

P19116

**The Issue in the Coal  
Fields of Southern  
West Virginia**



**STATEMENTS TO  
PRESIDENT HARDING**

by the

**Operators Association of the  
Williamson Field**

and the

**Logan Coal Operators Association**

DEC 15 1921

DEC 15 1921





“The United Mine Workers of America has been in open hostility against all the powers of government since 1912, when this organization first announced in the preamble of its constitution that its members were entitled to ‘the full social value’ of all the coal they helped to produce, to the complete exclusion of the owners of the mines.”

—The Operators of the Williamson Field,  
in their letter to President Harding.



“As a peaceful, law-abiding community, with an industrious, contented industrial population, with no semblance of labor trouble or disturbance, our country has been subjected to greater indignities and outrages at the hands of members of the United Mine Workers than has been suffered by any community of American citizens in the history of our country.

—The Operators of the Logan Field,  
in their letter to President Harding.





---

The single issue underlying the disturbances of the last fifteen months in the Williamson coal field, and the recent armed insurrection of coal miners, with an attempt to invade the coal field of Logan County, in southern West Virginia, is the demand of the United Mine Workers of America for recognition of their union by the mine owners in these fields. No other industrial issue is involved. No other point of controversy exists.

The United Mine Workers, in initiating and starting these troubles, made no complaint as to the working conditions in the non-union fields. This organization did not object to the housing conditions and living facilities for the miners employed in these fields.

No objection was raised as to the wages paid, or as to the earnings of the miners. These were greater than in the unionized fields. The union did not object to any other feature surrounding the employment of miners in the non-union fields. The reign of murder and riot in the Williamson field for fifteen months, and the attempted invasion of the Logan field with shotguns and rifles, was for the single purpose of compelling recognition of the union of the United Mine Workers by the coal operators of these fields.

In attempting to compel this recognition, the United Mine Workers has arrayed itself in open hostility to all of the powers of government, and has engaged, and is engaged now, in opposing and fighting every move intended to strengthen the arm of the law for the establishment and preservation of peace and order in the State of West Virginia, and to protect its citizens from violence.

The following statements, outlining and describing the conditions that have been brought about in these fields, were made to President Harding by the Operators Association of the Williamson Field and the Logan Coal Operators Association in the conference at the White House on September 9, 1921.

---





# The Operators Association of The Williamson Field, Williamson, West Virginia

Mr. President:

The coal operators of Mingo County, W. Va., sought this interview with you to refute the unwarranted and untrue statements recently made to you by Samuel Gompers, purporting to speak on behalf of the United Mine Workers of America.

Mr. Gompers' statements given out to the press imply that the recent insurrection in West Virginia was by the striking miners of Mingo County, while he must have known that as a matter of fact an army of from six to eight thousand men was recruited and armed in Kanawha County, and moved with military precision, under the direction of the officials of District 17 of the United Mine Workers of America, to invade Logan and Mingo Counties, with the avowed purpose of protesting against the existence of martial law in Mingo County declared by the Governor of West Virginia, and thus terrorizing all State authorities.

Mr. Gompers gives as a reason and justification for this insurrection and invasion of peaceful communities the fact that land in West Virginia is owned by citizens of the United States residing in other States of the Union. The law, both Federal and State, recognizes such ownership of land. Mr. Gompers not only does not recognize such ownership, or the law which protects it, but says that such ownership justifies rebellion and the destruction of life and property. This position taken by Mr. Gompers is not surprising in view of his record, for he has frequently advised his followers to disregard the lawful processes of the courts.

Mr. Gompers' statement that the miners and citizens of Mingo County are being terrorized by armed thugs and mine guards is without any foundation in fact, and Mr. Gompers certainly must know the facts. He must know that there are



no mine guards or Baldwin-Felts men in that capacity in Mingo County, and never have been. In other words, Mr. Gompers' statement with reference thereto is simply untrue.

Mr. Gompers says that "the mines of West Virginia are the last stronghold of autoocracy." The only autoocracy now or ever known in West Virginia in the mining industry is the autoocracy which the United Mine Workers of America seek to establish, and in so doing they are using the methods of force, violence, and destruction of life and property, always characteristic of an autoocracy. The victims of the autocratic despotism of the United Mine Workers of America are both mine owners and mine workers, and the seat of its government is in Indianapolis, Ind., thus showing that the control by non-residents of affairs in West Virginia is not always condemned by Mr. Gompers.

### **STRIKE OF MINERS ENDED.**

Mr. Gompers says that the present troubles are a part of an existing strike, while he must know that there is no strike in Mingo County, that the strike declared July 1, 1920, was ended by January 1, 1921, and that since that time the mines of Mingo County are fully manned by satisfied employees, are working to full capacity under present market conditions, and that no employee in these mines belongs to the United Mine Workers of America. He must further know, if he is in close touch with the officials of the United Mine Workers of America, that all trouble that has occurred in Mingo County since the calling of that strike has been occasioned by the armed forces of the United Mine Workers of America, who have sought by assassination, intimidation, threats, and the destruction of property, to compel willing workers to cease their employment, and to compel the operators to recognize that union. He must further know that these armed law breakers, while attempting to carry out their unlawful purpose, have been armed, kept and maintained by the United Mine Workers of America.

It is not true, as stated by Mr. Gompers, that the government of West Virginia has broken down. The authorities of



Kanawha County, which is dominated by the United Mine Workers of America, have failed to suppress lawlessness and to stop the insurrection which originated in that county. He must know, however, that upon the Governor's call for volunteers to suppress that insurrection, the State having no organized militia or national guard, the best citizens of Logan, Mingo, and other counties hastened to answer the call, and went to the scene of war, for that is what it was, and held the attacking insurrectionists until relieved by the United States troops. The President had previously sent a proclamation commanding the dispersement of the insurrectionary forces, but they defied the proclamation and yielded only to the armed forces of the United States.

It is proper that the operators and miners of Mingo County should have their position clearly stated before the people of

**Position  
of the  
Operators.**

the country, so that there may be no doubt as to the reasons why the United Mine Workers of America have not been able to organize in that county and will not be recognized, and that the public should also know the falsity and sinister meaning of the misleading statements constantly sent out by the officials of the United Mine Workers of America and adopted and approved by Mr. Gompers.

It must be understood that this has always been a non-union field since the first coal was shipped therefrom about 1894. It has always been the policy of the mine owners, with the acquiescence and hearty co-operation of their employees, to operate their mines with non-union labor. This fact has been well known always to the United Mine Workers of America, and their reasons for attacking that policy will be hereinafter more fully shown.

### **LEWIS HERALDS UNION "DRIVE."**

About January or February, 1920, John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers of America, passed through the Williamson field to the city of Bluefield, where he spent a short time, and publicly announced that his organization would immediately begin a movement to organize the remaining non-union coal fields in West Virginia. He even went to the extent



of seeking to procure offices and to make other arrangements to establish headquarters in Bluefield.

In pursuance of his declared intention, and shortly after his visit to Bluefield, agents and organizers of the United Mine

**Workers of America** invaded Mingo County and sought to establish locals. They did establish locals at various places, a few of the men joining willingly, but most of them by reason of threats, intimidation, and fear. These locals were first organized under the guise and name of political organizations. As soon as these organizers felt that they had secured a foothold, they demanded "recognition of the union" by the coal operators. They made no complaint as to working conditions, housing, wages, earnings, or any other thing connected with the employment of the miners, notwithstanding Mr. Gompers' statement to the contrary.

The operators declined to "recognize the union," and by reason alone of this refusal a strike was called by these agitators under the direction of the officials of District 17 of the United Mine Workers of America, effective July 1, 1920, with the approval and consent of the international organization.

When the strike was called armed men from different sections of the country were sent into Mingo County by the United Mine Workers of America, and they so intimidated and terrorized all the miners who had not joined the Union that they, too, for a time ceased to work, and practically all the mines in the county were shut down for a short period.

Soon thereafter those who had declined to join the Union, and others who desired to work in that field began to seek employment at the mines, and one by one the

**Bullets** mines were reopened, with the result that by  
**Rained on** January 1st, 1921, the mines were all fully  
**Mine Towns.** manned, and were all in operation, having working at the mines more men than at any previous time in the history of the field, not one of whom was a member of the United Mine Workers of America. This, notwithstanding the fact that during all that period the United Mine Workers of America had armed and maintained a great number of its members, many of whom were not residents of



Mingo County, or of the State of West Virginia, and who sought by threats, intimidation, assassination, shooting up mining towns from the hills, and destruction of property, to prevent the operation of these mines, and to drive away all the men who desired to work at them.

These various forms of violence and lawlessness on the part of the United Mine Workers of America continued after the 1st of January, 1921, and in fact grew in violence. At one time they made an attack on all the mines along Tug River for a distance of about seven miles, which lasted for three days, and is locally known as the "Three Days' Battle." During this whole period of violence many men were killed and wounded by the United Mine Workers of America, the majority of whom were shot in the back, and several of whom were members of the State Constabulary, or of the county police force.

In spite of these horrible conditions, the determination of the independent, freedom-loving, non-Union miners to work as they saw fit was so strong that during the month of greatest violence they produced a higher percentage of normal production than was produced in any other coal field in the United States, being within five thousand tons of their normal output.

**Output of  
Coal Led  
Country.**

For these reasons it is apparent that there is no strike in Mingo County at this time, and that there is no industrial controversy. The coal operators and their employees are in entire harmony in every respect. Not a single member of the United Mine Workers is employed in that field, nor have any been employed since the calling of the strike, and in fact no such members were ever employed. It is therefore clear that the trouble that exists is the direct result of the efforts of an outside, alien organization to impose its will upon the employers of labor, and to unlawfully declare that no man not a member of that organization should work in a coal mine in this field. This is in accord with the policy of this organization, which will be hereinafter shown, that nowhere in the United States shall any man work in a coal mine unless he is a member of it.

In order that it may be clearly understood that the methods adopted by the United Mine Workers of America in Mingo County are not unusual, but are in absolute accord with the



adopted policy, methods and purposes of that organization, it is necessary to show something of its history.

## HISTORY OF MINERS UNION.

This organization was formed in the year 1890 as a trade union movement, at that time having approximately 32,000 members. It remained a trade union movement until 1898, having in 1897 a membership of approximately 19,000. In 1890 the production of coal in West Virginia did not seriously interfere with the coal produced in what is known as the Central Competitive Field, composed of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Western Pennsylvania; but the West Virginia production steadily increased from 1890 to 1898, and to such an extent that it cupplanted much of the coal produced in the Central Competitive Field in the markets theretofore supplied by coals from that field, on account of its superior quality and better mining conditions.

In 1898 the United Mine Workers of America entered into a conspiracy with the operators of the Central Competitive Field, the purpose of which was to hinder, obstruct, and destroy the competition of West Virginia coal with the coal produced in the Central Competitive Field. After this conspiracy was formed, the operators of the Central Competitive Field, for the first time in the history of the United States, entered into what is known as "closed shop" contracts, or agreements, with the United Mine Workers' officials, providing for the collection through the pay rolls of the coal companies of all dues and assessments levied by the officials of the United Mine Workers upon its membership, and by virtue of such contracts and concessions so made, the United Mine Workers' organization within one year thereafter increased its membership to approximately 296,000, and was thus enabled to collect the funds to carry out the purposes of this conspiracy.

The operators of the Central Competitive Field entered into these agreements and made these concessions in consideration of the promise and undertaking on the part of the United Mine Workers' organization to unionize the miners of West



Virginia, and by increasing the cost of production of West Virginia coal, reducing the output of such coal, and imposing inequitable labor conditions, organize the mines in the State so as to hinder, obstruct and prevent competition of West Virginia coal with the coal produced and sold by the operators of the Central Competitive Field.

### EVIDENCE OF THE CONSPIRACY.

This conspiracy is evidenced by the following extracts from the official reports of the conferences between the United Mine Workers of America and the operators of said Central Competitive Field. More extensive quotations are to be found in the record of the Senatorial investigation now in progress.

At the joint conference of 1899 between the United Mine Workers officials and the operators of the Central Competitive Field the conspiracy referred to was further discussed. Mr. L. H. Chapman, an operator from Ohio, said:

**“What were the conditions last year when we were entering into the agreement at Chicago, and what were the inducements that led the operators of the four competitive States to enter into that agreement? What promises and pledges were made on behalf of you gentlemen who are on my right, and your representatives? It was as much a part of that agreement that was made at Chicago, although not incorporated in the written instrument that was signed, as was any part of the agreement that was signed, that during the year covered by that agreement the competitive field in West Virginia was to be brought up in price and down in hours of labor.”**

To the statement made by Mr. Chapman, and statements of like character from other operators, John Mitchell, President of the United Mine Workers' organization, replied:

**“I know of no breach of faith of the miners since the last convention adjourned. \* \* \* But I want to say to the operators that an effort has been made during the past year to curtail the production of West Virginia coal by attempting to prevent its sale on the market.”**



Mr. Ratchford, President of the United Mine Workers' organization in 1898, when the conspiracy was entered into, also stated at the joint conference in 1899:

**"In our agreement of one year ago we promised to the operators who met with us that we would afford them all possible protection against the competition of unorganized fields. \* \* \* Furthermore, a great deal of importance has been attached to the condition of West Virginia. I want to make a proposition here that the interests of the West Virginia miners, by reason of the efforts of our organization, have been hampered and injured more within the past year than in any year since they have been operating in the State of West Virginia."**

At the joint conference between the operators of the Central Competitive Field and the United Mine Workers' officials in 1912, Delegate McDonald, of the Miners, said:

**"We have had thousands of men go to the penitentiary for trying to establish our organization in West Virginia and other non-union fields. \* \* \* We have had men go to jail. We expect that more of us will go to jail. The penitentiary has no terrors for us, as far as that is concerned, and if putting two or three hundred of our men in jail will organize West Virginia, we will send two or three hundred down. The chances are we will have to get busy with that situation shortly."**

Within about two weeks after the adjournment of this convention they were busy in the Kanawha field, as hereinafter more fully detailed.

In support of our allegation as to the unlawful methods used by the United Mine Workers' organization to compel the unionization and organization of non-Union mines, we quote the following statement made by a member of the International Executive Board of the United Mine Workers of America, Mr. Smith, in the year 1910:

**"I am in favor of guerrilla warfare, because in the past it has been the best policy to pursue, and we ob-**



tain better results by it than by placing the entire organization in jeopardy by calling out men who already had contracts signed."

Soon after this conspiracy was formed, the United Mine Workers of America began to send its paid organizers and agitators into the State of West Virginia to foment trouble, cause strikes, and to hinder in every possible way the production of coal. Following out and pursuing the purpose of this conspiracy, the United Mine Workers, through its officials, declared a State-wide strike in 1902 in West Virginia, which strike continued for a number of months, seriously reducing the production and marketing of coal from the State, without any complaint or request upon the part of the miners of West Virginia. As the result of the strike of 1902, and in spite of vigorous protests by the operators, certain sections of West Virginia were unionized. After the year 1898 the United Mine Workers' organization pursued the policy of trying to induce all miners in West Virginia to become unionized, but prior to 1912 it had not succeeded to the extent desired by the operators of the Central Competitive Field and the United Mine Workers' officials.

### **DESERT TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.**

In 1912 this organization definitely abandoned the trade union movement, changed its constitution, and declared its purpose to be that of securing for its members the "full social value of their product," which, as interpreted by them, means to secure all the proceeds of the sale of coal, except transportation cost, and wholly without compensation to the mine owner. The old constitution of this organization declared that the miners "are entitled to protection and an equitable share of the fruits of their labor." The amendment to the constitution adopted in 1912, struck out the words "an equitable share of the fruits of their labor," and substituted therefor "the full social value of their product."

At the time this amendment was made the true meaning and interpretation of the term "full social value" was declared, to use the language of one of the delegates, to be: "The full social value of our toil would mean, to my mind, that the man



who employs us will receive no compensation for the money he has invested.”

Since 1912 whenever this organization has been unable to induce persons not members to become members by the use of lawful suasion or peaceful means, it has resorted to force to compel such persons to become members, whether they desired to do so or not. In support of this statement we cite the well-known armed march of the organized miners from north of the Kanawha River into the Paint and Cabin Creek District, south of the Kanawha River, in 1912, immediately following the above-cited change in the constitution, and we also cite the more recent armed march from Kanawha County into Logan in 1919, where the armed marchers were stopped by the threatened coming of United States soldiers, and the very recent armed march from Kanawha County into Logan County in the attempt to reach Mingo County.

We especially call attention to the fact that such an army of armed men could not be assembled, armed and maintained while invading territory some seventy miles distant from the point of assembly, without leadership, systematic preparation, and the expenditure of vast sums of money.

During this armed invasion and insurrection highway robbery, murder, burglary, and other felonious acts, including seizure and operation of railroad trains, were committed by the members of this organization. **Union is** Because of all these unlawful acts, amounting **Menace to** to insurrection and open warfare, not only **Country.** against the rights of the non-union operators and their employees, but against the constituted authority of the State of West Virginia and that of the Nation, these operators say that this organization is unlawful per se, revolutionary in character, and a menace to the free institutions of the country.

All of these things are approved and directed by the United Mine Workers' officials, as is clearly shown by the published statements made by C. F. Keeney and Fred Mooney, President and Secretary, respectively, of District 17, of the United Mine Workers of America, with headquarters in Charleston, W. Va., the said Keeney and Mooney now being under indictment for



murder and dynamiting property in Mingo County, and now liable to prosecution for treason and inciting insurrection.

### THE RECORD OF LAWLESSNESS.

In conclusion the operators charge that:

The United Mine Workers of America has been in open hostility against all the powers of government since 1912, when this organization first announced in the preamble to its constitution that its members were entitled to "the full social value" of all the coal they helped to produce, to the complete exclusion of the owners of the mines.

Their continued attacks upon the judiciary have been both brutal and malignant. When Federal Judge Dayton enjoined them from interfering with the non-Union workers of the Hitchman Coal Company they filed charges against him and tried to have him impeached by Congress, although his decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States.

When the Supreme Court of West Virginia decided against them and upheld martial law to suppress their murderous violence, their abuse of the Court was scurrilous and scandalous.

When the court and a jury of Raleigh County sent a lot of them to the penitentiary for shooting up and wounding the workmen at the Glen White mines, both judge and jury were abused and their lives threatened.

#### **Defy Judges and Murder**

#### **Sheriffs.**

Every action of every court that has sought to prevent their lawlessness has been openly abused and defied by the leaders, publicists and spokesmen of their association, and the integrity of the judges attacked.

Every Governor of this State, from Glascock to the present Governor Morgan, regardless of his politics, has been resisted, defied, abused and threatened by these Union representatives whenever they have used the power of their office to protect the lives and the property of the citizens against these murderous assaults. They ignored and defied your (President Harding's) proclamation to lay down their arms, disperse and go home, and yielded only when confronted by a superior military force—the United States Army.

Deputy Sheriffs and State Police officers have been ruthlessly murdered from ambush—in every instance shot in the



back—because they were officers of the law charged with the duty of preserving order, and protecting life and property.

They have opposed and fought every move which was intended to strengthen the arm of the law for the establishment and preservation of peace and order, and the protection of the citizens against violence. They used all their powers of threats and abuse to prevent the Legislature from creating a State Constabulary at a time when the State had no militia or military force to aid the Governor to disperse mobs or quell insurrections.

They have besieged every Legislature for the last eight or ten years to prohibit the sheriffs from appointing sufficient deputies to police the counties. They have sought to prevent mine owners from having watchmen at night to take care of property.

Their whole object is now, and has been since 1912, to cripple all the protecting powers of government, so that their armies can march unmolested into the territory of non-Union mines and shoot down the workmen and destroy the mining plants at will.

This is a part of their plan to possess themselves of all the mining properties in the United States, and Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRY OLMSTED,

*Chairman of the Labor Committee,  
Operators' Association, of the Williamson Field.*

TO THE HONORABLE WARREN G. HARDING,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.



# The Logan Coal Operators Association, Logan, W. Va.

MR. PRESIDENT:

We note from newspaper reports that efforts are being made by various labor leaders to induce you to ask for a conference between the non-union coal operators and the representatives of the United Mine Workers, and, representing the coal operators of Logan County, W. Va., we wish to present to you the following facts:

**FIRST:** The United Mine Workers do not represent any of our employees, none of our employees being members of the United Mine Workers, and, this being true, there is no reason for us to have any conference with the United States Mine Workers.

**SECOND:** The Logan coal field was opened seventeen years ago and has been operated since that time as a non-union field. During that period there has never been any controversy between our employees and ourselves, and during the period when the United Mine Workers have attempted to invade our field by force, our employees have stood side by side with the coal operators, not as employer and employe, but as citizens of Logan County resisting invasion from an outside armed force.

**THIRD:** It is not only the purpose of the United Mine Workers to force recognition of their organization by the operators of the Logan Field, but their purpose is to

**Non-Union** force our employees to join their organization,  
**Miners Get** pay dues thereto, and work under conditions  
**Highest Pay.** fixed by the United Mine Workers and not by themselves. If our employees should become

members of the United Mine Workers and we should deal with them as such, they and their local representatives would not be allowed to deal with us on questions of wages, working conditions, etc., nor would the District or State officers of the United Mine Workers be able to contract with us on behalf of our employees without the consent of the International officers of the United Mine Workers of America at Indianapolis, Ind.



The contracts of the United Mine Workers of America provide that they are based upon the contract between the miners and the coal operators of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Western Pennsylvania, which are entered into between the operators and miners' representatives of those States, and neither the operators nor the miners of the other coal producing States have any voice in the proceedings upon which the contracts for the other States are based, but both the union miners and the coal operators of the other coal producing States are forced to accept the results of the contracts for the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Western Pennsylvania, commonly called the Central Competitive Field, regardless of its effect upon the wages of the employees or the business of the operators in the other coal producing States.

Our employees are better paid and better satisfied with their conditions than the employees in the union fields, and we deem it our duty while they are in our employ to protect them from outside intimidation and force.

**FOURTH:** The officials of the labor organizations who have been making representations to you, have objected to working conditions in our field. They do not do this on behalf of our employees. Seventeen years ago, when our field was opened, there were no miners in Logan County. The men coming into our field to seek employment did so with the knowledge that it was a non-union field, and while the majority of them were non-union miners, a great many union miners have entered our field for the purpose of getting away from the restrictions of the United Mine Workers and in order to improve their living conditions and earning capacity, and according to their statements to us, these men have no desire to reconnect themselves with the union, and state that if our field should be organized by the United Mine Workers that they will immediately move to some other non-union field, if any remains, and that if none remains, that they will cease their occupation as miners and seek other employment.

**FIFTH:** Vicious attacks have been made upon the peace officers of our county by these radical labor leaders. The basis for these attacks is the fact that our peace officers have



maintained law and order in our county, and have refused to let the radical agitators coerce and intimidate the citizens of the county in which they reside. They bring the charge that we employ Baldwin-Felts men and gunmen for the purpose of intimidating our workmen. This statement is absolutely untrue. The Baldwin-Felts organization is a regular commercial detective organization of high standing, but none of its men have been employed in our county within the past ten years, and, furthermore, while we have a population of 60,000 people, the total number of deputy sheriffs and constables in our county does not exceed fifty men, covering a territory of 400 square miles, which is much less than the number of men employed in cities of our State of similar population.

SIXTH: The maximum amount of coal produced in our field in Logan County, West Virginia, in any one year, was 10,211,390 tons. During the current year the production from our field by months has been as follows:

	Tons.		Tons.
January .....	667,295	May .....	1,044,893
February .....	476,166	June .....	1,207,237
March .....	613,784	July .....	1,032,760
April .....	776,931	August .....	822,126

We submit this statement to show the comparatively regular employment of the mines in our field, as compared with the low production in the country as a whole, with which you are fully acquainted. The only reason production has dropped below the maximum in any month has been as a result of market conditions, and not any labor disturbances within our field.

During the past two weeks, when the whole nation has been disturbed by the attacks and threatened attacks of thousands of armed miners on the citizens of our county, the mines in our field have produced day by day, in so far as market conditions permit, almost the regular normal output of coal, while production in the adjacent union fields has stopped almost altogether. So that you may understand fully the comparative situation as to the regularity in our field and the adja-

cent union fields in the past two weeks, we submit below a statement taken from the records of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company as to the number of railroad cars of coal produced in our field, and in the adjacent Kanawha field for the past fifteen days, and the normal capacity of these two fields being substantially the same, you will readily appreciate from the figures below that if there had been any strike or labor disturbances within our field during this period that it would not have been possible for us to maintain this production while the miners from the union mines in the Kanawha fields were engaged in an armed insurrection against the State and threatening the lives of the people of our county.

This production was as follows:

#### NUMBER OF CARS LOADED.

	Logan District (Non-Union).	Kanawha District (Union).
Aug. 15.....	522	425
16.....	916	450
17.....	531	458
18.....	500	339
19.....	710	405
20.....	661	226
22.....	626	296
23.....	552	241
24.....	610	184
25.....	541	152
26.....	791	38
27.....	423	25
29.....	697	133
30.....	462	180
31.....	453	122
Sept. 1.....	451	125
2.....	511	67
3.....	458	61
Total.....	10,415	3,927



## UNION SEEKS COMPLETE CONTROL.

**SEVENTH:** If our field and the adjacent non-union fields in West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky should be unionized, it would put the officials of the United Mine Workers of America in control of the production and distribution of practically all the coal in the United States, and their purpose in attempting to force organization upon our field is to put themselves in a position to absolutely dominate the production, distribution, and price of bituminous coal. This would give these leaders more power over the people of the United States than that held by any other organization in the world. The wage contracts in the union fields expire on April 1st, 1922. During the nation-wide strike of the winter of 1919, the officials of the union stated publicly that before another general strike they would organize the non-union coal fields and be in a position to control the entire output of coal in the United States.

During this last strike, in the fall of 1919, the only thing that prevented the complete success of the United Mine Workers in their attempts to tie up and freeze the country into submission, was the production of coal from the non-union fields, of which our county produced 2,000,000 tons, and every American citizen is interested in maintaining the integrity of these non-union fields for the control of which the officials of the United Mine Workers are willing to sacrifice the lives, not of themselves, but of their members, in a treasonable attempt to override all constituted State and Federal authority.

**Miners  
Drafted for  
Uprising.**

Our information is, and we believe that investigation in the Kanawha and Boone Counties will show, that thousands of men went into the recent revolt and attacked citizens of our county—went under coercion and threats of death by their leaders. Our information is these men were drafted for service, and were notified by their leaders that if they did not respond they would be either hanged or shot, and that the so-called “spontaneous uprising” by the United Mine Workers was the result of a deliberate well laid plot by the officials of that organization who dominate their members through fear of an invisible government, with power of life and death over



its members. This death penalty was inflicted by this organization on some of its members within the past two weeks.

We submit to you and to the intelligent American public that the only "offenses" of which we have been, and are, charged, are that:

(a) We have dealt directly with our own employees, on a basis satisfactory to both themselves and ourselves.

(b) We have given our employees more regular employment than probably any other coal field in the United States for a number of years.

(c) The earning capacity of our employees has been, and still is, greater than that in the adjacent union fields of this State.

(d) In order to keep our mines in operation during dull periods, as at present, we have operated our mines at a small profit, or without profit, in order to give our employees an opportunity to earn a regular wage, and have given the public the advantage of fuel at the lowest possible cost, while the union mines have reduced their production to one or two days per week, or in some cases less, because of the restrictions placed upon them by the officials of the United Mine Workers.

(e) On account of our freedom from strikes, we have been able to supply our customers with a regular fuel supply, with the result that our coal has a steady market in dull times.

(f) The owners of the majority of the mines in our county and their families live on their properties, along with their employees, and along with our employees we take an active interest in the preservation of law and order in our community. This has prevented the organizers of the United Mine Workers from coercing and intimidating our employees into joining the United Mine Workers, and when they have been prevented from violating the laws of our State, they have immediately accused the officers of the law, who prevent them from carrying out their unlawful



acts, of being thugs, outlaws, and gunmen, which they themselves are doing, this for the purpose of covering up their own unlawful acts.

We submit to you as a peaceful, law-abiding community, with an industrious, contented industrial population, with no semblance of labor trouble or disturbance, our **Mine Owners** county has been subjected to greater indignities **Opposed to** and outrages at the hands of members of the **Conference.** United Mine Workers from Kanawha, Boone and other counties than has ever been suffered by any community of American citizens in the history of our country, and if our Government permits thousands of men to organize and arm themselves and march against the inhabitants of a peaceful county, with threats of arson and murder against the population thereof, without any adequate punishment therefor, we seriously fear that the days of free government in this country are numbered. At the call of the constituted authorities of our county, practically the entire male population of our county offered their services as special officers, and for the past two weeks hundreds of our citizens have been compelled to leave their business and stand to arms, ready to meet an invasion from outside communities, while the women and children of our community have been terrorized as a result of the threats and acts of violence against the people of our county.

We submit to you that under these circumstances there is no occasion for a conference between ourselves and the representatives of the United Mine Workers of America, and that we can not under any circumstances participate in such conference.

I am sending you this letter by the request and under the directions of the Executive Committee of the Logan Coal Operators' Association.

Respectfully yours,

W. R. THURMOND,

*President, Logan Coal Operators Association.*

To the HONORABLE WARREN G. HARDING,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.







