

UNDER STATE'S PROTECTION, MOYER TELLS EXPERIENCES TO HOUGHTON GRAND JURY

FEDERATION'S OFFICERS COME WITH SHERIFFS

Crowd of Union Men Greet Leader
on His Arrival From Chicago.
No Development Tending to
Recall Bitterness at Time of
Banishment.

Victor Berger Takes a Hand in
the Situation, But Just How
Much of a One Only a Few
Know—Governor Ferris Does
Not See Moyer.

HOUGHTON, Mich., Jan. 8.—Chas. H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners, and Charles Tanner, auditor of the organization, today told to the grand jury here their versions of the deportation of Dec. 26. Less than two hours were consumed in the grand jury room, the men then returning to the same hotel in Hancock, whence they were taken a fortnight ago.

No announcement as to the nature of their testimony was forthcoming from any authoritative source, and they themselves declined to grant interviews.

Crowd Meets Him.

Except for the fact that a big crowd of union men greeted their leader on his arrival and stood about the hotel in groups while he was there, no incident occurred to recall the intense bitterness that preceded the deportation. Both federation men were closely guarded by deputy sheriffs, and there was a general feeling that, since they were under the official protection of the state of Michigan all signs of resentment should be suppressed.

The men were met at Manning, the first junction point in Michigan reached by train from Chicago, by two deputies, selected for their fearlessness and reliability. Practically every step of Moyer and Tanner was guarded by these men throughout the day and evening. Except for their trips from the railroad station to the hotel and to the courthouse in Houghton and back to Hancock, however, the two made no appearance in public.

Hilton Confers.

O. N. Hilton, chief of counsel of the Federation, met the party at the hotel and immediately went into conference with his clients. It is presumed the developments of Governor Ferris' inquiry into strike conditions were discussed, but no announcement was made. Victor Berger, former Milwaukee congressman, who is here as a member of a committee from the national Socialist party, was admitted to the room but only after a considerable wait in the corridor. He boarded the incoming train at Houghton, but failed to gain admission to the locked stateroom.

Governor Ferris and the head of the strikers' union did not meet. The governor left Houghton in an automobile early in the afternoon and did not return for several hours. Meanwhile, the federation men had completed their visit in Houghton.

Two Panaceas.

Two panaceas for the strike situation were presented to the governor. Mr. Russel said the executive could end the trouble if he would use his influence with the mining companies to force them to recognize the Western Federation of Miners.

"Will you do it?" he asked.

"No, sir; I will not," was the em-

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phatic reply, and a few minutes later the governor added that he did not know what he would do if the state of Michigan should order him to recognize a church or any other organization.

Mr. Berger proposed that all mine guards and deputies be withdrawn; that the sound sense of the citizens be trusted to preserve law and order, and that the state in some way protect the men from eviction.

He offered no plan for the accomplishment of this latter proposal, and Mr. Stedman suggested the state might establish tent colonies for the housing of the men. He said the companies had no legal right to own and rent houses under their charters, but Grant Fellows, attorney general of the state, disagreed with him.

Governor Ferris has almost completed his personal investigation of the strike. He announced tonight his search for information would possibly end tomorrow morning, and at the latest he would leave the strike zone at night, going to his home at Big Rapids.

He has thus far not fulfilled a promise made when he first arrived here, that after getting information from both sides he intended to exercise powers of persuasion toward a settlement. There are indications that this phase of activity will be postponed.

Chief interest centered today in the testimony of the copper mine operators. It was largely an historical discussion, although emphasis was laid upon the opinion of the individual mine officials that union labor, as such, was not repugnant to them. They made it plain, however, that the Western Federation of Miners could hope for no consideration from company sources, and they did not hesitate to make the governor know that this attitude was unchangeable.

Non-Unionists on Hand.

After this conference with the mine men, the governor met a delegation of Italian and Finnish non-union workmen which came to ask state protection. They spoke through interpreters and told the state executive they were subjected to daily threats and abuse from strikers. They said they had no use for the Western Federation of Miners or any other union.

Mr. Berger returned to Milwaukee shortly after the interview with the governor. The other members of the committee were undecided as to when they would depart.

"Legal Subjects."

"Legal subjects" again occupied the attention of the governor this evening and he remained in seclusion with the attorney general and George Nichols, special prosecutor in charge of grand jury work.

The inquiry by Julius J. Patek of Ironwood, on behalf of the consul general of Austria-Hungary into allegations that natives of that country had been compelled to work in the mines against their will was completed tonight.

Before leaving, Mr. Patek dictated this statement:

"I shall recommend to the Austrian government that it take steps for a writ of habeas corpus in federal courts, basing this recommendation on evidence which I have collected in about eight cases. If this evidence is true then the South Kearsage and Allouez people are guilty of holding men in bondage or peonage."

Mr. Patek said he was acting for the consulate of Austria at St. Paul, in the jurisdiction of which this district lies. He said the complaints had been filed there, in Cleveland and with the Austrian minister at Washington. The habeas corpus proceedings were recommended because he could not find some of the men whose relatives had complained. In one instance, he said, three men had disappeared together and he gave it as his opinion that they had been shifted against their will from the mines in question to others in the district.