

Wardner, Idaho, Feb. 16th, 1901.

Operator reports that at the Miner's Union meeting tonight there were fifteen present, viz- , Victor Price, Jack Bell, Martin Davis, Andy Norman, There was no business of any kind transacted with the exception of a communication read from Union No. 102 of Jerome, Ariz. P.J. Keehane, Secy. asking if the labor difficulties of this district are yet settled and if the martial law and the permit are still ~~existing~~ in operation. Also asking if the strike has been settled. Secretary Price was instructed to answer this communication as follows:-

There has been no strike here with the exception of the Miners of one mine since April 1899, but since the employees of that mine struck there has been a virtual lockout of all or nearly all the Members of the Couer de Alene unions of the Western Federation of Miners. The permit system has been abolished , a new system of blacklisting having been established in its place and that martial law is still in force. The conditions here are just the same as they were when the permit system was first put in operation in May 1899 . If anything the effort to crush out organized labor especially the miners' unions is more determined than ever.

That the formation of a Mine Owner's Association pledged to secure all their employees through a central employment bureau is simply a blacklisting device . The Bureau being in charge of as bitter and unprincipled a hater of union labor as there is in the whole of the United States today. These mines, or at least one of them, which refused to join the Association and discriminate against union miners , have now been forced into the combine . The Smelter refused to buy their ore unless they entered the Employment Association. The inevitable has resulted, the Couer de Alene difficulty is not settled and all fair men are warned to stay away until Presdt. Ed. Boyce of the

Western Federation of Miners sends notice to all miners' unions that matters are right in the Couer de Alenes.

Wallace Idaho, Feb. 18th, 1901.

Opr. reports that he is making good progress in getting acquainted with parties at Wallace . That he has been cultivating the friendship of Lewis Sweet and Leng Shorty who have commenced to talk quite freely.

Opr. has met James Sears (X X ) who has recently arrived from Baker City, Ore. Sears took part in the trouble of 1891.

Opr. visited Mullian in company with Henry Walker , and observed that new men coming into Mullian are looked upon with a great deal of suspicion. Opr. met Ray Hogan (X X )(G). at Mullian.

On the night of the 18th. Opr. had a short interview with Lewis Sweet. He is complaining about poor business and says he is going to devote his time to mining matters in the Spring.

Opr. met Jim Callahan (XX), Wm. Quinn, (XX), and George Rhodes (XX) Rhodes is a Second Hand Goods dealer at Gem. He told Opr. that the Managers of the Frisco Mine were worse than slave owners and should be blown to hell.