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The Biggest Stock of High Class Goods

in this line shown in this county, we shall be glad to show you anything you desire to see and quote you matchless

Money-Saving Prices.

We also give prompt and skillfull attention to UNDERTAKING AND EMBALMING.

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This large and pushing establishment sells at wholesale to 90 town and country merchants in this and adjoining counties. Its wholesale trade extends into Maryland and West Virginia. We are at all times prepared to compete in prices with the city markets.

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Chas. H. Fisher.

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THE LEADING GROCERY.

Space is too limited to enumerate all my bargains here, Call and be convinced that I sell the best of goods at the lowest living prices. My business has grown wonderfully in the past few years, for which I heartily thank the good people of Salisbury and vicinity and shall try harder than ever to merit your future patronage. Respectfully,

J. T. JEFFERY,

Opposite Postoffice, Grant Street.

ALSO REMEMBER THAT J. T. Jeffery is agent for the CONNELLSVILLE STEAM LAUNDRY and sends laundry away every Tuesday.

IN THE KOONTZ BUILDING!

Having some time ago purchased the Koontz property, all those interested in Monumental work will find me in what was once known as

THE KOONTZ MARBLE WORKS.

I am prepared as never before to offer to all those in need of Monumental work, from small Headstones to Granite Monuments.

PRICES HERETOFORE UNHEARD OF.

None but the best of Marble and Granite, and workmanship the finest. I make Granite work a specialty. You will be surprised at my prices. Call and see me.

ALBERT I. HILLEGASS, Pa.

THE ELK LICK MINING TROUBLE.

Things Pertaining to Mines, Miners and Mining.

The Strike as Viewed by "The Star" and the General Public.

Some Things That Should be Pondered Over and Inquired Into.

You who have never mined coal and know little about mines and mining, and who sit by your pleasant firesides evening after evening, know of course that coal is a great blessing to mankind. No doubt you have often, while sitting in the glare of your cheerful fires, thought of the many uses to which coal is put to serve mankind; how it keeps you from suffering cold; how it keeps in motion the rumbling wheels of factories and mills; how it feeds the iron horse and enables the commerce of your country to spread from ocean to ocean; how it enables the large ocean steamships to help in carrying on the commerce and traffic of the entire world; how it aids in making electric light cheap and abundant, and how it is mankind's slave in a legion of ways and serves its master well. No doubt you have often wondered how we could get along without coal; but have you ever thought of the poor men who delve in the bowels of the earth, toiling and sweating, and risking their lives that this useful commodity may be brought from its dark and dismal hiding place to the outside world, where it can be put to the legion of uses for which the Creator intended it?

It is said that the pen is more mighty than the sword, and so it is; and it can also be truthfully said that the men who risk life and limb at mining coal are greater heroes than the victors of great battles, than the conquerors of nations. If no one would sacrifice his health and risk his life in a coal mine, of what benefit to mankind would coal be?

That you may think of these things and learn to appreciate the miner as well as the coal he mines, we will tell you of some things that perhaps you have never thought of or even dreamed of.

When a coal miner bids his loved ones adieu in the morning and goes to his work, he knows not whether he will come home a living man or a mangled corpse. True, life is uncertain at best, but there are few occupations so hazardous as that of the coal miner. Aside from the danger of being crushed under falling rock or coal, he must breathe into his lungs foul and poisonous air, offensive powder smoke and coal dust. In many cases he must also work in water where he is chilled to the bone, day in and day out, and thereby shorten his life and be a broken down man in many cases when he should be in his prime. Look about you and see the many examples for yourself.

Now, all fair-minded persons will agree that men following such a dangerous occupation should be well paid. But are they well paid? Most of us know that as a rule they are not. In fact the instances are numerous in which they are grudgingly paid a mere pittance, often not as much as a county allowance for the maintenance of a pauper at a county almshouse, and at present there are such instances right here in the rich Elk Lick coal region. Here where there should be nothing but peace, prosperity and happy homes, there are many men who have starvation, want and desolation staring them and their families in the face.

THE CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE.

Some time ago the Merchant Coal Company, a corporation of Baltimore capitalists who are operating several coal mines in this region, installed in their mines a number of mining machines. When these machines were introduced here, we were told that the object in introducing them was to make the work easier for the miners, and at the same time increase the output of the mines. But it now seems that the machines were put in for the purpose of reducing the miners' wages to a mere pittance, degrade labor and thereby more rapidly enrich the said coal company. We infer this from the fact that no sooner than the machines had fairly been put in operation, the said coal company cut the miners' wages from 40 to 20 cents per ton.

The miners having had a trial at working after the machines soon discovered that they could load but very little more coal by machine aid than

without it, and that the amount of pick work and hard labor was lessened but little. And from what we have learned about these machines from reliable sources, and from what we have learned about mining coal by actual experience, we are thoroughly satisfied that the miners are in the right. We feel safe in saying that at the price offered, 20 cents per ton, no miner can pay his debts and make as comfortable a living as a well fed dog enjoys. We do not dispute that a miner might be able to feed and clothe himself and family well at that price, had he a cast-iron constitution, never get sick, hurt or killed, all the work he could do every day, no doctor bills, house rent, fuel, oil, powder, tools and other miners' supplies to pay for, etc., but such is never the case.

THE MINERS' STRIKE.

Seeing that the company was inclined to pay no more than 20 cents per ton, the miners quit work, but offered to fairly compromise matters and work for 30 cents per ton after the machines. This offer was rejected by the company, and the strikers were soon ordered to take out their tools, which they did, as any other manly men would have done.

The company's next move was to break the strike by importing what is commonly called scab labor, and judging from the kind of semi-brute trash that has lately been dumped into this community, the name is a very appropriate one, for they appear as scabs on the face of decency, as warts on the face of humanity.

The first lot of men imported were from West Virginia and Maryland, but these came on one train and departed on the next, saying they were no scabs and were brought here under misrepresentation by the company and its agents. These men were civilized, and like our native miners, refused to be enslaved and degraded to the level of the brute creation. Thus the first battle was won by the miners, and the whole community, farmers, business men, preachers and everybody else rejoiced.

THE COMPANY'S NEXT MOVE.

Smarting under disappointment, the company sent out agents to look for other men, and it was not long until a cargo of the desired rubbish arrived. Since that cargo was landed several other fresh lots of the same kind of stale goods have arrived, and we now have the disgusting spectacle of seeing probably 30 or 40 ignorant and undesirable foreigners quartered in the company's horse stable, where they eat, sleep and live after the manner of dogs in a dog kennel. And to top off the outrage, they are guarded by our county sheriff and a posse of

ARMED DEPUTIES.

And what need is there of the sheriff and these armed deputies to be at the mines? There is no need for them to be there, for there has been no rioting, no property destroyed and no attempt has been made to destroy property or to do personal violence to anyone. To the credit of the strikers it must be said that they have from the start been orderly, peaceable and law-abiding, and so they will remain, unless driven to desperation and violence by the pangs of hunger and want, which we hope will not come to pass.

In an interview with the sheriff on Monday, we asked him whether he was there because he wanted to be or because he had to be there. He replied with a sorrowful countenance that it was because he had to be there, whereupon he produced two sworn statements which he claimed compelled him under the laws of our state to be on hand, saying he was so advised by his attorney, John R. Scott, Esq. of Somerset. The two legal documents or sworn statements were in substance as follows:

Thomas T. Boswell, president of the company, swore to a statement made before a justice of the peace that one Flickinger and others had threatened to do personal violence to his employees. The other document was a warrant sworn out by Supt. Garrett, before a justice of the peace, in which he alleges that one Louis Fuller had threatened to do him personal violence. And these documents constitute the authority under which Sheriff Hartzell and his deputies are acting upon advice of "Johnny" Scott. Great Scott!

At the time, we had an idea that by placing such documents in the hands of the sheriff he would be obliged to act; but upon careful deliberation and consulting good legal authority, we have changed our mind, although the sheriff may be sincere. We shall not say that he is not sincere, for we do not know, and we are willing to give him the benefit of all doubts. We do not wish to speak harshly of Sheriff Hartzell, for he has favored the editor in times past, although not any more than the editor has favored him, so there are no obli-

gations due either way. But those deputies of his—they are a hard-looking lot, and it is our opinion that they are as hard as they look and as cowardly as they are hard-looking. We didn't see one of them that we would fear in open daylight, armed or unarmed, and we didn't see one that we would want to be associated with. In our opinion they have bad-looking faces, and as we told the sheriff and Supt. Garrett, we don't like them. Who would? One of them at least, McDowell, by name, has been trying his best to foment trouble with the strikers, by cursing and otherwise insulting them when passing near the company's ground, and to the credit of the sheriff it must be said that he compelled the vile coward to shut his vile mouth and not cause trouble with the strikers. This we have from the sheriff himself, the superintendent, some of the strikers and some of those important and pious looking deputies.

WHO PAYS THE FREIGHT?

In other words, who is to pay for the services of the sheriff and those slimy deputies? We hope the tax-payers of the county will not be compelled to foot this useless expense, and if it comes to that, THE STAR for one will enter a vigorous protest. Things have come to a pretty pass, indeed, when a man can get a sheriff and posse to guard his person and property on account of a few alleged fool threats. Could a farmer secure a sheriff and posse to guard his person and property, if another man was heard to threaten to kill him and burn his barn? No. He would be told by any lawyer to go and swear out a warrant for the arrest of the man who made the threat, have him bound over to court for surety of the peace and give bond for his good behavior. But then perhaps a Baltimore coal operator has more law and privilege in Somerset county than a Somerset county farmer has.

SOME PEOPLE ARE TOO TIMID.

Some people are too easily scared, especially when they want to make the miners dance and see a possible chance to make the county pay the fiddler. That's the way it looks to THE STAR, and we believe THE STAR is right.

We sympathize most deeply with the strikers, for we feel that they are being grievously wronged by the Merchant Company, and if their demand, which we consider as just a demand as ever was made, is not granted, then this whole community must suffer business depression, and our fair valley here will be over-run with an undesirable and ignorant foreign element to terrorize the community; honest labor will be degraded, and there will be other evils thrust upon us too numerous to mention. The Merchant Coal Company may have a legal right to bring such an affliction upon this community, but they certainly have no moral right to do so.

We hope the company will see that they are wrong, and that they will concede to the miners' modest demand. Is it not enough that these men dig hundreds of tons of coal annually which the mine operators do not pay for at all? By this we have reference to the overweight on cars, every pound of which the operators get market price for from the consumers. And is it not enough that these men have been spending the bulk of their wages at the company's store? We can see no occasion for a cut of 50 per cent. in wages, for the mining machines do not aid the miner sufficiently to stand a cut like that. Besides that, if the other operators can pay 40 cents per ton and compete in the markets while having their coal mined the old way, (and they say they can) surely the Merchant Company can pay 30 cents for machine mined coal and compete in the markets. At any rate that looks reasonable.

TWO BIG MASS MEETINGS.

Last Friday, notwithstanding the inclement weather, the strikers marched through Salisbury, headed by the Boynton Cornet Band, with the Stars and Stripes floating over them. There were 160 men in line, and as they marched through town they were cheered on all sides by citizens and business men of the town. In the procession there were some who had been maimed and crippled in the mines; some whose physique showed plainly their broken down constitutions due to their occupation in the mines; boys of tender years who should be in school, but whose poverty compels them to aid their fathers in earning a livelihood in the mines; also some old battle-scarred veterans of the Rebellion, who helped to save their country and free the slaves, but who are now old and feeble, and whose lot is little better than the negroes who were in bondage. It was indeed a pathetic scene to behold these sad-countenanced men trudging along through snow and sleet, many of them poorly clad and poorly shod, and being

pelted by the pitiless rain. Any reasonable man who could stand and watch this sorrowful procession of outraged human beings, and not feel his heart go out in sympathy for them, must have a heart of stone, a soul of iron and a conscience dulled to all sense of honor and justice.

After marching through town, these strikers assembled in the opera house to talk the situation over. Here it was decided to march in a body to the Niverton mines, where mining machines are also responsible for a reduction of 50 per cent. in wages, and try to induce the men employed there to join in the just demand for better wages. We are informed that some of the Niverton men have joined the ranks of the strikers, while others are still at their dishonored posts and afraid to come out and demand justice. To these latter we say, shame! shame!

On Monday there was another mass meeting at Coal Run, and the editor of this paper was there to report the proceedings. It was a large gathering, and there were something like 700 people in attendance by actual count. The strikers were not only there in full force, but there were delegations there from all the mines in the region, as well as many farmers, preachers and business men from Salisbury and Meyersdale, who came to show their sympathy and offer words of encouragement to the strikers. The Salisbury and Boynton cornet bands furnished music for the occasion, and a more orderly and law-abiding body of men were never assembled together. No threats of violence were heard, no intoxicated persons were in the assemblage, and nothing but cool common sense and reason prevailed.

Rev. E. S. Hassler, Norman D. Hay, Ross Seidler and the editor of this paper were chosen as a committee representing the ministry, the farmers and the press, and they were requested to call upon the coal company's officials and use their good offices in behalf of bringing about a settlement of the trouble. We were received with courtesy and respect by Supt. Garrett, and after stating our mission and doing all in our power to show that the whole community is being wronged by the company's policy, Mr. Garrett stated that he is but an employe of the company and has no authority to concede to any demands made by the strikers. He added that Mr. Boswell, the president of the company, had gone to Baltimore, and the only way the strikers could confer with the company would be by sending a committee to Baltimore and meeting them at their office. Later on a request was made to allow a committee of the strikers to confer with the imported men who have taken their places, but this was flatly refused by Supt. Garrett and Sheriff Hartzell, who said that would be contrary to their instructions. Thus the matter ended and the remainder of the time was used by the miners in appointing committees to decide on further proceedings.

Rev. Hassler made a very neat and able speech to the strikers, at their request, and in it he complimented them for their good behavior, expressed his sympathy for them and gave them much wholesome admonition and advice. Several other persons also made short but very appropriate speeches.

CLOSING REMARKS.

It is openly charged that the imported miners are kept well filled all day with liquor, in order to induce them to stick to the job; it is openly charged that one of them who quit the job and went back to the works for something was roughly handled, kicked and beaten by the deputies; it is rumored that they are afflicted with itch and other diseases, and that their equine hotel is little better than a pest house and is a menace to the health of the community.

We do not know whether these charges are true or false, but if they are true, we hope that the human refuse now filling the places of honest American labor will be kept so busy itching and scratching that they will have no time left to dig coal. And we would suggest that these charges be investigated, and if found to be true, that the offenders be punished as the law provides for.

We have now given facts as we have found them, and where only our opinion is given, it is honest opinion, as God is our judge, and we believe we have voiced the sentiment of the entire community. The people are with THE STAR, and when the people are with us, we defy tyranny and oppression.

These are our sentiments; without fear or asking favor, and live or die, sink or swim, survive or perish, we will stand by them through the heavens fall. Anyone differing with our sentiments is invited to use the columns of THE STAR for refutation. We are willing to give all comers a fair show, and we are willing to meet them in public debate, or through the columns of THE STAR. In the meantime the farmers and others who are able to do so are aiding the strikers in trying to keep the wolf from their doors, and they hope to see them win. This is right, and they will be rewarded in the next world, if not in this.