

reclaim a small part of what rightfully belonged to them. This pleasant dream was only broken by a realization that they were almost destitute, and that he must have work of some kind. "Nothing to do but 'scab,'" he said half aloud, as he thought of the thousands of idle men walking the streets and asking for work. Tom left the house and started toward No. 7, as the Mud Creek colliery was usually called.

Tom was not at ease. First he cursed the companies for having robbed his unsuspecting father. Then he cursed the union which forbade all men to work. He hated the companies for personal reasons. But he hated the union because they made thousands of homes as destitute as his own. "'Scab' or no 'scab,'" he said, "this is a free country."

It was near night when Tom returned and walked into the kitchen where Bertha was preparing supper. He had been to see Mr Conrad, the superintendent of No. 7, and had hired out to run a pump, in spite of what might happen. Bertha feared and objected, but Tom was immovable, and, finally, Bertha reluctantly consented to fill a pail with the best eatables that the house afforded. Tom kissed his mother and Bertha good night, and went out to be hissed and jeered as a "scab."

Tom was not yet at rest. He was a "scab" helping the very company that he had reasons for hating. But bitter as was his hatred to the companies, he hated much more that organization of men who were neither willing to work nor let any one else work, and who threatened life and property if their demands were not granted.

Time went on and Tom was changed to the day shift so that he might spend the nights at home. As yet No. 7 had been unmolested by the strikers, possibly because by position it was less conspicuous, or possibly because as yet there were collieries in the city that still worked a force of non-union men. But now something was to be expected. All the other mines had been forced to shut down, and the attention of the strikers was more particularly drawn toward the defiant No. 7. All possible precautions had already been taken. The colliery was surrounded by a