

MINE WORKERS, NON-UNION, OUT ON WAGE STRIKE

Pennsylvania Diggers Fight 1917 Scale

By GEORGE PAPCUN.
(Special to The Daily Worker)

CRESSON, Pa., Jan. 9.—Non-union miners of five coal companies in District Two have gone out on strike. Approximately 600 miners laid down their tools when operators cut their wages to the 1917 scale. Coal companies affected are: Jackson, Big Ben, Hughes, Commercial and Stanwix. It is predicted that the United Mine Workers Union will shut down the mines in Beaverdale, Portage, and Ben's Creek by Monday night.

Mine workers in the five mines were notified that when they return to work Monday the 1917 scale would be in effect. Coal and iron police are making daily visits to miners and their families urging them to return to work.

Strikers Organize.

The striking miners were immediately organized by T. Welsh, board member of the United Mine Workers, who is located at Nantyglo. Welsh has declared that the miners at the Portage and Ben's Creek coal company properties may be expected to strike at any time. Miners at Beaverdale and Hastings, properties owned by similar interests, are reported preparing to lay down their tools and quit.

Hughes Co. Threatens.

The Hughes Coal company representatives promised to restore the Jacksonville wage agreement, but will not recognize the miners' union. The Hughes people are said to have threatened to "nail the drift shut" if the men do not return to work immediately, but the miners, under the leadership of Welsh, are determined to win this struggle.

Police Patrol District.

The Union coal and iron police, who have been doing strike duty in this territory for two years, are engaged in guarding the few scabs that are left.

Rumors have it that union officials and the mine operators are now negotiating to reach an agreement.