

SENATE SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

(Concluded from Page 3.)

miners would be \$100 a year, but I am not sure of that.

Q. Well, you were testifying that these breaker boys from 12 to 15 years of age ought to earn \$1 a day? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Messenger Boys' Wages.

Q. I asked a messenger boy from the telegraph office, who came here whether he worked eight hours a day and he said he worked ten hours a day, but he said he got and he said thirteen dollars a month. Would you consider that an incident of an improper rate of pay?

A. That is more than the breaker boys get.

Q. Yes, but they do not work every day for ten hours?

A. No, but they live every day. (Laughter.)

Q. Oh? Yes. They live every day, undoubtedly, and we are very glad they do; but the question is, would you have them for living every day when they do not work every day?

A. They must earn their living in the industry when they are employed.

Q. Yes, but they must earn it at an increased cost of the product with which they deal to the poor elsewhere?

A. If the industry did not pay living wages to its employees, then the industry itself is of benefit to the country.

Q. Therefore, you say unless the anthracite industry can pay the wages which you designate as proper in your judgment, it ought to cease.

A. No, I say if it will not pay reasonable living wages, it is not sufficient to educate children and improve citizenship, then it should cease to exist.

Q. Do you know what the average wages of farm laborers in the United States? A. If he works on an ordinary farm, a laborer's pay is from \$18 to \$25 a month, and he works from eight to ten months. He is paid his living in addition to that. I have worked on a farm.

Q. Yes; so have I. (Laughter.) But I never got the wages you indicate. (Laughter.) I only wish that rate of wages had been in force when I was working on a farm. (Laughter.) Do you know of any ordinary laborer who, working ten or twelve hours a day, earns \$100 a year? A. No, sir; I do not.

Q. What do you say the average pay per month and their hours amounts to?

A. As far as my information goes, it varies from \$18 to \$25 a month. Q. Would you be surprised to find that it was below fifty cents a week? A. It would be different from my information; contrary to my information. Q. But you have no idea that the average earnings of a farm laborer in the United States is \$600 a year? A. No, I do not think it is.

Q. You say, then, as the eighth reason, that 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. Do you not know that a great many of these parents are temporary residents here? A. I understand that some of them are.

Q. Ambition of Foreigners.

Q. Do you not know that their ambition is to amass a considerable sum, to them, of money, with which to return home? A. And pursue the object which they utilize the earnings of their children as much as possible? A. I do not know that they ever realize their ambitions.

Q. You also asked for shorter hours of labor. You say that demand is similar to the first, and you say that ten hours a day is detrimental to the health, life, safety and well-being of everybody employed about a mine? A. The work itself is unhealthful, and it is very difficult, and necessarily, the ten-hour work-day is hard for people.

Q. I now ask you, for information you obtained from your associates as to the length of time the contract miner works in the collieries of our two companies.

A. My recollection of the returns from the mines is not sufficiently clear at this time. Q. That is right; that is satisfactory. Now, would you be surprised to learn (reading): "It is strange, but it is a fact nevertheless, that the coal which is good and blows well, it is seldom that a miner, excepting when he has had luck, is found in his working place after 3 o'clock in the morning and after 6 o'clock in the evening." (The speaker looks at the miners' representatives.) A. I do not know what you are quoting from, but that is not correct. Q. You may be sure I am not quoting from any special knowledge. A. I know that it is well known that in connection with contract men, that they start to work earlier than the other workers in the afternoon. Q. You say they start to work earlier than the other workers in the morning and 6 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock in the evening? A. We have records of men going to work as early as 5 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock in the evening.

Q. Would you be surprised, in contradiction of that, to be told by an official authority, not an official authority, that they reach their places of work about 6 o'clock or a little later? A. I should be surprised very much, in view of the information I obtain from the men who do the work.

Q. I ask you this, because from the report of the Bureau of Mines of the state of Pennsylvania, or 1880, an official document which I, with other citizens of Pennsylvania, have been taxed to pay for compiling and publishing, which is under the Illinois law, it is stated that the Pennsylvania Improvement, and is because of the immediate relations to the works of that company, although the language is general, that I have been given in getting this information. A. If you will permit me to say this much in connection with it; that it frequently occurs that a mine is not working, and that an amount of coal to distribute, to furnish each of the miners with cars. Sometimes there may be only two or three cars in a day, and that means that a man means a part of a day's work—he could load more than that; and while his laborer is waiting for the company to deliver the cars to him, he returns to the mine. You will understand that in that event he would not obtain in the whole day more than half a day's wages. Q. But his average would be required to be brought up to this \$100. A. These are exceptions that I speak of.

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Q. This is not an exception. It reads: "It is seldom that a miner, excepting when he has had luck, is found in his working place after 3 o'clock in the morning and after 6 o'clock in the evening." (The speaker looks at the miners' representatives.) A. I should be surprised very much, in view of the information I obtain from the men who do the work.

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A WARNING DANGER!

DANGER lurks in every ache of the back. Don't be deceived by backache. Don't mistake its meaning. Don't fail to realize the serious side of a "bad back."

The pains and aches of a "bad back" are many and varied—sharp stitches—severe twitches—acute twinges of pain—slow exhaustive aches. The back is tired, is lame and weak.

The "danger in it" comes from the kidneys, for most backache pains are but kidney ills. Backache tells of a kidney blockade. The delicate little kidney filters are clogged and warn you through the back. Go to the assistance of the kidneys when they "cry for help." Don't experiment—take

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS

DANGER is near at hand when the kidneys are sick. The urinary discharges tell the kidneys' condition. "A brickdust" like deposit in the urine, or when too highly colored, too frequent in passage, irregular in any way, neglect is serious.

Disorders of the kidneys and bladder call for prompt attention. The early symptoms are but forerunners of dangerous diabetes, hard to shake off—dropsy, which makes an invalid of the most vigorous constitution—Bright's disease, dread destroyer, incurable in advanced stages.

Doan's Kidney Pills act quickly—cure quickly. Don't wait until too late!

SCRANTON PROOF.

HAMPTON STREET.

FILMORE AVENUE.

Mrs. E. Davis, of 218 Hampton street, says: "My kidneys troubled me for three years more or less with sharp shooting pain in the small of my back, less during the day than at night, unless I lifted anything or strained my back or over-exerted myself in doing my housework. I tried many remedies, but all failed, trying to find a comfortable position, and it kept me awake for hours. There was also a kidney weakness which was very annoying and distressing at all times. I became so bad that I could not get to bed for over a week, and had to have a doctor. It was then that I saw Doan's Kidney Pills advertised and so I bought a box and immediately began to take them. I was induced to get them from Matthews Bros. drug store. They proved to be just what I needed and helped me right away. My back was better and stronger than it had been for a long time and the kidney weakness completely disappeared."

Mr. Thomas Dalley, miner, of 121 Filmore avenue, says: "No one knows how much I suffered. I could not lift anything. My back hurt every time I stooped and often it seemed to break in two. I read of a person who lives around here having been cured by taking Doan's Kidney Pills, so I got them at Matthews Bros. drug store. The first box helped me so much I continued the treatment until I had taken six boxes in all. They fixed me up all right and did me an immense amount of good, so that I recommended them to all whom I heard complaining of backache or other kidney troubles."



A FREE TRIAL. We will mail free to any address a trial box of Doan's Kidney Pills. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

tenity and efficiency of labor? A. Yes, sir. Q. Have you had experience to justify that? A. Yes, sir. Q. Have you noticed the publication in today's newspapers in New York of an additional charge of 25 per cent. of the cost of some work there by reason of the reduction of the hours of labor from ten to eight, showing that the increased cost is 25 per cent.? A. I have not seen that. Q. Would you be surprised to learn that employers of labor in very many cases have estimated their loss at as much as 20 per cent. by reason of the reduction of the hours of labor from ten to eight? A. I do not know what the employers have estimated at; I know the experience in coal mining, what effect it has had.

Additional Cost of Work. Q. Do you know what the chief of the bureau of construction in the navy department officially reports as to the additional cost of work in government yards where the eight hours system prevails over the private yards where the ten-hour system prevails? A. No, I do not know. Q. Would you not be surprised to learn that it is 33 per cent.? A. I would not be surprised to learn a considerable difference in any line of employment in the amount paid by the government and some private concern. Q. Nor I. All the same you allude to the action of the government in reducing the hours of labor of its employees as an argument in favor of the reduction of the hours of labor in coal mining? A. Yes, sir. Q. You see that argument is not valid? A. I do not see where there is any comparison between my statement and the fact that the increased cost of government work.

Legal Ton of Coal. Q. Let us clear up this obscurity in it, which appeared to me in your language this morning, or perhaps resulted from my inability to understand what you said. Q. What is a legal ton of coal? A. A legal ton is not every man for every 2240 pounds of coal we can sell—merchandise ton? A. Yes, possibly pay for some 229 pounds, but there are some who do not pay for 200. Q. Some of the merchantable coal. A. Yes, sir; some of merchantable coal. Q. You are saying that you are selling coal below what it costs to produce it, we are substantially giving away our capital, and if we average such wages as we think you will discover when you have the entire tabulation of our collieries before you, ought we also to pay for producing coal which we sell at a loss? A. You ought to pay the miner for every pound of coal that he mines that is marketable. Q. Your next demand is that we should make an agreement with you, representing the United Mine Workers of America; and I wish to ask you if you have prepared a proposed form of agreement, which you ask this commission to compel us to execute? A. No, I have simply suggested my opening address to the commission a form that I thought would be practicable and acceptable to all the interests in this field. Q. That was a form for settlement of disputes. A. Yes, sir.

Foreman's Duty. "The duty of the foreman is primarily to see that all men working under him are in good standing in this society"; the foreman should employ a nonmember becomes immediately responsible for his initiation fee. Should he fail to report a non-member put upon a job, the same penalty applies. But the most grievance which a foreman can commit is in assisting or rushing the men, or similarly "bringing about a condition of affairs that would be detrimental to the members of this society." This, if proved against him, is punishable by a fine, suspension, or at the second offense by degradation to the ranks. It shall not be allowable for members to work singly, and at any part of the trade of plastering where two men can work to advantage. Foremen will be held strictly responsible for the violation of this rule.

Long Question. Q. You think I do. I read it, and it did not seem to me to be such a proposition as we could intelligently discuss. I will read it again, and if it is, I will be glad to discuss it. Now, your reasons in support of that demand that we should make an agreement with you are, first, that they should not be compelled to stand against us; secondly, whenever they deem that their best interests are subserved thereby. As to that, I am in cordial agreement with you. As I stated in the beginning, I have not the slightest desire to interfere with the right of any employee to form an association and to be represented by such of their number and by such outside assistants as they see proper to secure—yourself, or anybody else—to assist them in the adjustment of any grievances of which they complain. Your second reason is that should have the right to form such organizations and choose such agents and officers as they desire, to act collectively against us. Now, I think that they have their best interests as subserved thereby. As to that, I am in cordial agreement with you. As I stated in the beginning, I have not the slightest desire to interfere with the right of any employee to form an association and to be represented by such of their number and by such outside assistants as they see proper to secure—yourself, or anybody else—to assist them in the adjustment of any grievances of which they complain. Your second reason is that should have the right to form such organizations and choose such agents and officers as they desire, to act collectively against us. Now, I think that they have their best interests as subserved thereby. As to that, I am in cordial agreement with you. As I stated in the beginning, I have not the slightest desire to interfere with the right of any employee to form an association and to be represented by such of their number and by such outside assistants as they see proper to secure—yourself, or anybody else—to assist them in the adjustment of any grievances of which they complain.

There has been differences between the miners and the operators locally on rare occasions on account of other matters, but they have always been adjusted amicably. Q. And those were rare occasions, say so? A. Yes, sir. Q. And were slight matters? A. Very few serious differences. Q. Not going at all to the effective working of the mines, or the discipline of them? A. I think that the discipline in the mines has been very satisfactory in the past. Q. In what states have these agreements been most successfully carried out, in your judgment? A. They have been carried out in many states, but more successful, because they have been more complete, in the states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. I think there they have been more complete. Q. Would you be surprised to learn that the bituminous operators or a considerable number of them reported that as a result of these agreements, so far from any improvement being noticeable in consequence of them (reading): "On the bituminous coal fields of the state and the burden of their testimony is that there is no improvement in the methods of mining, and consequently no decrease in the proportion of fine coal and no improvement whatever in the quality of the lump coal. Things have grown worse instead of better. Would you be surprised at such a statement as that from one of the best states, one of the states you have named as the best. Would you be surprised to learn that a considerable body of the bituminous coal operators in the state of Illinois made that statement?"

Q. No, I would not be surprised that they made the statement, for I can explain the conditions under which they made it. Q. I wish you would? A. I understand that they were about to enter upon a strike, and that in view of which they were going to ask for changes in their prices, and were preparing an argument in favor of a change in conditions before the inferior quality of coal produced in the year of the room laughed at. Q. They were men that worked more than three hours, Mr. MacVeagh. Q. Mine inspection bureau reports in Illinois are very good; mine inspection reports in Pennsylvania are worthless. Now would you be surprised to learn that these operators declare: "In the short time that is still the same tendency to over-shoot the coal that prevailed under our previous agreements. You need not be reminded that the operators complain of this excessive use of powder at our several state conventions, and in all of our joint meetings that have taken place since the interstate movement was inaugurated. In many instances the reports to this office show clearly that large consumers of coal have complained as never before of the inferior quality of coal produced in the state of Illinois."

Q. Would you be surprised to learn that your commissioner said: "I have never visited every coal district in the state, and while there is less friction than formerly prevailed between the coal operators and coal miners, and while I am satisfied that the relations between the employer and employe are more cordial than ever before, still I find that everywhere the complaint is made that the quality of coal produced under the mine run system has steadily deteriorated. At the coal produced under the mine run system the coal operators of the state were assured that the mine run system would make better miners, which would result in a better quality of coal being produced. I sincerely regret to say that this promise has not been fulfilled as the results conclusively prove for no one can dispute the fact, whether on the side of the operators or miners, that the quality of coal produced in the time that occurred in a better quality of coal being produced. 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