

Wardner, Idaho, Jan. 27th, 1901.

Operator reports that in company with Red. Stratton , J.P.Duston and others , while sitting in Al. Page's hotel on the evening of the 27th inst. they were approached by a man named Shank who asked if they were union men and after he was told that they were he stated that he was representing the Brown Soap Company of Dayton Ohio and that he was selling soap, with the union labels attached to every bar , throughout the mining camps in the Couer de Alenes . He said that in his interviews with merchants in the Couer de Alenes they all expressed themselves as eager to see the union men get into power once more and have things as they were in the old times. He further stated that business men in Wallace are very much displeased at the manner in which the mining companies have arranged to hire their men and say that the Couer de Alenes are being filled up with a lot of men who do not spend their money here but send it out of the country . He also stated that he was told by the Wardner merchants during the day that at least thirty-five thousand dollars had been sent out of Wardner during last pay day .

During the past few days there has been considerable wrangling among the union men at Wardner on account of some of the members accusing Red Stratton and Jack Simpkins of being "Spotters" . The union men openly accuse them of informing Dr. France of what has been going on at Union meetings and as a result the union meeting came very near breaking up in a row last night. Martin Davis, John Bell, Ed. Zimmerman, and Victor Price , Jim. Martin , Andy Myers, Joe Billings, and J.P.Duston were the names of the members present at the meeting. Nothing more than the wrangling mentioned occurred during the meeting but after the meeting adjourned Red.Stratton



and Martin Davis told your operative that they were going to tell the Miners' Union to go to Hell from now on. Red. Stratton said that he had worked hard for the union to keep them together and now since he had been defeated as President of the Union and they had accused him of being a "Spotter" that from now on he would let all unions go to hell and says that he will have to go out of the Couer de Alenes as he could not get any work from anywhere after what had happened but that after this, if occasion arises, he will stand by the mining companies from now on.

Gem. Idaho. Jan. 27th, 1901.

Operator reports that in an interview with Secretary Balch of the Miners' Union, and several others, last night, Balch said that he had received a letter from Boise and that martial law was not likely to be declared off for sometime and that the "Edministon System" of hiring men was here to stay until it wore itself out. The union men here seem to think that it will not take long for the present system of employing men to play out as when a union man draws his pay now he leaves the country as he considers he has no chance of getting on again. A man by the name of Charles Aranda and his partner called "Montey", presumably from British Columbia, have been making some severe talk in Gem and Wallace during the past few days. Montey said that he knew now who had led the crowd to Wardner and he was going to get even with ~~him~~ one at least whom he claimed was working at the "Frisco" mine. He said he would get him if he had to blow the whole dam mine up. Operative tried to get Montey's full name and locate him accurately but was unable to do so. This pair are dangerous men and should not be allowed to remain in the country