

ONE MORE WITNESS ON THE MINERS' SIDE

(Continued from Page 1.)

loss was in novice before the commission, and reminded the commission of a decision it had made that the ability of the employer to pay was no just criterion of the wages a man shall receive for his labor.

One of the miners' witnesses yesterday was Rev. Thomas H. Watkins, the labor candidate for recorder. He, with a number of other Delaware, Lackawanna and Western men, told about the formation of the Lackawanna union.

The stories of the little daughters of miners, who work in the silk mills, were truly pitiful, but, if Judge Gray's sentiments can be taken as a criterion of how the commission was impressed by their recitals, the coal companies, in the commissioners' minds, are not the culpable parties.

The first of these witnesses was Theresa McDermott, aged 11, whose father, Michael McDermott, works for the New Ave. Co. She works in a Dunmore silk mill from 7 in the morning until 6 in the evening, is on her feet all the time and receives \$2 a week.

"It is very creditable to her father that he is going to take her out of the mill," said Judge Gray.

Anna Danko, 14 years of age, a Dunmore girl, works in a silk mill from 6.30 in the evening until 6.30 in the morning, with only half an hour at midnight for rest and lunch.

"Who wrote the note, Tommie?" "I did," said the lad, laughing.

"And who signed it?" asked the judge. "Mother did," replied the boy.

"Well, I suppose she had to," said the judge. "She probably needs the money."

"On the opening of the afternoon session, Judge Gray asked for the name and address of the factory inspector. Major Warren informed him that the inspector is Earl E. Bishop, of Dunmore.

"Mr. Recorder," said the judge, "take that down, and when the inspector is visiting him to come before the commission, and tell what he knows about these apparent violations of the child labor law."

More witnesses from the Philadelphia and Reading collieries were called and examined by Congressman Charles Brumm, of Minersville, who was called in specially by the miners to assist in the examination of the witnesses from this region.

John Kluenski, of Good Spring colliery, complained that the company rescinded a pillar robbing contract because he was making too much money and that he was later discharged.

John Carr, of Ashland, a driver at the Lehigh colliery, complained that he was discharged since the strike because he refused to tend to two gangways instead of one as heretofore.

John Schlotman, from the Good Spring colliery, complained he and his boys were not re-employed and that they were never worked at the colliery before, have been put in their places.

Charles Burke, from the St. Nicholas colliery, near Mahanoy City, told of a lower wage being paid at his colliery than at surrounding collieries for building a battery.

Anthony Shamus, check weighman at the Clifford colliery in Forest City, testified that twenty-nine hundred weight or 2,248 pounds are required for a ton at this colliery.

"Yes, he is my step-father, not my father," said the little girl.

"I thought as much," remarked the judge.

Mr. Darrow tried to mollify things by having the little girl tell that the house is not paid for. The little girl thought it was not all paid for.

Judge Gray inquired if there was any law in this state forbidding children from working nights. Nobody could answer him.

"I guess the statutes relative to child labor are not much better than dead letters in the coal regions," said the judge half inquiringly.

The judge spent a little time looking over the statutes, which he keeps before him, and found a law prescribing that minors between the ages of thirteen and sixteen shall not work more than six months in any one calendar year.

There was no response. It was evidently news to the lawyers.

During the noon recess, Major Warren made an investigation of the Pennsylvania Coal company's statistics and found that the father of three of the little girls had earned wages in 1901 as follows: John Danko, \$324.26, for eight and a half months' work; Peter Sisack, \$1,121.05 for twelve months, and William Huser, \$416.28 for five and a half months.

The statistics of the Nay Aug Coal company show that the father of the McDermott girl earned \$375.02 in the six months he worked for that company in 1901 and that his earnings for the fifteen days he worked since the strike were \$98.21.

Thomas William, a 14-year-old slate picker, employed by the Red Ash Coal company at Reno, Schuylkill county, told that he works for \$4.75 a week and that his ten-year-old brother works for \$4 a week.

"There is a case," said Judge Gray, "where a poor woman very likely is compelled to have her babes earn for her."

"The little fellow was asked by Judge Gray how it came that his ten-year-old brother was working when the law prescribes that no one under twelve years of age shall be employed in the breaker.

"He got a note to the boss," said the boy.

"Yes, so I supposed," said the judge. "Who wrote the note, Tommie?"

"I did," said the lad, laughing.

"And who signed it?" asked the judge. "Mother did," replied the boy.

"Well, I suppose she had to," said the judge. "She probably needs the money."

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to testify, today, regarding wages paid to various classes of workmen throughout the United States.

The remaining evidence to be presented, Mr. Darrow explained, consisted of excerpts from various publications to show a combination between coal carrying roads and coal mining companies; consolidations between competing companies, and the existence of a practical monopoly of the coal business.

After a lengthy discussion as to the relevancy of the testimony it was proposed to present regarding alleged combinations, discriminations and exorbitant rates, it was announced by Judge Gray that while the commission felt it was called upon to make a ruling on these matters, it would hear what it was proposed to offer.

Henry D. Lloyd, who presented the evidence, was called upon to give an outline of what would be offered.

He said it pertained to the causes, character and results of combinations of capital and combinations of labor in the coal regions; the profits of coal mining; discriminations in freight rates; the economical, political and social consequences of the combinations.

Attorneys Torrey, Wolverton, Warren and Hand in turn objected to numbering the record with what Mr. Lloyd had to offer. Judge Gray could not see the relevancy of it.

A lengthy discussion as to the admission of this testimony was cut short by Judge Gray remarking: "Go ahead, Mr. Lloyd, we might as well spend two hours receiving the evidence as in discussing whether or not we will receive it."

After Mr. Lloyd had proceeded for an hour and a half with his reading, he reached the matter of freight rates and profits. Mr. Wolverton again objected, saying this testimony was wholly irrelevant and other combing the commission wants in the way of information can be predicated on the proffered testimony.

Twenty Years' Work. "How long has it taken you to gather all that data?" inquired General Wilson, looking up from a letter he was writing and letting his gaze fall upon the stack of books and papers in front of Mr. Lloyd.

"Twenty years," proudly replied the eminent sociologist.

"Well, we haven't that much time to look it over, Mr. Lloyd," said the general, as he resumed his letter writing.

Judge Gray said he thought the Lloyd data was wholly outside the scope of the present inquiry.

"We are going to assume," Judge Gray added, "that the operators are able to pay fair wages."

This, Mr. Darrow said, was satisfactory to his side.

During his hour and a half of reading, Mr. Lloyd presented the findings of various legislative and other commissions and the utterances of Poor's Manual and the Commercial and Financial Chronicle on alleged combinations of railroads, their identity of interests as shown by common directors, joint acquisition of the Pennsylvania company, joint resistance to the independents' proposed new road to tide-water, admissions of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western company's annual report that "concentration" of coal interests had materially bettered the local business, and acquisitions of small companies by the big ones.

He had just completed the first part of his showing that exorbitant rates are charged for hard coal, as compared with other commodities, when the interruption came. It was 5.45 o'clock before Mr. Lloyd was halted and adjournment had.

Man in His Place. P. O. Malley, a fireman at the Forest City colliery of the Erie company, also complained of not being taken back after the strike.

John Carr, of Ashland, a driver at the Lehigh colliery, complained that he was discharged since the strike because he refused to tend to two gangways instead of one as heretofore.

John Schlotman, from the Good Spring colliery, complained he and his boys were not re-employed and that they were never worked at the colliery before, have been put in their places.

Charles Burke, from the St. Nicholas colliery, near Mahanoy City, told of a lower wage being paid at his colliery than at surrounding collieries for building a battery.

GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR. The Coming Event, Christmas Thoughts of Gift-Giving. It has been said that "Coming events cast their shadows before," but the coming of this event—Christmas—dispels the shadows and casts a ray of brightness over the human family that gladdens the hearts of young and old.

Fancy Goods, Aluminum Goods, Miscellaneous Suggestions, Men's Furnishing Stock, At the Art Counter, Raphael Tuck's Beautiful Calendars, Handkerchief and Lace Counter, At the Fur Counter, Sterling Silver Novelties, Leather Goods.

Extra Salespeople preclude the possibility of delays. Ordinarily the mere announcement of anything in the way of extra value here meets with acceptance. Though for those disposed to think that as good can be found elsewhere, we say: "Get Posted."

How about a fancy or white vest? It makes quite a sensible present. In the last few days some very swell vest patterns have arrived here. Black and colored grounds with white pattern effects. Don't you think such a present would be pleasing? Just now Fancy Vests are included in every wardrobe of the stylish dresser; he appreciates the fact that it tones up his appearance.

White Vests. Cheviot and Basket Weave is the popular White Vest this season. You'll find it the largest with prices consistent, from \$1.00 to \$3.00. Samter Brothers, Complete Outfitters.