Pittsburg, Kansas, Aug. 13, 1925.

To the Officers and Members,
All Local Unions, U. M. W. of A.,
District No. 14.

Greetings:

The District Executive Board requests that this circular be read and re-read, as it contains vital information to members of our organisation. Below we copy an article appearing in a Kansas City paper under date of August 10th.

This article is propaganda of the coal operators, which makes their intentions regarding our
district very clear, and we transmit it to you, feeling that we, at this time, have the situation well in hand, but we must all work in harmony with a solid front, in order to prevent and discourage any second concerted action to inaugurate the open-shop in our District. Below is a copy of the article referred to.

**MINE UNION'S 'LAST STAND'**

**OPENSHP IN SOUTHWEST HANGS ON HENRYETTA CONTEST.**

If Oklahoma Operators Accomplish Lower Wages, Fight Would Swing to Kansas, the Final Stronghold of Unionism.

(By a Staff Correspondent.

Ft. Scott, Kas., Aug. 10. Operators and miners alike in the Southwestern coal fields are watching with interest the fight in the Henryetta, Ok., coal district, where a bitter conflict is in progress between miners and operators.

State troops have been on guard for weeks in the Henryetta district, but there is no cessation of hostilities. The reason for the strike there is not generally understood. The operators and the miners who are fighting a finish fight understand it, however, and the miners and operators of the Kansas field know the far-reaching results that will follow the outcome at Henryetta.

Last Hold of Union.

Henryetta is the last big coal field of the Southwest, aside from Kansas, where the union has held its own. More than a year ago the union organization lost control of the McAlester and the Wilburton fields. The open shop prevails now in every important Oklahoma district except in Henryetta.

To break the hold of the union is the fight now in progress at Henryetta, and the union is making its last stand. If it loses that fight it will be out of Oklahoma. Only the Southeastern Kansas field would remain to it in all the Southwest, which formerly was 100 per cent union.

The trouble is over the problem of the common labor wages. Under the old contract, made during the war, or following the big strike of 1919, day labor wages were fixed at $7.50 per day. That scale was fixed on the basis of the scale paid in the central fields of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The union has “stuck tight” for the $7.50 wage for common labor. This includes the men who work in and about the mines, but who do not dig coal. The coal miner is paid upon the tonnage basis.

Operators Call it Prohibitive.

It is claimed by the operators of the Southwest that the day wage of $7.50 is prohibitive. They do not so much object to the scale they are paying union miners. The scale to the miners in the Southwest always is higher than the scale paid in the central coal fields, because the coal veins are not so thick, mining is more difficult, and the higher scale paid in the Southwest is in the nature of a bonus to overcome the greater difficulties of mining in this field.

It was upon the issue of the $7.50 day wage that the fight
was made against the union in the McAlester and Wilburton fields.

Put in Open Shop Plan.

Henryetta operators, it is said, after despairing of making a contract with the union on a reduced scale for day labor, decided to introduce the open shop and throw the union out, following the example set by the operators of the McAlester and Wilburton fields. But the union, knowing the importance of holding the Henryetta field, is making a much more stubborn fight there than it made in the other places.

If the union loses the Henryetta field, Kansas operators who are paying the $7.50 wage scale for day labor say that, in self defense, they will be compelled to move for a reduction of the day-labor wage in the Kansas field. The miners admit, it is said, that Kansas cannot continue to pay the $7.50 per day wage if their competitors in the Southwest succeed in establishing a lower wage. Kansas still is regarded as 100 per cent union. But if Henryetta is lost to the union it requires no prophet to tell the union miners that their next fight will be in the Kansas field.

A little study of the above article will show that the drive in District 21 and the drive which was attempted in our District the fore part of this year, was and is a well laid plan of the coal operators to break the union in the Southwest.

To be forewarned, is to be forearmed, and your District Officers have no fear, but that the miners of District No. 14 will meet any future efforts of the coal operators, just as they have met them in the past, and will once again give this gang of "contract violators", who sign a contract one day and abrogate it the next, the whipping that they so richly deserve.

Fraternally yours,

M. L. WALTERS, President.
DAN O'DONNELL, Vice-Pres.
HARRY W. BURR, Sec'y-Treas.