

COMMISSIONERS HEAR MORE FROM MINERS

(Continued from Page 1.)

The Cox brothers told that he had to work twenty-four hours every second Sunday. Questioning on the part of the commissioners developed the fact that on the intervening Sunday he had twenty-four hours off, and that three men worked with him, so that it was fair to infer he caught a little nap, at least on the long Sunday.

An Interesting Story.
Rev. J. V. Hussie, rector of St. Gabriel's church at Hazleton, was one of the afternoon witnesses and told an interesting story of conditions in the Hazleton region. He was cross-examined by Attorney John T. Lenahan on the treatment of non-union men and strike violence generally. The witness contended that there was very little disorder in Hazleton during the strike, and what little occurred was grossly exaggerated in the newspapers.

Attorneys Darrow, McCarthy and James Lenahan did the examining for the miners' side. President Mitchell, sitting convenient to the lawyers, coached them constantly and twice, with permission of the commission, made explanations of matters under discussion, upon which was more competent to speak than either the witnesses or the attorneys.

Mrs. Clark, wife of Commissioner Clark, and Mrs. George Fowler, daughter of ex-Superintendent Garret Bogert of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western company, were among the ladies who watched the proceedings during the morning.

An amusing incident took place towards the close of the afternoon session. Andrew Matti, a Slav, who is one of the board members in the Hazleton district, was on the stand in the morning and told of having been engaged by a "boss" of Cox Bros. & Co. to import men from the old country. It was noticed by the miners' attorneys that the commission was apparently very much interested in this matter, and when they got to talking it over during the noon recess came to the conclusion to give the commission some more of it.

Accordingly, Matti was recalled and led by questions from Mr. Darrow, told all the details of the importations, including how he was paid money by the mine boss to perform this work. The commissioners were listening eagerly to the recital and asking quite a few questions. Suddenly Judge Gray said: "By the way, when did this happen?" The whole assemblage, commissioners, miners' representatives and all fairly roared with laughter when the witness answered, "Seventeen years ago."

First Witness.
Matti was the first witness of the day. He was called to the stand by Mr. Darrow immediately upon the opening of the morning session. He was a former miner at the Prospect colliery of Cox Bros. & Co. and holds the position of district vice president of the union. He told of being discriminated against because of being prominent in the union and how he lost a good job for the same reason. He was earning \$19 a week, he said, and this was as high as any other man at the mine. He never had more than \$20 together at one time that he could call his own, although he worked every day he was given opportunity to work.

When asked if he knew anything about operators bringing his countrymen, Slavonians, here to work in the mines, he said he, himself, had brought many of them over at the behest of the mine boss.

Like the witness of the day before, Matti told that he never saw the mine inspector in his "breast" but once and then he was being escorted by the mine boss.

employee of Cox Bros. & Co. was the next witness. He told that his wages ranged from \$80 for two weeks to \$15 less than nothing. This last condition, it was explained, resulted from seductions for powder, etc., while he was cutting coal which could not be loaded within the same two weeks that it was cut.

Rather a Homebody.
He worked twenty-two years for the Coxes, and never in that time was out of Luzerne county except to take a run down to Allentown during the strike. He was never able to save any money. He told that it was his invariable experience that when he went to a boss to make a complaint he was told that if he didn't like it he could get out. Practically similar testimony was given by John Farrell, an Italian, who came from the Alps, and who has been working for Cox Bros. & Co. for twelve years. He is vice-president of the local and is one of the men turned out of the company houses and refused re-employment at the end of the strike because of his connection with the union.

He was told it was because he "chased men from work" that he would not be re-employed. Judge Gray asked him if it was true he had chased men away from work. The witness said he had only "advised" them to stay home.

Just before the strike, the witness said, he had a good place and could earn \$1.90 a day if he worked hard. He started saving \$10 something "for a rainy day," in 1885, and at the beginning of the last strike had amassed \$60. In telling of the extent to which dockage is carried, he stated that once he sent out fourteen cars and they were docked 25 per cent. At that, President Crawford, of the People's Coal company, asked the witness how many cars he filled from the fourteen when they were "picked" over. The witness said twelve. "Then you sent out two cars of dirt?" said Mr. Crawford. The witness did not reply.

Timothy Maloney, secretary of the Oneida local, was the next witness. He is also one of the men turned out of a company house and refused re-employment. He was working as a footman at the Oneida for ten years prior to the strike and earned \$9 a week. His father had to quit work in the mines three years ago on account of asthma.

The witness identified a notice posted by Cox Bros. & Co. in the latter part of last September, in which warning was given that discharge would be the penalty on any employee who "by intimidation or moral persuasion" attempted to induce any other employee to join or leave any society or union, or refused to work with any fellow-laborer because of his being a member of any society or union. The notice was offered in evidence.

Lenahan Takes a Hand.
The witness was then cross-examined by John T. Lenahan, representing the non-union men. Mr. Lenahan brought out the fact that employees of the Cox Bros. & Co. railroad had been attacked by mobs during the strike, and then asked the witness if he did not lead these mobs on two different occasions. The witness denied the allegation contained in Mr. Lenahan's question, and further denied having participated in any strike violence.

Attorney Reynolds brought from the witness an admission that he left his job two days before the strike was declared, and that when he was dispossessed of the company house he was owing four months' rent. Mr. Darrow brought out that the notice ordering him to quit the company house contained no demand for or mention of rent, and that it was not infrequent for him to be in arrears.

Hugh Boyle, a miner's laborer, of Nuremberg, employed by Cox Bros. & Co., corroborated the preceding witness on matters pertaining to general conditions and told, besides, that as a laborer for a miner he was paid \$1.94, while as a laborer for the company he would be paid only \$1.22.

The testimony of the morning session closed with this witness. The first witness of the afternoon was W. H. Dettrey, board member of the Hazleton district, who was on the stand the day before. He was recalled to be examined more particularly regarding the strike at the Cox Bros. & Co. colliery.

he has spent his whole life with the exception of a few years in the coal regions. His parish is composed of 700 families and ninety per cent. of the men are mine workers. He is frequently at the homes of miners and knows their conditions and mode of living.

The Fourth legislative district, of which Hazleton is a part, contains 3,000 total abstainers, one half of them adult men. Every member of his congregation took the total abstinence pledge the first Sunday of the strike. Drinking was at its minimum among his people during the strike, and he only saw five drunken men in Hazleton during the five months the strike was on.

Conditions among the miners of the Hazleton region, he said, were truly deplorable. They are barely able to exist. He had been in other places where he saw conditions, which, he thought, were deplorable, but no place he had ever been could compare with Hazleton in this respect.

Can't Be Called Homes.
The homes can not properly be called homes. They are habitations. The miners, he said, are frugal, conservative men, reasonable in their demands and that they are a God-fearing people is attested by the fact that in the city of Hazleton there are eight Roman Catholic churches, to say nothing of the churches of other faiths, all of them are crowded every Sunday.

He has found that in sickness the miner is scarcely able to pay for attendance and medicines and a death means a long-standing debt. One frugal German miner told the witness that he was six weeks in a debt of \$200 contracted for a funeral.

The witness told, incidentally, that G. B. Markle & Co. maintain a burial fund for their employees. He commended the company for this very humane action. Because of the poor wages received by the head of the household it is impossible to keep the families together. Girls leave home as soon as they are able to work, some of them going to other places to live as servants, and many of them going into the silk mills where they make something about 40c into the breaker as soon as they are able to toddle out of the house. The average age at which miners' children leave school, the witness said, is a little over eleven years.

During the last strike there was great privation among the miners, he said, but not a single instance where a striker wanted to return to work until the union decreed he should return. Out of fifty or sixty men of whom he made inquiries, he found only three who had money saved. One made it in Scotland, another made it in Australia, and the third inherited it.

He examined the list of taxables in the city of Hazleton and found that out of 1,723 persons on the list there were only eighty miners assessed as owners of homes. Seventy per cent. of the population of Hazleton, he said, is made up of miners and their dependents.

There was no considerable feeling or excitement in Hazleton during the strike, the witness asserted. It was, on the contrary, remarkably quiet. He had presented as a citizen in a letter to the public, against the stories sent out regarding disorder in his city. The newspaper reports were grossly exaggerated. One morning he read an account of a man being attacked by strikers on the streets of Hazleton. A alongside of it was a story to the effect that the chief of police declared there were fewer arrests and less drunkenness in Hazleton during that month than in any month of the preceding year.

Considered Conservative.
He did not know any of the mine workers' officials personally except District President Duffy and he considered him a very conservative man. The sending of the military to Hazleton, the witness declared, was wholly uncalled for. Their arrival was a big surprise to the people of the town. There had been no call for them by the citizens and absolutely no occasion for their coming.

On cross-examination, Mr. Lenahan related a series of strike disorders, including the dynamiting of the home of a non-union man; an attack on a car conveying non-union men through Hazleton; and the mobbing of the crew of a railroad train on the Cox Bros. & Co. road at Drifton, and asked the witness if he had heard of these things.

The witness had heard of some of them through the newspapers. Some of the reports he knew were exaggerated. Others he knew something about, but was ready to believe the newspaper reports of them were exaggerated. The witness admitted he knew that Sheriff Jacobs, of Luzerne county, resides in Hazleton and that it was he who called out the troops, but denied all knowledge of the night of tumult in and around Hazleton, with mobs menacing miners and workmen at Hazle and Foster, that the sheriff made the requisition on the governor.

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- Gypsy Ring, 1 diamond and two rubies, 14-Kt. 24
- Tiffany Ring, 5-Kt. 15
- Tiffany Ring, 10-Kt. 25
- Tiffany Ring, 15-Kt. 45
- Tiffany Ring, 18-Kt. 65
- Ear Screws, 2-Kt. 40
- Ear Screws, 10-Kt. 70
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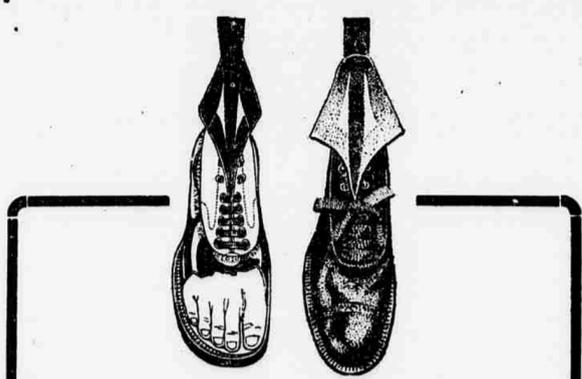
high last night. Attorney MacVeagh emphatically declared to a number of newspapermen that the negotiations are still on and that there is something doing. Mr. Mitchell, Mr. MacVeagh, Mr. Willcox, Mr. Darrow, Mr. Murphy and a number of other representatives of the two principal parties went up stairs in the elevator about the same time last night, but none of them would admit they had a meeting. Mr. MacVeagh came down stairs and sent some telegrams and soon afterwards some of the others came down in ones or twos.

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Recognizing the widespread interest taken all over the country in the testimony and arguments before the Anthracite Strike Commission, The Tribune will print in convenient book form the reports appearing in its columns from day to day, and will offer a limited edition of copies for sale at \$1 each. The volume will consist of several hundred pages, eight by eleven inches, and will appear as soon as the commissioners render their decision. The daily reports in The Tribune miss nothing of essential interest and are the fullest and most accurate reports printed in any newspaper. Orders should be sent to The Tribune now as the edition is liable to be exhausted.

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