

EIGHT HUNDRED SLACKERS DODGIN

Seven Finnish Workers in Coal Creek Colliery Are Arrested at Mouth of Pit as Leaders in Plot—Ship Fireman Is Also Held.

REGISTRATION WORK FOUND SATISFACTORY.

In Seattle and Throughout Entire
State Task of Listing Names Was
Well Done, Says Adjutant General
Maurice Thompson—Records Now
Rapidly Being Completed.

Seven Finnish coal miners who refused to register under the select service law at Newcastle are in the county jail and seventy or eighty more are liable to a year's imprisonment and enforced registration provided by the federal law for slackers as the result of a visit by three deputy sheriffs and two deputy marshals to the mining town Wednesday afternoon.

Sheriff Stringer said last night that he has the names of more than thirty men in more than a dozen other precincts who did not register. Pursuing the government's policy in dealing liberally with tardy citizens, as announced yesterday in Provost Marshal General Crowder's telegram to Gov. Lister, the men who are charged with merely failing to register may escape lightly. The seven Newcastle miners face a more serious charge since they are suspected of having encouraged others to oppose registration. They are at present charged at the county jail with refusing to register. Their preliminary hearing in the federal court is set for June 16.

Ship Fireman Nabbed.

The first man in Seattle to be arrested for failing to comply with the registration act was A. Toboda, 30 years old, a fireman on the steamship City of Seattle, who was taken into custody by United States Deputy Marshall Ed Williams shortly after 6 o'clock Wednesday evening and placed in the city jail for safe-keeping. He will be brought before United States Commissioner N. McClelland for a preliminary hearing Thursday morning.

The miners held are: Herman Carlson, 25; John Sundquist, 23; Oscar Rudestrum, 28; Frank Hill, 22; Edward Anderson, 28; Verner Wiik, 26, and Jack Wilson, 24. Hill and Wilson are Finnish-speaking Finns and the others speak Swedish. All are aliens.

All but Anderson work on the morning shift in the Coal Creek mine of the Pacific Coast Coal Company, one mile from the town of Newcastle, and were arrested as they came to the top of the ground at the end of the shift at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Still wearing their miner's clothes, and with their faces mud-stained, they were taken to the county jail. Anderson was to have gone to work at 4 o'clock and was arrested while wearing his street clothes.

The prisoners are all blond, muscular young men of apparently law-abiding disposition, except that they firmly declare they will not comply with the orders for registration.

To Appeal to Consul.

Speaking for the Finnish-speaking miners, Jack Wilson denied that there was any concerted opposition to the law. He had heard that the Swedish-speaking element at Newcastle held a meeting of some sort Sunday, he said. Anderson, who speaks Swedish, said that he knew nothing of any meeting, but that he was not in Newcastle Sunday. Being subjects of Russia, as natives of Finland, the men declared that they would appeal to the Russian consul, Nicholas Bogolavlensky.

"We have done nothing more than the rest of the men who didn't register," said Wilson, in denying that he or his fellow prisoners had instigated the breaking of the federal law. "I just stayed away, that's all. We are not citizens of this country and we do not understand how the United States could make us join the army. Yes, I knew what the law was and that we might be arrested, but I don't want to go to fight in France. If the Germans came over here, though, I would stand up for America. Of course, we're helpless, but we might as well be in Russia, where they send you to Siberia if you don't join the army."

Admits Knowledge of Law.

Anderson expressed the same sentiment, admitting that his fellow countrymen know the law and the penalty for failure to register when they remained away from the registration place. He estimated that between eighty and ninety men between the ages of 21 and 31 in Newcastle precinct had failed to comply with the law.

Toboda, who is a native of Spain.

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