

United Mine Workers of America

Local Union No. 2332



Henryetta, Oklahoma Aug 25th 1925

Local Union 2397 Mulberry Kansas

Mr H. Maxwell Secty.

Dear Sirs and Bros.

Your check for \$50⁰⁰ for Relief of families of Striking Miners of this Henryetta field ^{and} in their behalf Bros. I thank You I am sorry I cant report success, ^{yet.} as it seems we are having our dark days, The scabs are very numerous and just smile when we approach them our one consolation is, the Co. dont get much coal, I guess you see by the papers that Gov. Frapp set another trap for us at Oklahoma City but as usual he got Trapped. He seems to be of the Me ant God runs the universe type, but he will have to try again. I am mailing clipping

again Thanking you

I am as ever yours to win

George McKay Secty-Treas. aid co.

706 Gentry Street

Henryetta

Okla.

[Enclosed in letter, 25 August 1925]

GOVERNOR MAY ENLARGE ARMY IN MINE FIELD

Conference Called to Work On Agreement Turned Into Hearing.

UNION MEN WALK OUT

Stricter Order Hinted For Henryetta District By Powers Here.

The mine "war" conference which was called Monday to try "to get the boys out of the trenches by Labor day," showed signs Monday afternoon of laying the basis for Governor Trapp to send in more troops to the Henryetta region instead of withdrawing the fifty guardsmen who are there.

It became apparent before noon that the session was to be turned into more of a hearing than a conference when representatives of the mine operators presented a large corps of witnesses.

Mine Leaders Walk Out

With the conference less than two hours old, the miners' union leaders walked out of the "blue room" after the governor declined to make them a definite proposition such as they were led to expect, and from that time on it was a "justification" hearing.

Hint of a possible increase of troops was carried in the question asked in some form of nearly every witness by Gen. Charles E. McPherrren, the governor's personal counsel, "Do you think that instead of reducing the number of guards there that perhaps it would be safer if more troops were put in the mine area and stricter order kept?"

They Tell of Threats

Witness after witness offered by the operators from among their non-union miners related definite instances of threats, intimidation and attacks upon them by bodily violence if they tried to stay in the field after the troops were removed.

Union miners were preparing to hold a wholesale hanging of strike-breakers on the day that Colonel Head arrived on the scene with the first detachment of troops, two witnesses asserted. This was the sensation of the hearing. Bob J. Rice, a youth who began mining only three months ago when the first mines opened under the contested 1917 wage scale, said he heard men talking menacingly beneath his window at a rooming house the night before the troops arrived, and when he and his companions went to work the next morning they saw a score of cars with ropes in them.

Kept Alive Underground

"When we went in the mine that day we didn't know whether we would get to come out or not," said Rice. "We did not eat our lunches but saved them so we could keep alive underground several days if things got unsafe up above." He gathered from the talk on the streets and roads that the ropes he saw in the cars were to be used to string up non-union workers or to drag them behind cars until they were insensible, he said.

Mrs. Will Boston, whose husband and son worked in the non-union mines, declared she saw four cars with ropes in them waiting near the Atlas mine the morning that troops came in. She also told how four women stopped her as she was about to drive away from the Whitehead mine after taking her son there to work.

One Tells of Beating

"If you bring your boy here to work another day, it will just be too bad for you," they told her. The youth 17 years old, ran away from home last Wednesday as the result of threats, she said.

Andy Mietus, a former union miner, who accepted work under the 1917 scale, told of being set upon and beaten by ten or fifteen union men at the Frisco station at Henryetta. He received a cut in the forehead, his nose was cracked, he was knocked senseless, and the pit clothes and pick and shovel he had just bought were taken, he said. Three of the men were fined in police court and charges of riot are pending in the county court.

Making \$8 Daily

Ed Dougherty, W. B. Seiber, Charles H. Bush and Ed Stevenson were other working miners who testified of the need for military protection, each having been delegated by his fellow workers to ask the governor to continue the guard. All were men with families, and they declared they could make more money the year around by working at the 1917 scale than under the 1924 scale for which the unions contend since their work would be steadier.

According to their testimony they are making \$8 or \$10 a day under the 1917 scale. Mietus displayed a statement averaging \$12 a day.

Pray for "Double Crossers"

Testimony as to what went on at the strikers' prayer meetings which Sheriff John Russell tried to suppress was put in the record by Levi Pickering, an old cattleman who carries a deputy's commission. One woman prayed the Lord "to make that mine collapse on those men or else bring them out and let us have our jobs," he said. At the Kincaid mine he heard a gray haired woman offer a

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