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## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

Of the.....

# State Board of Arbitration

.....Of the

## STATE OF COLORADO

JAMES B. GRANT, Chairman

ROADY KENEHAN

JOHN W. BARNES, Secretary



DENVER, COLORADO  
THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING COMPANY  
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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
STATE BOARD OF ARBITRATION  
OF COLORADO.

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To His Excellency,  
ALVA ADAMS,  
Governor of the State of Colorado:

In obedience to the statutory provision, the State Board of Arbitration has the honor to herewith submit its second annual report, covering the period from November 11, 1897, to November 11, 1898.

The only business which has come before this board during the past year has been in connection with controversies between the operators of certain coal mines in the northern part of this state and their employés. In deed, outside of the northern coal district no labor difficulty has arisen in Colorado during this time to seriously disturb or obstruct the wheels of industry, except, perhaps, the late lockout of the brewers. A few other disputes of short duration have occurred which were amicably settled without the intervention of this board.

The northern coal district, comprising the mines at Louisville, Lafayette, Marshall, Erie and Superior, has been the scene of several strikes during the past few years by reason of dissatisfaction on the part of the miners with the scale of wages adopted in the several mining camps at different times. It would seem to be foreign to our duties and subserve no good purpose to



embody in this report a history of the labor troubles in these coal mines which have occurred prior to the establishment of this board, or to give our opinion as to the various conditions which have been the underlying cause of these difficulties. Suffice it to say, that there has been an unsettled and unsatisfactory condition prevailing between the operators and miners in different parts of this district, resulting in the past in several strikes or suspensions.

The first strike in this district after the establishment of the State Board of Arbitration occurred on January 18 last. For some time prior to this date the miners working in the Simpson, Excelsior, Gladstone and Otis mines at Lafayette had been receiving forty cents per ton for shooting and loading coal after machines on the basis of lump coal—forty per cent. being accounted as slack. The Mitchell mine, also located at Lafayette, was paying forty-five cents per ton in "rooms" and fifty cents per ton in "pillars" for the same service. Early in January the miners demanded a uniform scale in Lafayette at the latter prices. They also demanded a different system of measurement for machine work at Louisville. These demands not being complied with by the operators, the miners, at a mass meeting held on January 18, ordered a general suspension throughout the district, involving about seven hundred men. On January 24 this board received the following communication from the district union of the miners:

Louisville, Colo., January 23, 1898.

MR. BARNES, ESQ.,

Secretary of State Board of Arbitration:

Dear Sir—We, the undersigned, are instructed by the executive board of the coal miners of northern Colorado to inform you that there are a series of grievances existing at present between the miners and their employers in this section of the state, and that the miners

are wishful to refer said grievances to the State Board of Arbitration, and therefore we humbly request your honorable body to visit the seat of trouble and make an investigation into pending grievances as soon as convenient. If you could let us know when the board will be out here we could have a committee of citizens in waiting to lay the trouble before you. Lafayette, we think, would be the proper place to meet, as the bulk of the trouble exists right there. If you should have any telephone message to send at any time, telephone to Ed. Beckett, of Lafayette, or George Clark, of Louisville. We remain

Yours truly,

JOSEPH SMITH,  
President of District Union.

E. E. BECKETT,  
Secretary.

Upon the reception of this notification the board immediately put itself in communication with the miners as well as with the operators, and upon the next day received the following from the latter:

Denver, Colorado, January 25, 1898.

HON. JOHN W. BARNES,

Secretary of the Board of Arbitration, Denver,  
Colorado:

Dear Sir—We, the undersigned coal mine operators in Lafayette and Louisville, Colorado, desire to submit to your honorable board for arbitration the differences and disputes that now exist between the miners and the undersigned coal operators in the mines operated by us in Lafayette and Louisville.

We will abide by the decision of your honorable board and will accept and pay the price for labor that



may be decided upon, with the understanding that the miners resume work at once and that the scale of wages decided upon shall cover the labor performed from and after this date. It is further understood that so far as The United Coal Company's properties are concerned, operated by John McNeil, receiver thereof, the scale of wages to be adopted shall be binding unless overruled by Judge Frank T. Johnson, judge of the district court of Arapahoe county.

Yours truly,

THE UNITED COAL CO.,

By John McNeil, Receiver.

THE GLADSTONE COAL MINING CO.,

By James Hopkins.

THE REX COAL MINING CO.,

By F. W. Loveland, President.

C. S. OTIS.

THE LEADER COAL MINING CO.,

By John Connell, President.

On the same day two of the members of this board proceeded to Louisville to confer with the miners, resulting in the presentation of the following submission on their part:

Louisville, Colorado, January 25, 1898.

HON. JOHN W. BARNES,

Secretary of the Board of Arbitration, Denver,  
Colorado:

Dear Sir—We, the coal miners of the northern district, including Lafayette and Louisville, in Colorado, and all miners under our jurisdiction in said district, hereby agree to submit to your honorable board for arbi-

tration the differences in dispute that now exist between the operators and miners of Louisville and Lafayette as to the scale of wages to be paid in the mines in Lafayette, also the differences that now exist regarding machine work in the Louisville district. We further agree to abide by the decision of your honorable board and will proceed to work as soon as notice can be given to the men now affected and, if possible, on Thursday morning, January 27, 1898, and with the further understanding that we shall receive for all work performed pending the investigation of the board, the scale of wages adopted by the board in its decision after investigation.

(Signed)

JOSEPH SMITH,

President.

GEORGE RANSOM.

JOHN WENNBURG.

GEORGE CLARK.

P. CUMMINGS.

JOHN B. CLARK.

E. E. BECKETT,

Secretary.

The following statements of claims of the miners and operators respectively were subsequently presented, viz.:

Lafayette, Colorado, January 26, 1898.

HON. J. W. BARNES,

Secretary State Board of Arbitration, Denver,  
Colorado:

My Dear Sir—Demands of Lafayette miners are as follows: Forty-five cents per ton shooting and loading coal after machines in rooms; 50 cents per ton shooting and loading coal after machines in pillars; 45 cents per



ton shooting and loading coal after machines in narrow work; 75 cents per yard in narrow work where coal is sheared in center by machines; 75 cents per ton pick work in rooms; 65 cents per ton pick work in pillars.

Demands of Louisville: Machine runners and helpers as follows: Machine runners, \$3.60 per day; machine helpers, \$3 per day, oil and cotton furnished. We further demand that no discrimination be used against any person or persons taking part in this dispute in being reinstated after the termination of said dispute.

(Signed) JOSEPH SMITH,  
President.  
GEORGE RANSOM.  
GEORGE CLARK.  
P. CUMMINGS.  
JOHN WENNBERG.  
GEORGE MATHEWS.  
WM. LAWLEY.  
JOHN CLARK.  
E. E. BECKETT,  
Secretary.

Denver, Colorado, January 28, 1898.

To the Honorable State Board of Arbitration,  
JOHN W. BARNES,  
Secretary, Denver, Colorado:

Gentlemen—We, the undersigned coal mine operators, respectfully submit to your honorable board that any advance in the following scale of wages which was paid prior to the strike or January 18, can not be granted by us.

For mining in the Lafayette district: Forty cents per ton for shooting and loading coal after machines in

rooms and pillars; \$3.10 per day, as heretofore, for shooting and loading after machines in narrow work; \$3.10 per day, as heretofore, in narrow work where coal is sheared in center by machines.

For machine work in Louisville mines:

Machine runners, \$3.60 per day for ten hours.

Machine helpers, \$3.10 per day for ten hours; men to furnish their own oil and cotton.

Machine runners, \$3.50 per day for nine and a half hours.

Machine helpers, \$3.00 per day for nine and a half hours; men to furnish their own oil and cotton.

Yours truly,

(Signed) THE UNITED COAL CO.,  
By John McNeil, Receiver.  
THE GLADSTONE COAL MINING CO.,  
By James Hopkins.  
THE REX COAL MINING CO.,  
By F. W. Loveland, President.  
THE LEADER COAL MINING CO.,  
By John Connell.  
THE IMPERIAL COAL MINING CO.,  
By Jake Williams.  
CHARLES S. OTIS.

The matters of difference between the respective parties being now specifically stated and jointly submitted, the board fixed February 1 as the date, and Lafayette as the place, for holding the investigation. Work was resumed in the mines on January 27 pending the hearing, according to agreement.

On February 1, the board met at Odd Fellows' hall in Lafayette and proceeded to hear and investigate the



matters in dispute. Upon the opening of the investigation, the issues were simplified by the voluntary withdrawal by the miners of their demands as to the Louisville district. The board remained in session four days in its investigation at Lafayette, during which time a large number of witnesses were examined on both sides and their testimony taken under oath. The board also spent one-half day in inspecting one of the principal mines involved in the controversy. By mutual consent the board continued the hearing on the fifth day in its offices in the state capitol at Denver. This concluded the taking of testimony, and the board took the matter under advisement, holding two sessions for consultation. On February 11, the board rendered its decision in writing, as follows:

State of Colorado, before the State Board of Arbitration.

In the matter of the strike of January 18, 1898, of the coal miners of northern Colorado, on account of disagreement as to scale of wages between The United Coal Company, The Rex Coal Mining Company, The Gladstone Coal Mining Company, The Leader Coal Mining Company, the Otis mine and The Imperial Coal Mining Company on the one hand, and their employés on the other.

#### DECISION.

The above named parties having submitted their respective grievances and matters of difference to this board for arbitration, and the board having investigated and inquired into the matters in controversy, and taken testimony under oath in relation thereto in behalf of all parties, and the miners having withdrawn their demands as to the Louisville district, so that the matters in dispute are confined to questions of wages in the Lafayette district, and the board being now sufficiently advised in the premises, the following scale of wages

for said Lafayette district is hereby awarded for the kind of work designated, to wit:

For shooting and loading coal after machines in rooms, 45 cents per ton.

For shooting and loading coal after machines in pillars, 50 cents per ton.

For shooting and loading coal after machines in narrow work, 45 cents per ton.

For narrow work where coal is sheared in center by machine, 75 cents per yard.

For pick work in rooms, 75 cents per ton.

For pick work in pillars, 65 cents per ton.

This scale shall relate back and take effect on January 27, 1898, being the day the miners resumed work.

Done by the State Board of Arbitration, at its office in the state capitol, this eleventh day of February, A. D. 1898.

(Signed)

J. B. GRANT,

ROADY KENEHAN,

J. W. BARNES,

Members of the Board.

The miners were out on this strike, it will be seen, but nine days. It occurring in mid-winter, when the demand for coal is urgent and great, its continuation for any considerable time would have caused a coal famine and widespread loss and suffering.

On June 6 another general suspension in all the mines of the northern district was ordered by the miners' committee.

The seat of trouble was also at Lafayette. Several of the mines there had come into the possession and control of The Northern Coal Company, which was not specifically a party to the arbitration agreement, and it declined to pay at Lafayette the scale prescribed by this board on February 11.



There was no difficulty at any other place in the northern district, but through sympathy all the miners throughout the entire district were called out. The Gorham Coal Company, operating at Marshall, sought the intervention of the board and a meeting was held in Denver on June 21, at which were present Austin G. Gorham, president of the company, and a committee of the miners. Efforts were made by the board at this meeting to effect a settlement by mediation, and an agreement was entered into between the Gorham company and the miners' committee at that time, subject to the ratification of the full executive board of the district union, whereby work was to be resumed at those mines. but the executive committee on the next day refused to ratify the agreement. A few days afterwards two of the members of this board went to Louisville and Marshall in a further attempt to effect a settlement. Subsequently, and on July 21, work was resumed. This strike, so far as the mines at Marshall were concerned, was purely sympathetic, there being no grievance against The Gorham Coal Company. This was also true as to the Pike's Peak mine, at Erie, and in some other parts of the district. No joint submission was made to the board during this strike. Finally in the latter part of August, the strike throughout the northern district was declared off upon an agreement entered into between The Northern Coal Company and the miners.

In the late lockout of the brewers, the proprietors, the Brewers' Association, presented a written statement to the effect that it was desirous of submitting the controversy to this board for arbitration, but before their employes were heard from, the association and Brewers' Union No. 44 got together and effected an amicable settlement. This lockout lasted about two weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. GRANT.

ROADY KENEHAN.

J. W. BARNES.



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