

Gem, Idaho, Jany. 21st, 1901.

Operator reports that in talking with Balch , Secretary of the Union, he said that they would likely have a meeting of the union at the hall soon but he had a letter from Kelly at Boise today and after he read it he told operative that it looked very bad for the union men here as Kelly thought that martial law would not be declared off for several months yet and all because several men of the unions did too much talking . Balch said that talking had been indulged in considerable by the union men here all the time and that it seemed to be impossible to keep men from talking and making threats of what they would do with Edminston and some of the mine managers as soon as martial law was declared off. Operative met Jim. Smith in Wallace this afternoon and he said he was from Wardner and was sent by the Secretary of the Wardner Union to Wallace and other towns to try and induce the men to keep from talking and making threats. Smith came to Gem last night and had a long interview with Balch and several others all of whom seemed to be very much discouraged at the outlook for unionism in the Couer de Alenez. They have all advised operative not to associate with any of the old -timers here as he will be spotted right off and unable to secure work. Secretary Balch suggested to operative that he secure work in the Frisco Mine as it was a good place to work and there were a lot of union men there and that he was in hopes that operative would stay in the camp as they needed all the assistance, financially and otherwise, that they could possibly get.

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