

CORUR D'ALENENS MINE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

Wallace, Id., April 11th.

Yesterday, at Mullen, operative talked with Robert Stephen (XM), who works at the Morning mine, and also with Geo. Tunason (X Colo), who works at the Hunter mine. These men say that a good many of the Missourians are good men, when they understand how things are here, and they claim that Agent Smith misrepresented things in Joplin, as the men there do not know the condition of things at Mullen, and would be willing to do anything they could to better the conditions for working men, if they ever had the opportunity. They also said that over 25 of these men had joined the Union in the last 2-1/2 months. Most of them work at the Morning mine, but the great trouble is to get them to stay, for as soon as they get a little money, or have word of another job, they quit, not wanting to be fired.

Operative reports that Pete Swanson (X B.C.), John Maloney (XB), Louis Snodgrass (XB Missourian), Chas. Smith (XB Missourian) and John Troup (XB) all claim to have been working in the 2nd level at the Standard mine until the last few days, when they quit, as the mine was so wet and the company would not furnish any gum clothing. They also complain that their foreman Smith was so inconsiderate of their welfare, and so unreasonable in his demands for more work from each man, that they could not stand it.

Arthur Hix (XB) told operative that there were over 300 members of good standing in Burke Union, and more joining every week. Many of these men work on the Tiger-Poorman mine, but most on the Last Chance mine at Wardner. He also said that foreman Murphy is a good Union man, and places Union men to work on every opportunity, that he keeps his dues and assessment paid up and makes donations privately to the executive committee for the good of the cause. It seems that J.Dunn, secretary of the Burke

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Union, has advised Murphy in these matters, as the latter has been here only a few months, and is a Canadian.

Operative reports that a lot of gamblers have come into town during the last few days, among them being Dago Miller, Keel McHenry(XG.Ex), Palorse Bill, Poker Wilson (XB Ex), Short Card Miller, Wm. Cole and Tex Williams (XB).

Wallace, Id. April 14th, 1901.

Operative reports that he saw Chas. Everet (XM) and James Everet (XM) at Mullen. The latter is an ex-convict, sent up for highway robbery, and he has it in for Deputy Sheriff Rose at above place.

Operative learned from S.H.Nihell (XXXM), who was Pres. of the Burke Union for some time) that John Hicks (XM), formerly from British Columbia, whom operative reported last February) is doing good work for the Union among the new men at the Morning mine. He is a nice pleasant fellow, and has gained some influence with the men, by mixing with them. Operative's informant said that it is a great mistake for the Union to make no attempt to conciliate the Missourians, as a few good talkers associating with them, would soon show them that it was to their interest to join the Union, assist it in keeping up wages and vote with it, so that the right men could be put in office. In this way a great deal could be accomplished, as the company's managers would have more regard for their lives than to oppress the men too far, but as long as the Union simply stands aside and talks without doing anything, the managers have nothing to fear. He added that if a few of the managers were put out of the way by Union men, those remaining would be afraid to go too far.

J.Flint (XB), who works in the Standard Mine, says that over 50 Missourians have joined the Union up the canon during the last 6 months, and that most of them are willing to act in sympathy with the Union, but are unwilling to join as the Union has such a bad name. He said that the way many of them have been treated by the Companies and the Employment Agencies lately, has made them more willing to join, and that one Missouriian, James

Murphy (XB), who joined the Union and was fired about 10 days ago, has gone back to Joplin and intends to have the newspapers there publish an account of the exact conditions prevailing here, so that the men may know just how things are. The men there will then make it so hot for L.F. Smith, Company's agent, that he will not get any more good men from that place.

Operative reports that a man, by the name of Wm. White (XXB) who works at the Tiger-Poorman, was talking a great deal last night in Al Steir's saloon. He said that he was working on another man's number, that he had given a Missourian \$5.00 for his number and that one of the bosses at said mine knew about it. He continued that most of the Missourians were good men but that some of them were scab at heart, and that if he ever had a good opportunity he would put some of them out of the way.. From his talk operative judged he was a timberman.

Wallace, Id. April 17th.

Operative had some talk with John Findley (XB), who said (XB) that one Chas. Erickson was head timberman now at Hecla at the Standard mine, and that almost every man under him is a Union man.

Chalman (X), machinist at the Tiger-Poorman, told operative that Lawson, shift boss at said mine, is a Union man, and will get any of the old-timers into the mine if they can buy someone's number. He said also that the assistant superintendent of the mine is in sympathy with the old-timers and helps a good many of them to get jobs. He does not care who a man is, so long as he is sober and does a good day's work.

Operative was at Mullen on the 16th inst. with Pat Corbit (XG) and J. Ryan (XXXM), and they were watched so closely by the deputies that they considered it wise to get Ryan out of town that night. Ryan is keeping watch on most of the Deputies for some purpose, and says he is paid for doing so. He says also that Boyce has promised the local unions all the assistance they may require in scheming to get rid of the most obnoxious of the deputies

Today the Butte Union telegraphed the Union here, to hold the body of Fisher, who was shot in Gem, on the 14th inst., as a delegation was coming from Butte to take charge of it and ship it to Butte. The main object of the delegation is to help the local Unions to prosecute Sam Findley for the killing of Fisher, and to enable the union to get to the bottom of the deputy business and several other matters in connection with same, which they have never succeeded in explaining hitherto. The Union men believe that they will succeed in impeaching the sheriff, and that the prosecuting attorney and the coroner will assist them, on account of the sheriff's action towards deputy Hicks at Gem. While the inquest was being held in the Union hall on the 14th, Hicks took a Winchester and marched up and down in front of the hall, threatening to kill 3 or 4 men who were on the street, on account of a rumour that he had heard that the old-timers were talking of hanging him and Sam Findley. The men who were threatened ran into the hall and asked protection from the coroner and attorney, who thereupon went to the street and asked Hicks to behave himself. As the latter would not listen to them, but continued repeating in a loud voice, that he was not afraid and would kill all the old-timers in the place, and also abused both officers in vulgar language, the coroner adjourned the inquest until the sheriff, who had been telephoned for, should arrive. When the sheriff did arrive, instead of arresting Hicks, he allowed the latter to walk the streets with the rifle in his hand and also armed over 30 more men and let them promenade the streets all afternoon. Hicks also pointed his gun at a lady, Mrs. Kennedy, whose husband was killed in the Dance Hall last fall, who was in her own house and attending to her own business. It is said that the jury were disgusted with the behaviour of the sheriff and his deputies and intend to call a mass meeting of all the business men in the district to express their disapproval of the way in which the sheriff is managing things, and have such actions put a stop to.

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Operative talked with several old-timers who are in town from Gem, and are afraid to go back until after the inquest. Their names are Dan Harrington, Saloon man, Bob Bradley (XG), Bob Craig (XG) and Pat Corbit (XG). They think that the Deputies are trying to intimidate the witnesses, who are going to testify against Sam Findley.

Seattle, Wash., April 24th, 1901.