

Anthracite Unemployment

By GEORGE PAPCUN.

The unemployment situation thruout the whole anthracite is very serious. At least 35,000 miners in District 1 are out of work, and the others are mostly working part time. The Hudson Cool Co. is shut down. It employed around 20,000 miners. All other companies are working only part time. In District 9 and seven similar situations exist. It has come to such a point among the miners that at Treverton they spontaneously organized a protest meeting attended by virtually the entire town. The meeting was held Dec. 15.

The majority of the male workers are employed at the North Franklin colliery of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Co. They have filed a protest to the head of the company, demanding that something be done, and pointing out that for the first two weeks in December they have only worked one day.

Meeting Sought.

A committee has been appointed to arrange a meeting with A. J. Maloney, president of the above company, and present their demand. On top of the unemployment and suffering, which is a reality, the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Co. sends out a letter to all of its employees asking them to speed up production.

Here are some phrases from the letter which was sent to all the miners: "We have a soil product and we must bring it above the earth as cheaply and as efficiently as possible." "The next problem is the assurance of a steady supply at a price which will be fair to the public."

Then he goes on to describe how the miners should produce more coal and how wonderful the company is, and what efforts it is making to give the miners full-time work. He also knocks the question of strikes, and points out that it is because of this

that the anthracite has lost its market, in fact, it is a letter of attack on the miners' union and of trying to propagandise the workers against the union.

Part-Time Basis.

For the last year the Philadelphia & Reading Co., in District 9, has been running part time basis of two and three days a week. Yet the men are making a brave attempt to help the soft coal miners by gathering whatever old clothes they have got to send to their brothers, who are battling the coal operators in the soft coal fields for the life of their union. The men are sending no cash, as none is on hand.

Bad As 1907.

Thruout the whole anthracite, thru talking with individual miners, one will find that such a condition has not existed since around 1907, and most rank and filers believe that it is the first step of the coal operators to smash the mine workers' union because of its weakened condition and the success which the coal operators are meeting with in the soft coal region because of John L. Lewis.

The left wing must take this into consideration, and must immediately start a move to bring together the miners that are working even part time now, and the miners who are entirely unemployed and demand relief from the municipal authorities and from the state government. Steps must be immediately taken to do something to relieve the miners of their suffering thru the organization of unemployment councils. This will meet with resistance by the mine workers' officials, who are still harping on the question of the fake cooperative conference which was held in the anthracite region, but which, as the mine workers can see, has brought no results.