

SHUTDOWN OF W. VA. MINES LAYS OFF 1,700

Attempt to Starve Out Union

By GEORGE PAPCUN.
(Worker Correspondent)

WHEELING, W. Va., April 5.—Over 1,700 union miners were thrown out of employment April 1 when five mines were shut down for an indefinite period. Two thousand more miners are expected to be out of work very soon.

The mines shut down April 1 were the Lincoln mine at Lansing, the Stanley mine at Blain, both the property of the Lorraine Coal and Dock company and employing 680 men; the Barton mine of the Barton Mining company, employing 200; two mines of the United States Coal company at Dillonvale, employing 600, and the Flushing mine at the Massillon-Belmont Coal company, employing 200.

Starve Them Out.

It seems that the Coal Operators' Association is pursuing a policy of first starving the miners at the mines, after which it will try to enforce the 1917 scale, as has been done thru eastern Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania.

This adds to the thousands of coal miners that are out of employment at present. Of course the coal operators, to hide the real motive behind the closing and shutting of the mines, give flimsy excuses, such as, "Expiration of the railroad fuel contracts and general depression of the coal industry in the field is responsible for the closing down of the mines." The miners see

how ridiculous this statement of the coal operators is. We know that the same excuse was given in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and other parts of eastern Ohio, where, after starving the miners, the coal operators began to smash the union and tried to force the miners back to work under non-union conditions.

On Guard.

The miners must be on their guard against the next move of the coal operators and they must also see that the officials pursue a real fighting policy against the coal operators should the coal operators make a move to try to make the mines non-union and reduce them to the 1917 scale.

Atlantic City Walkout Looms.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., April 5.—Painters, decorators and paperhangers have obtained their union demands for wage increases of \$1 a day bringing the scale to \$11 and \$10. Other unions have failed to get the average \$2 increases asked and are preparing to strike. Building would be tied up by such a move.

When that argument begins at lunch time in your shop tomorrow—show them what the DAILY WORKER says about it.

REGULAR MONTHLY

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