sessions of the commission being expectedly protracted. The decision, in any way, is a victory for the miners. In the arbitration proposition made to President Roosevelt by President Mitchell, of the mine workers, it was stipulated that the finding as to wages should retroactively take effect from the date the work was resumed. The operators' proposition, under which—in a slightly modified form—the commission was appointed, contained the provision that the day on which the finding as to wages should go into effect should be left to the commission.

It is not exactly what the miners contended for, but substantially complies with their contention. If they get a raise in wages, they will enjoy the benefit of the raise for every day after work was resumed, excepting nine, the number of days intervening between resumption of work and Nov. 1.

District President Nichols said the decision was eminently satisfactory to the miners. Superintendent Reese A. Phillips, of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western mining department, who asked if the findings were satisfactory to the companies replied "unquestionably so."

Base of Grievances.

The three matters which the commission contemplates rendering the earliest report on are, increase of wages, shortening of hours and weighing of coal. These formed the base of the grievances emanating from the Shamokin convention, and the demands made by the miners and refused by the operators. With decisions rendered in these matters there would be no particular necessity of the commission making any great sacrifices in the interest of haste.

While it is not definitely decided that this idea will be adopted, it is almost a certainty that it will be. The commissioners view it with favor and can be looked to for an announcement any day that the idea will be carried out.

The plan is almost suggested by the instructions under which the commission is working. Substantially, they undertook to decide the matters in dispute in the last strike—these three particular matters—and then report a complete working agreement for a period of five years. The three "strike" questions could be dealt with and the decision announced; afterwards the miners could be in the final and general dispute. There may be some objection to plan, but, if there is, it has not as suggested itself.

The commission is bent on reaching a decision on the "strike" questions but delay is evidenced by the fact that they are displaying in prosecuting work. Morning, afternoon and evening they keep to their task, perhaps neither their private business,

Are Working Hard.

Of itself, their unhesitancy, not to say anxiety, in undergoing extreme hardships that they may prepare themselves to readily and intelligently appreciate the testimony that will come to them when the formal hearings are under way, is evidence of much zeal. To see gray-haired men like Bishop Spaulding, Judge Gray and General Wilson, unused as they have been recently to great physical exertion, tramping for miles over rough roads, in the dark mines, most of the time in stooped positions, breathing the smoke and dust of the workings and coming out wet and grimy, is a sight to inspire a sermon on self-sacrifice. Only a little less fatiguing nature the least distasteful is it to younger men of the commission, yet all go at their duties with zeal. And on top of it all, they are not only making these and the other sacrifices for no remuneration, but they are doing so with the possibility always existing that their expenses will have to be paid out of their own pockets.

How long the commissioners will be engaged in their task none of them have the remotest idea. They propose to spend some few days more personally examining the mines and talking with miners. Next week, it is expected the taking of testimony will be commenced. When the miners' statement is ready for presentation, a session will be held to receive it. The operators have stated that they can present their counter-statement or answer in three days after the miners' statement is received. With both statements in hand, the commissioners will, likely, want a little time to peruse them, and, having acquainted themselves with the claims and counter-claims, will be ready to call witnesses.

To Hear Small Operators.

What may have the effect of somewhat prolonging and possibly complicating the hearings was a decision arrived at by the commissioners in a conference conducted yesterday morning before starting out on their day's travels. This was that all independent operators and individual operators should be notified that they will be given the same privileges as the big companies in the hearings. If any one of them or all of them jointly wish to be heard, they will be permitted to do so, and, if desired, they will have that privilege. Letters were sent to sixty-seven of these operators yesterday morning, apprising them of the commission's action. There was no bar at any time to any operator being heard, it is stated, but the commission thought it best to have the independent operators understand they were free to come before the commission.

Spend Sunday Here.

Tonight the commissioners will return to Scranton to spend Sunday. Tomorrow morning they will go to the cathedral to hear Bishop Spaulding, who has accepted Bishop Hoban's invitation to preach at the 10:30 o'clock mass. The commissioners will then leave Sunday night or Monday morning for Hazleton, to spend several days there and in the Schuylkill region.

The Manville Mine in Green Ridge.

operated on alternate months by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and Delaware and Hudson companies, was the one visited yesterday.

The party consisted of thirteen persons.

and included six commissioners, the two assistant recorders, Moseley and Neill; General Superintendent C. C. Ross, of the Delaware and Hudson company; General Superintendent Reese A. Phillips, of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western; District President T. D. Nichols, of the Miners' union; F. W. Tolan, president of the Manville local and an employee in the Manville, and one newspaper correspondent, who represented the other news gatherers. Foreman William Watkins and Fire Boss Peter Comptes went along as guides.

The party which visited the Forest City mines Thursday was too large and for this reason the number of persons permitted in the mine at one time was cut down. Recorder Wright did not accompany the party owing to a pressure of work in connection with the investigation.

Asked Many Questions.

They inspected practically the entire underground workings, and as on Thursday, found much to interest them. They asked numerous questions of all men they encountered in the gangways or chambers, and did not seem to mind the discomfort of the trip. The Manville is said to be one of the worst mines in this region for the miners to work. The veins of coal are not more than three feet thick on the average and the miner has a more difficult time in getting the coal out than where the seam is thicker. The commissioners walked several miles through the gangways, and owing to the exceedingly low roof they had to do their tramping almost continually in a stooping position. After the arbitrators had been in the workings an hour Judge

Gray who is over six feet in height decided that his back ached and accompanied by Bishop Spaulding and Superintendent Rose.

Altogether the commissioners inspected three chambers where miners were at work at the face of the breast, blasting coal. The first breast visited was 2,000 from the foot of the shaft. There the investigators found a miner and his helper at work. General Wilson and Messrs. Clark and Parker crawled into the three foot horizontal opening between the rock out of which the coal was being taken. The commissioners presented a novel picture as they sat around with flaming lamps in their hands listening to the grimy digger giving his testimony.

Interviewed Miner.

The miner was asked how much he made a day, how many cars of coal he was able to get out, how many hours he worked, what he paid his helper, how much he made per month before the strike, and numerous other questions. General Wilson was the chief interrogator and was assisted by his colleagues. The representatives of the operators and also the two representing the miners interjected questions to bring out points favorable to their respective sides. The miners' representatives and the company officials often differed in some of their own statements made for the benefit of the commissioners.

The visitors were then taken four thousand feet in another direction to where a miner was working in an underground chamber. This miner was questioned principally regarding the water. He told of how he takes it out every morning before doing any mining, and also told the commissioners what compensation he received for doing it. He called attention to the loose rock overhead which made his roof often falling and compelling him to spend considerable time in improving conditions about the breast. In reply to a question as to how much he got for removing the rock he said: "We take it out for the good of our souls." After the commissioners, superintendents and the miners' representatives had asked him innumerable questions, the party journeyed up a plane or tunnel to the second vein, which measures from two to four inches in thickness. At the end of one of the chambers of this seam of coal, the commissioners were shown by Mr. Tolan how the miners drill a hole in the narrow space. The visitors then returned to the surface.

Matter of Topping.

On the way to the first breast, immediately after being lowered to the bottom of the shaft, which is about 315 feet from the surface, Superintendent Rose called the commissioners' attention to a train of mine cars filled with coal. The rule of the company is that there must be six inches of topping on each car. The cars exhibited were filled only to the top edge of the sides. In commenting on this to the commissioners, Mr. Rose said it was a "sample of how the company is imposed upon by some of the men."

About the Harlem River.

On good authority it can be said that the Republican prediction is based on at least a lead for Odell of 115,000 above the Harlem river. This would allow the boasted claims of the city Democrats as some 75,000, a lead which would give the Republicans an absolute lead to allow "Sport" and his fellow leaders. In fact the Republicans really believe they can approach 120,000 or more up-state and cut the Democratic lead below well down under 75,000.

Frank W. Higgins, the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor, called on Governor Odell today with exceptionally cheering views from up the state. His figures as well as those of the majority of the up-state leaders, make the estimate of Col. Dunn above the Harlem river seem extremely low.

GENERAL MILES

ARRIVES AT MANILA.

A Salute Is Fired in His Honor at Fort Santiago.

Manila, Oct. 31.—General Miles, United States transport "Thomas" from San Francisco, disembarked this morning. A salute in his honor was fired from Fort Santiago.

General Miles and a squadron of cavalry met General Miles at the landing place and escorted him to the Malacanang palace, where Governor Taft and other members of the civil commission awaited the visitor. The garrison in Manila will be reviewed by General Miles tomorrow. The general's plan for a tour of the archipelago has not yet been completed.

KILLED IN SEWER.

Four Men Die from Effects of Gas at Niagara Falls.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Oct. 31.—By a sudden rush of gas, supposed to have been suffiated hydrogen, four men were killed on a street in this city. The bodies were found in a sewer. The bodies were found in a sewer. The bodies were found in a sewer.

Steamship Arrivals.

New York, Oct. 31.—Arrived: Germania, Liverpool. Cleared: Lahn, Genoa and Naples; Rotterdam, Rotterdam via Boulogne; Finland, Antwerp; La Gascogne, Havre; Eturia, Liverpool. Sailed: Rotterdam, Amsterdam; Celtic, Liverpool; Cherbourg, Antwerp; Columbia, New York via Plymouth for Hamburg and preceded. Queenstown—Arrived: Lancia, New York for Liverpool (and preceded). Naples—Arrived: Alter, New York for Genoa and preceded. Bologna, San Mar-Sailed: Staudeman (from Rotterdam), New York.

Governor's Appointments.

Harrisburg, Oct. 31.—Governor Stone today appointed: E. Gilbert, of Harrisburg, trustee of the state insane hospital located here.

ODELL TO RUN 37,600 AHEAD

The Republican Managers Give Out This Statement After a Thorough canvass.

GOVERNOR THINKS HE WILL GET MORE

Places His Plurality at 40,000 at Least in the State—Confident Announcement Made by Chairman Dunn—Democratic Claims Declared to Be Greatly Exaggerated—Higgins Brings Cheering News from Up the State.

New York, Oct. 30.—New York state is being claimed today by a plurality of more than 40,000 by the Republican leaders. After a consultation with Governor Odell, Col. Dunn, the state chairman, issued a statement making this forecast with no uncertain tone. The talk of the Republican workers from the governor and Senator Platt down, is today hoarse and assured to an extreme. They firmly believe that if the voters do their duty Odell will be re-elected by a conclusive majority.

The following is Col. Dunn's statement:

I am entirely confident as to the outcome of this state. The Republican organization throughout the interior was never in better working order than it is today. Reports, which have come to us, indicate that Governor Odell's plurality in the state will be 37,600, even if the claims made at the Democratic headquarters of New York and Kings counties have any substantial basis. We have the best of reasons to believe that these claims are greatly exaggerated. In that event Governor Odell's plurality will be largely increased over the figure given above.

I urge upon all Republicans and independent workers in the state the necessity of vigilant efforts until the election.

The Democratic headquarters of New York and Kings counties "will fall far short" is regarded by the Republican leaders as a foregone conclusion. The assurance that the upstate organization is in its usual working trim was hailed with delight by the Republican followers. It makes Odell's victory a certainty, it is universally proclaimed.

HE IS GREETED BY LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS—AN ADDRESS TO THE TEACHERS.

Lebanon, Pa., Oct. 31.—Judge Pennypacker was greeted here this afternoon and tonight by enthusiastic crowds of at least 5,000 adherents. The Lebanon county teachers institute, which was in session, adjourned and 89 teachers, the full quota of the county marched to the rooms of the Lebanon County Historical society in the court house at 3 o'clock when Judge Pennypacker delivered an address of a character in keeping with the name of the society.

OPINIONS CLASH AT CONGRESS OF MOTHERS.

Chief Factory Inspector Campbell and Others Make Speeches.

Pittsburg, Oct. 31.—Opinions clashed at the second day's session of the Pennsylvania Congress of Mothers. James Campbell, of Harrisburg, chief factory inspector for Pennsylvania, spoke on "Children in Factories." He contended that the age of thirteen was enough to allow a child to acquire a foundation of education.

Would Not Work on Saturday.

Washington, Oct. 31.—Mr. L. Quack, a clerk in the Pennsylvania state prison in New York has been discharged because he refused to work on Saturday. Mr. Quack is a Seventh Day Adventist. For some time his wish not to work on Saturday has been complied with but when the increase of work in the prison office necessitated his attendance on that day he declined to work and was accordingly dismissed.

Burglar Wyman Re-captured.

Nyack, N. Y., Oct. 31.—Frank Wyman, a prisoner convicted of burglary, who escaped from Rockland county jail on April 13, after murdering the jailer and who was recaptured in New York last week, was today sentenced to twenty-four years and six months' imprisonment in Sing Sing prison. Wyman makes the claim that he paid the jailer \$400 to permit his escape. The charge is being investigated by the authorities.

Pensions Granted.

Washington, Oct. 31.—Pensions granted: Henry Hockenberry, Wilkes-Barre, 82; Missors of Andrew R. Fagan, of Archbald, 82.

ONE OF THE LAST CARDS.

Senator Quay Denounces Some of the Democratic "Roorbacks."

Philadelphia, Oct. 31.—Chairman M. S. Quay today said:

"Among other 'last cards' being played by the Democrats in the closing hours of the campaign, is the circulation of a statement to the effect that, if the Republicans control the next general assembly, they will repeal the law compelling miners to secure certificates of competency and skill, before being permitted to mine coal; also that the law enacted at the last session of the legislature, providing for inspectors, will be declared unconstitutional."

"It is my opinion that no credence will be given such 'roorbacks' as these, but in order that there may be no misunderstanding, I pronounce these stories false. A repeal of the bill providing for certification of miners, or the question of the constitutionality of the mine inspectors law, has not and will not be raised by the Republican leaders. Such canards as these are being circulated at the eleventh hour in the hope that they will influence voters in the anthracite coal districts. They will fall of their purpose."

OPERATORS DECLINE TO ANSWER MITCHELL

Illinois Association Makes Reply Through Their Commissioner, Hermann D. Justi.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Chicago, Oct. 31.—The "Black Diamond" tomorrow will say that the Illinois coal operators' association, through its commissioner, Mr. Hermann D. Justi, has declined to answer certain questions propounded by President Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America. These questions were:

1. The views of the Illinois operators as to the responsibility of the miners' organization.

2. The advantages of joint contracts with that organization.

3. Their approval of its methods of disciplining its members.

4. Their views concerning the reasonableness and conservatism of its officers.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Wilkes-Barre, Oct. 31.—President Mitchell has all the data prepared which he intends to present to the investigating commission when it is called for. He has statistics from nearly every colliery in the anthracite region, showing what wages the employees earn; what it costs to live, school facilities, duration of school term, etc.

The Ninth Regiment HAS BROKEN CAMP

Soldiers Marched to Their Armory at Noon Yesterday—Thanked by General Gobin.

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JUDGE PENNYPACKER VISITS LEBANON

He Is Greeted by Large and Enthusiastic Crowds—An Address to the Teachers.

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SEARCHLIGHT TURNED ON.

Charges Made Against Some Harrisburg Mayors Being Investigated.

Harrisburg, Oct. 31.—At a meeting of the councilmanic committee to investigate the charges made by Mayor McCormick that former Mayors Patterson and Fritchey did not pay all of the fees, etc., they collected into the city treasury, a further communication was received from Mayor McCormick to the effect that he will show the committee that police officers from Fritchey had collected money from street exhibitions and not paid it over; that fees collected for serving subpoenas by policemen had not been paid over, but collected by Chief of Police Kautz and divided with two outsiders, and stating that if the committee so desires, Mayor McCormick will furnish it evidence to show that police protection was afforded gamblers, houses of ill-fame, speakeasies and crooks for a money consideration.

Is to Seek Birds on the Farm of Representative Hixey, of Virginia.

Washington, Oct. 31.—President Roosevelt accompanied by Secretary of War, Secretary Cortelyou and Surgeon General Hixey, of the navy, left here tonight at 9 o'clock on a special train for a gun-bird expedition in the mountains of the open season for wild turkeys and quail begins in Virginia tomorrow. The party are traveling over the Southern railway as far as Washington, where the train will be side-tracked and tomorrow the party will shoot over the farm of Representative Hixey, of Virginia.

STRIKE THREATENED.

Trouble Brewing Over the Discharge of Weighmen.

Wilkes-Barre, Oct. 31.—Trouble is threatened at the four mines operated by the Kingston Coal company and which employ 2,500 men and boys. The company officials served notice on the two weighmen today that their presence on the company's property was no longer desirable.

President Thanks Carpenters.

Washington, Oct. 31.—After breakfasting at the white house this morning, President Roosevelt informally received 100 of the mechanics and laborers who have been engaged upon the repairs of the mansion. The president stood upon the front porch of the white house and greeted the workmen as they passed, having a pleasant word and smile for each. He thanked them in a body for having facilitated by their work the completion of the repairs to the mansion thereby enabling him at once to occupy it.

Corporations Chartered.

Harrisburg, Oct. 31.—Charters were issued by the state department today to the following corporations: The Valley Harp Vain State company, (carbonate) capital \$25,000; Hermance Machine company, Williamsport, capital \$20,000.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER.

Local data for October 31, 1902.

Highest temperature 53 degrees

Lowest temperature 35 degrees

Relative humidity 66 per cent.

8 p. m. 66 per cent.

Precipitation, 24 hours ended 3 p. m., none.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Oct. 31.—Forecast

for Saturday and Sunday: Eastern

and Pennsylvania—Fair Saturday and

Sunday; light variable winds be-

hind the clouds.

CHAIRMAN JONES GIVES IT UP

DO NOT FAVOR ARBITRATION. French Mine Owners Prefer to Deal with Their Men Alone.

Paris, Oct. 31.—At a meeting of the council of ministers today, Premier Combes announced that the reports received from the mine owners showed a disposition to open negotiations with the strikers. This is taken to indicate that the companies have advised the government that they prefer to deal directly with their men instead of accepting general arbitration.

There were two collisions between strikers and cavalry at Mouselx last night. The strikers attacked the headquarters of the coal company there, and were repelled by cavalry. One soldier was wounded.

At Lens, Deputy Basly, head of the national committee of the miners, had an altercation with a gendarme who was guarding a house occupied by non-strikers. The deputy was roughly handled and used his cane on the gendarme. The crowd and other gendarmes joined in the row, but nobody was hurt and no arrests were made.

A clash between strikers and gendarmes is also reported from Louches. St. Etienne, France, Oct. 31.—The managers of certain coal mines where the miners are on strike have written a letter to the director of the department of Loire saying that they consider arbitration premature, as the demands of the strikers have only just been received. The managers say they will submit these demands to their respective boards of directors.

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