

TWO MINES RUNNING.

Men at Bernice Drift and Lykens Drift Refuse to Strike.

Special to The New York Times.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., May 26.—Despite the efforts of the strike leaders, two anthracite mines remain in operation and produce 15,000 tons a day for an active market. They are the Bernice Drift of the State Line and Sullivan Railroad Company and the Lykens Drift, owned by W. B. Gunton, at Bernice. This is in Sullivan County, a little offshoot of the anthracite field where the coal is not of as good a quality as here in the heart of the field. But it is attached to the First District, under the direction of President T. D. Nichols.

The Bernice mine is run by 400 non-union men, the union men having been on strike since February, 1900, when the owners refused to pay the 10 per cent. increase granted by the other companies. Since then the strikers have been evicted from their houses and their places filled with non-union men.

Gunton gave his men 10 per cent. and they have been so well satisfied ever since that when the strike was ordered two weeks ago they refused to go out. Since then several strikers from here have obtained work with them.

Vice President Adam Ruscavage of this district was sent to Bernice yesterday, but could not induce the men to strike. Now an effort is to be made to get the Lehigh Valley railroaders to refuse to haul the non-union coal and the men at Lyken's Drift will be declared non-union at the same time. The coal is sent via the Lehigh Valley to Northern New York and Canada, and finds a ready market there.

The companies have a number of detectives on guard, but as there are but a hundred of the original strikers left, and as the region is some forty miles from the main basin, there is not much fear of serious interferences with the workers.

It is still a matter of conjecture whether the mines in the anthracite region will be completely shut down next Monday when the order issued by the Executive Boards of the United Mine Workers, governing the hours of labor and wages to be paid engineers, firemen, and pump runners, goes into effect. The operators claim they will have all the help necessary to keep the pumps and engines in running order.

The United Mine Workers and the officers of the Stationary Firemen's Association on the other hand claim that unless the coal companies grant the demands made upon them the great bulk of engineers, firemen, and pumpmen will quit work. There seems to be no question but that both sides are straining every nerve to make the best showing possible.

The operators are bringing all the influence they possibly can to hold the men now at work, while the striking miners are also doing missionary work. Many of the engineers do not like the predicament they are placed in. If they quit work they will displease the company officials and may never be reinstated, while if they remain at their posts and the miners should win their strike, they would probably find that things would not be so pleasant for them at the collieries in the future.

In order to reach those who are wavering a call was issued to-night for a mass meeting of all engineers, pumpmen, and firemen in the Wyoming region in this city next Friday evening. At a largely attended meeting in this city to-night a committee from Local No. 484, United Mine Workers, reported that they had called upon many engineers during the day, and that nearly all had given their word that they would join the other strikers next Monday unless the demand for a shorter work day was granted.

While the position that will be taken by

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CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO ON THE COAL STRIKE

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a great many of the engineers and pumpmen is not known, it is known for a certainty where the firemen stand. They will strike almost to a man, and the operators will be compelled to secure green hands to take their places.

State Secretary Mullahy, in a statement issued to-night, says the entire Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen will quit work next Monday. Last night he gave it out that 90 per cent. of the men would quit work, but now he says he has received returns which justifies him in making the prediction that the entire body will go out. The stationary firemen have a membership of 1,000 at Mayfield, Shamokin, Mount Carmel, Girardville, Pittston, Scranton, and Wilkesbarre. This does not constitute all the membership.

Within a year past a great many firemen who formerly belonged to the Stationary Firemen's Association have joined the United Mine Workers. Secretary Mullahy also claims 90 per cent. of the engineers and pumpmen will strike. The engineers, firemen, and pumpmen who were discharged at the Boston colliery of the Delaware and Hudson Company because they refused to do the work which was formerly done by the strikers were reinstated today.

A mysterious fire occurred at the old Empire breaker this morning. The breaker has been abandoned for some time, but there is a watchman on duty. The striking miners say the fire was of incendiary origin, and that some enemy of the strikers was guilty of applying the match.

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