

UNION IS IMPOTENT

United Mine Workers Is Powerless and Its Members Are Completely at the Mercy of the Operators.

Mitchell's Mistaken Policy Responsible for Conditions That Are Causing the Disintegration of a Once Great Labor Body.

At the joint conference between the coal miners and the operators of eastern Pennsylvania...

BY GEORGE H. SHOAP, Staff Correspondent APPEAL TO REASON.

SCRANTON, Pa., Sept. 14.—In setting forth the standing of the United Mine Workers in the anthracite field of Pennsylvania...

They Deify Mitchell.

The necessity of the foregoing explanation will be understood when it is stated that hundreds of men and women throughout the coal fields really believe John Mitchell is inspired of God...

It has been said that John Mitchell is the United Mine Workers of America, and that the organization today exists principally on paper.

For many years the organization has been endeavoring to create a condition under which all contracts with the coal operators would expire simultaneously.

Requires Heroic Effort.

There are 23 districts in the entire organization, having headquarters in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Washington, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama and West Columbia.

where. According to the officers it has been almost impossible to collect this assessment; thousands have fallen away from the movement during that time...

Forced to Borrow.

From good authority it is learned that the national office is financially embarrassed at the present time; that not long ago the sum of \$100,000 was borrowed from the Illinois organization...

More than one official of the organization in the anthracite region has expressed the wish that the check-off system prevailed here.

Boy's Idea of a "Snap"

"Willie, what are you going to be when you grow up?" was a question put to a twelve-year-old boy, recently in Scranton.

When going to be a 'labor czar' replied the boy quickly.

The lad had witnessed the sight of great, brawny, well-dressed organizers sitting around in the corridors of the local hotels with apparently nothing in the world to do except to look pretty and draw pay from some labor organization.

Not Quite a "Snap"

For many years the organization has been endeavoring to create a condition under which all contracts with the coal operators would expire simultaneously.

Was Bitterly Debated.

It would then be possible to precipitate a crisis that would test the effectiveness of trade unionism. If there were anything in the sheer force of economic organization to bring the coal barons to terms, the workers wanted to know it.

Conference Was a Failure.

come to any agreement. It was then that the famous "Ryan resolution" was passed.

On the afternoon of February 12, Delegate W. D. Ryan made a motion that this convention endorse the resolution of the committee in refusing to accept or recommend the acceptance of the proposition submitted by the operators...

Resolution Was Attacked.

This motion was seconded and it carried the convention with the exception of a single vote. Delegate Dolan, from the Pittsburg district, who voted in the negative, came very near being expelled from the convention for daring to cast his ballot in opposition to the Ryan resolution.

Later, while in New York, "by accident" and then "by arrangement," President Mitchell met Francis L. Robbins, with whom he held several conferences.

Agreement Was Renewed.

After the adoption of the Perry resolution the officers and representatives of the organization opened negotiations with the operators in the bituminous fields, looking to a settlement; where no settlement could be effected, strikes were called.

New Resolution Adopted.

By motion, the following, known as the "Perry resolution," was adopted:

WHEREAS, The operators of the central competitive coal districts, as a whole, have entered into a contract with the 1903 mining and day work...

Was Bitterly Debated.

The debate that followed the introduction of this resolution was long and stormy. In opposing it, Delegate Savage, of Ohio, said:

I believe the proper policy for us to pursue is to stand together now, instead of now the time has come when each district should make its own arrangements for its own protection.

Perry's Peculiar Defense.

lege of operating their mines, you certainly cannot expect to remain that sympathetic.

Mitchell Makes Argument.

Arguments in a similar strain were made by other defenders of the resolution; the substance of which was that infinite loyalty to the "innocent third party"—the "labor whippersnapper," President John Mitchell arose, and in tearful tones said:

I believe that there are in control of large corporations men who have declared in this convention their opposition to our proposals who will not wait ten days to sign our scale.

President Won the Day.

That settled it! John Mitchell is an excellent actor. If he had not been such a mighty labor leader he would have been a great success on the stage.

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Source of Mitchell's Strength.

How did Mitchell get his hold and acquire his popularity? In the first place, he possesses a truly magnetic personality. He is as smooth a politician as ever "came down the pike."

No Promise of Peace.

Other operators in the bituminous districts have entered into yearly contracts with the miners' union, while in many instances thousands of miners are still on strike.

Wages Are Lower.

With the disintegration of the Knights of Labor, many years ago, came a reduction of wages. There has been a full 50 per cent drop in the coal fields since 1900...

items in detail in this connection; everybody knows the truth of the proposition, not only in the coal fields, but elsewhere in the United States.

Then, there is the award of the anthracite strike commission—to be awarded another three years. And what an award it is!

Based on the Award.

The basis of the award was made on the conditions that obtained in 1902 and involved the following: 10 per cent increase in wages, a nine-hour day, and the establishment of a board of arbitration.

Operators Are Satisfied.

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in the path of industrial progress. Mitchell boasts that he is a trade unionist. Exactly! There lies the germ of the whole disease!

MITCHELL DEFINITELY CLASSIFIES HIMSELF.

From the Cincinnati Post.

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QUESTION BOX

SHOAF IS IN JAIL.

Appell's Staff Correspondent. Arrested by Denver Police, Who Disperse Meeting with Drawn Clubs.

BY FRANK JOHNSON, State Organizer.

Special dispatch to Appeal to Reason. Denver, Colo., Sept. 11.—George H. Shoaf, staff correspondent of the Appeal to Reason, has fallen a victim to police persecution and is a prisoner in the city jail here as a result of his activity in the Socialist campaign, combined with his known connection with the Appeal.

There is the same in Socialism for the black man that there is for the white man. Socialism advocates the collective ownership of the means of production so that any man, either white or black, who is willing to work, can have access to the land or machinery needed in making a living.

The Socialist do not want the negro vote so much as they wish the negro voters to become Socialists. It would be no favor to Socialists or to Socialism to have anyone vote the Socialist ticket unless the voter understood and believed in Socialism.

Thereupon the lieutenant seized Shoaf and directed his men to charge the crowd with drawn clubs. This order the patrolmen obeyed with alacrity and evident relish, and the audience, which had increased immensely, was forcibly dispersed in every direction.

Secretary Tucker was arrested when he called at police headquarters to arrange for bail for the prisoners. A large crowd collected in front of the station, which demonstration fairly maddened Chief Delaney, who ordered the police-men again to use their clubs, and once more a militant charge was made and the assemblage was scattered.

Tucker was arrested for the offense of asking questions relative to Shoaf and Szaska. The Denver Socialists had two permits for street speaking, but these have been arbitrarily revoked.

It now is evident that the democrats and republicans of Colorado are determined to suppress the Socialist campaign by force, money and all other means having signally failed.

Not jails nor even death can daunt the determined spirit of the Colorado Socialists in this campaign or halt the onward march to a magnificent victory.

WHY THE CHURCH OPPOSES SOCIALISM. By the Author of Suppressed Information. Comrade Warren, in this pamphlet, has made some startling observations upon the attitude of the church toward human bondage at different stages of American history, and in support of his deductions has cited none of the ablest authorities.

But your suggestion that the workers should go into business for themselves is a good one, and is just what the Socialists have been advocating for many years. But before they can do this, they must learn how to go about it in a practical and systematic way.

But they must take back not only the surplus that has been appropriated by the owners of industry, but the land as well that kings, pirates and aristocrats have seized by force of arms and held in avarice.

JOIN THE BUNDLE BRIGADE. Always have a supply of Appeals on hand. Many interesting paragraphs and handouts to send to your neighbors.

CENTRAL STATES PARTY NEWS.

Appeal to Reason for news matter. An appeal to Reason for news matter. An appeal to Reason for news matter.

Illinois. The Labor Day celebration at Salem, Illinois, was the biggest thing that ever happened in the town.

Indian Territory. The picnic, Sept. 5th and 6th, of the comrades of the Second District, Indian Territory, held at Black Jack grove.

Wisconsin. The vote at the primaries in Wisconsin was very light, notwithstanding the bitter contest between rival candidates.

Texas. Comrade M. A. Smith has recently organized locals at the following points: Marble Falls, Chilton, Liberty School-house, near Milano, Goldthwaite, Rowena, Sherwood and Stamford.

Arkansas. Partial returns from the recent elections in Arkansas indicate that the Socialists have made substantial gains in the state.

Kentucky. A new local has been organized at Zion, Ky., with 6 members.

Ohio. Walter J. Millard, of Dayton, O., is touring the state under the direction of the state office.

Missouri. Comrade J. F. Williams will speak in St. Francis county, Mo., on the following dates: Flat River, September 12th, 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th; Farmington, 14th, 15th; Knob Lick, 16th; Doe Run, 17th; Derwent, 18th; Bellefontaine, 19th; Leadwood, 20th, 21st.

Tennessee. Comrade Fitts reports 41 meetings in 34 days in Tennessee and estimates the total of all his audiences at 1,990.

Kansas. The Socialists of Neosho county have called a county convention to meet September 22d.

General Party News. Appeal to Reason.—James B. Osborne, blind orator and candidate for governor of Georgia, is still in the street-car house for speaking on the city streets without a permit.

FROM THE ANTIPODES. Notice given to fight with P. O. Here's a suggestion: If Comrade G. J. Webb's suggestion about a book agent in their town will be of any use, please write to the publisher.

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The Appeal Army

BIG TEN.

Frank Cunningham, Miss. No. 284; Judson Chambers, Springfield, Mo., No. 35; O. E. Brown, Anderson, S. C., No. 30; Frank H. Robinson, Louisville, Ky., No. 10; Geo. F. Grimes, St. Johns, N. C., No. 25; J. W. Wright, Muskegon, Mich., No. 24; G. W. Hamilton, Columbus, Ind., No. 24; D. H. Hollister, Bowling Green, Ky., No. 20; C. E. Duford, St. Charles, Mo., No. 20; Geo. M. Hoadland, Patuxent, N. J., No. 20.

—Remember, it's the little clubs that count. —Sleepy Eye, Minn., is sleepy in name only, as the list of tea sent in by Comrade Kiefer proves.

—Orders for the "Mollie Maguire" pamphlets have already reached over 20,000. They are \$1.00 per hundred.

—I am 74, and Socialism will do me better than all the enclosed letters. Five and five makes ten, the love I have for my children and grandchildren.

—I have been receiving your paper for some time through the kindness of some friend, and have become interested in same.

—An interesting letter from Comrade Anderson, Dayton, O., tells us that the Socialist party are not only on their feet, but that they are doing business right.

—The enclosed \$2.25 and nine cents tell a better story of the Socialist party than any of the enclosed letters.

—The man I am getting colored, explained the office boy as he looked up from his work over my shoulder.

—I was getting pretty close to my own solution. Just then the office boy—"What do you mean?" said the Religious Editor in a tone of voice that implied that I had just made some sort of a mistake.

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Views are variant. One man sees Ye Editor in a Sainly Light, While Another Thinks Him Satanic. In the Twinkling of An Eye. One More Added to the Ranks. CIRCULATE THE EXTRA COPIES.

Dear Comrades of the APPEAL.—Notice given to fight with P. O. Here's a suggestion: If Comrade G. J. Webb's suggestion about a book agent in their town will be of any use, please write to the publisher.

