

MINER'S BRIEF SUBMITTED

Mitchell Presents Demands and Twenty-three Reasons Why They Should be Granted.

ARGUMENT AGAINST CHILD LABOR

The President of the Mine Workers Asks for Higher Wages and Shorter Hours—A Carefully Prepared Document Transmitted to Operators Through Medium of the Strike Commission—Operators Will Reply in a Few Days.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Hazleton, Pa., Nov. 4.—The statement of the anthracite mine workers' case, which was filed with the strike commission on Sunday night, was made public today. Copies of the statement have been furnished to the operators who will reply in three or four days. The miners' statement in full is as follows:

To the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission: The coal workers make of the operators the following demands, which were formulated by the Shamokin convention held March 15 to 24, and for the enforcement of which the strike was inaugurated.

First. An increase of 20 per cent. upon the prices paid during the year 1901 to employes performing contract or piece work.

This demand is made on account of the following reasons: (1) The present rate of wages is much lower than the rate of wages paid in the bituminous coal fields for substantially similar work.

(2) The present rate of wages is lower than is paid in other occupations requiring equal skill and training.

(3) The average annual earnings in the anthracite coal field are much less than the average annual earnings in the bituminous coal fields for substantially similar work.

(4) The average annual earnings in the anthracite coal fields are much less than the average annual earnings for occupations requiring equal skill and training.

(5) The rate of wages in the anthracite coal fields is insufficient to compensate the mine workers in view of the dangerous character of the occupation in relation to accident, the liability to serious and permanent disease, the high death rate and the short-grade life incident to this employment.

(6) The annual earnings of the mine workers are insufficient to maintain the American standard of living.

(7) The increased cost of living has made it impossible to maintain a fair standard of life upon the basis of present wages, and has not only prevented the mine workers from securing any benefit from increased prosperity, but has made their condition poorer on account of it.

(8) The wages of the anthracite mine workers are so low that their children are prematurely forced into the breakers and mills instead of being supported and educated upon the earnings of their parents.

(9) Wages are below the fair and just earnings of mine workers in this industry. Second—A reduction of 20 per cent in hours of labor without any reduction of earnings for all employes paid by the hour, day or week.

The second demand is similar to the first in that it is designed to increase the hourly rate of wages of mine workers employed by the hour, day or week, and all the reasons applicable to the first demand are asked to be applied to the second with repetition.

Plea for Shorter Hours. In addition thereto, we submit the following: (10) The ten-hour day is detrimental to the health, life, safety and well-being of the mine workers.

(11) Shorter hours improve the physical, mental and moral conditions of the workers.

(12) Shorter hours increase the intensity and efficiency of labor.

(13) The tendency of national and state government, of organized trade and of production generally is toward shorter hours.

(14) A working day of eight hours is sufficiently long for the best interests of the workmen and of the community.

Third—The adoption of a system by which coal shall be weighed and paid for by weight wherever practicable, the minimum rate per ton to be 60 cents for a legal ton of 2,240 pounds, the differentials now existing at the various mines to be maintained. This demand is made on account of the following reasons:

(1) Measurement by the legal ton wherever practicable is the only honest and just system of measuring the earnings of mine workers.

(2) When the operators sell or transport coal it is on the basis of a legal ton of 2,240 pounds.

(3) The excessive ton was originally intended to compensate the operator for the weight of the small sizes of coal which were then discarded, but which are now utilized and sold, and therefore there is no present necessity for the use of any other than the legal ton.

honesty, and would stily jealousy among the miners and prevent unjust discrimination and favoritism.

(4) The change of the present system to the one asked for would prove a strong factor in allaying suspicion and discontent among the mine workers.

Fourth—The incorporation in an agreement between the United Mine Workers of America and the anthracite coal companies of the wages which shall be paid and the conditions of employment which shall obtain, together with satisfactory methods of the adjustment of grievances which may arise from time to time, to the end that strikes and lock-outs may be unnecessary. In support of this demand we submit the following reasons:

(1) The anthracite mine workers should not be compelled to make or sign individual agreements, but should have the right to form such organization and choose such agents and officers as they desire to act collectively instead of individually when they deem that their best interests are subserved thereby.

(2) Agreements between employers and employes through workingmen's organizations are the ordinary method of regulating production and wages in the bituminous coal fields and in other large industries, and are beneficial, successful, and in keeping with the spirit of the times.

(3) Unions of workmen tend to the better betwixt the men and to the improvement of their physical, moral and mental condition, and to the preservation of friendly relations between employer and employe.

(4) Experience shows that the trade agreement is the only effective method by which it is possible to regulate questions arising between employers and employed in large industries, and that a trade agreement is the only possible way to establish the relations between employers and employes through workingmen's organizations on a just and permanent basis, and as far as possible to do away with any causes for the recurrence of such difficulties as those of the anthracite coal strike commission) have been called in to settle. Respectfully submitted,

John Mitchell, Representative of the Anthracite Mine Workers.

FOUR FATAL ACCIDENTS. Occurred in Mines of Wyoming Region Within the Last Twenty-Four Hours.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Wilkes-Barre, Nov. 4.—All the mines in the Wyoming and Lackawanna regions are being worked to their fullest capacity to get coal to the market. Four fatal accidents occurred in the Wyoming region within the past twenty-four hours. James Boyle was killed by a fall of coal in Conyngham mine.

Joseph Matthews was killed by a fall of roof at a mine in Sugar Notch. Two foreigners sustained broken backs by falls.

The Red Ash Coal company's mines, which are operated by an individual company, were in operation today with a full force of men, the first time since the strike. All the old employes, including the steam men were taken back. The output at all the collieries was very heavy today. The miners' demands, as submitted to the investigating commission by President Mitchell, meet with the approval of the great army who were recently on strike.

THE MARKETS.

Scranton Board of Trade Exchange Quotations—All Quotations Based on Par of 100.

Table with columns for Bid and Asked prices for various commodities like Lackawanna Dairy Co., County Bank, etc.

Scranton Wholesale Market. (Corrected by H. G. Dale, 27 Lacka. Ave.)

Butter—Fresh creamery, 25¢; fresh dairy, 24¢.

Buffalo Live Stock Market. East Buffalo, Nov. 4.—Cattle—Receipts, 200; dull and lower.

Chicago Live Stock Market. Chicago, Nov. 4.—Cattle—Receipts, 2,000; including 1,000 western; steady; good to prime steers, \$5.00 to \$5.50.

East Liberty Live Stock. East Liberty, Nov. 4.—Cattle—Steady; choice, \$5.00 to \$5.50; prime, \$4.50 to \$5.00.

SHORT SEA TRIPS. A few days can be pleasantly spent in a trip to Norfolk, Va. Old Point Comfort, Va. Richmond, Va. Washington, D. C.

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The Big Store

Is the center of attraction nowadays. The good new is not all told in this space. It's only a small portion of the many attractive items that can be found under its broad roof.

Beginning today, Nov. 5, from 2 to 4, Miss Clara E. Potter will give lessons in Art Needlework in our Art Department. As an inducement to form the first class, anybody buying merchandise at Art Counter to the amount of \$1.00 will receive their first lesson free.

FREE. FREE. During the month of November, a two-quire box of Paper, embossed with any two or three letter monogram; also two packages of envelopes to match paper.

Silk Waists at \$5.98 Made from the very best of Taffeta Silk. Come in all sizes, stylish, best of work noticed all throughout garment.

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The above are only a few of the many bargains. We invite you to call and examine our goods before buying elsewhere. Make our store your headquarters when shopping and we will be at your command. Remember there is no trouble to show goods and you will surely save money by it.

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