

Further Advice.

Following this and still hoping that the unions or rather those who were acting as their local representatives could be persuaded to cooperate with the International I sent the following wire:

"Years of practical experience in which I have had to deal with many situations identical with that which now confronts Burke Miners Union prompts me to again urge that your local cooperate with the Government representative and International Board Member in the effort to bring about a settlement of the dispute between the employing companies and the union and to reiterate that it is for the best interests of your membership and the future of organized labor in the Coeur d'Alenes that you should so co-operate.

Chas. H. Moyer"

How the Strike Was Called.

At the time the strike was called there were five locals functioning in District 14, namely, Burke, Gem, Mullen, Wallace and Kellogg. In the district union meeting which called the strike there were ten delegates, the Wallace local having two delegates who refused to vote on the grounds that their local had not taken a strike vote. The Kellogg union with two delegates also refused to vote owing to the fact that negotiations were going on between the local and the management of the Bunker Hill properties which looked favorable for an amicable settlement. The membership of Gem Miners Union had taken no strike vote and their delegates, two in number, had no instructions from the local to participate in the declaration of a strike by the District Union, divided their votes on the question. Be it remembered that the District Union had but ten delegates clothed with ten votes; that but five votes were cast in favor of a strike and one of these votes was by a delegate whose local membership had not voted on a strike or instructed him to so vote and as the best evidence that the Gem Union did not consider itself bound by the action of the District Union in calling the strike I quote from a letter received from a committee of the Gem Local under date of September 2, 1919. Quotation from the Gem letter: "When other unions called a strike our union walked out in sympathy."

Only Four Votes Cast.

Therefore, there were only four authorized votes cast on such an important question as involving a district in strike; were these four votes legal? The constitution of our unions in District 14, provides that the president shall have the deciding vote when the members are equally divided. We must assume that the same rule governed in the District Union, as it does in all parliamentary usage and conventional bodies. If so, one of these ten delegates was the presiding officer in that meeting. There was not an equal division of the delegates voting; therefore if the presiding officer voted, which he did, it was an illegal vote, leaving but three authorized legal votes cast by delegates of District 14, which called the strike in the Coeur d'Alenes.

Endorsement Asked.

And yet after the mistake had been made after the constitution had been cast aside your International President is asked to endorse the strike and upon his failure to do so he is included among the enemies of the men of the mines of Idaho named by the coterie, who, in order to shift the responsibility, which they assumed in calling the strike onto the shoulders of others. After it was hopelessly lost, resort to a campaign of circular letters, having for their purpose the sowing of dissension and prejudice among the membership against their International officers, charging them with responsibility for the loss of their membership in the Coeur d'Alenes caused alone through their "mule