

SOME SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY  
IN IOWA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MONROE COUNTY

BY

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Signatures have been redacted for privacy

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PART I

INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

This study is concerned with the socio-economic situations and the sociological problem presented by the coal mining industry in Iowa, with special reference to Monroe County. The aim will be to depict and to appraise these situations and problems as they relate themselves to this Iowa industry and both directly and indirectly to the welfare of the citizenry of the State.

Methods of Study and Chief Sources of Information

In the study of these problems it was necessary to use the interview as the basic method, because very little consideration has been given to the study of the coal mining industry in Iowa. These interviews have been made with about two hundred people connected with the coal mining industry in Monroe County, including Mr. Alf Hjort, secretary of the United Miner Workers of America District 13, Mr. William Flynn, mine operator, Mr. Warr, secretary of the Graham

Coal Company, Mr. Leonard Evans, Manager of the company store at Hiteman, Mr. Alex. Hupton, Superintendent of the Hocking mines, Mr. W. A. Dunlavy, Mining school inspector for Iowa, miners and children of coal miners, who have attended our high school at Albia. To supplement these interviews, the writer provided a questionnaire, which was placed in the hands of every miner who is now working in Monroe County. A copy of this questionnaire may be seen on page 63. This method is very uncertain, because a very small number of the questionnaires were returned.

Public records and references published concerning these problems are very few in number. The Iowa Documents constitute the principal source of official published records. These include the Mine Inspector's Reports. The Coal Mining Magazine, The Coal Age and the United Mine Workers Journal were also consulted.

Some unpublished and non-official records were consulted in the Mine Inspector's office in Des Moines, in the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and some reports were found in the Miner's Temple at Albia, Iowa, in the office of Mr. Alf. Hjort, Secretary to the United Mine Workers of America.

### History of Coal Mining in Iowa

In 1852 Dr. David Owen<sup>1</sup> of the United States general land office, called attention of the public to the facts concerning the rich deposits of coal in Iowa. Prior to 1858 there was very little interest manifested in the development of the coal industry of the state; at least we have no records whereon we can base calculations of any kind that would be reliable. The writer found a statement in the Mine-Inspector's Office in Des Moines, which stated, that four hundred tons of coal were mined in Iowa in 1840. The report gave no place nor named the number of miners who did the work.

The Census of Iowa taken in 1855 listed fifteen coal mines in seven Iowa counties. These counties were: Henry, Johnson, Lee, Mahaska, Polk, Van Buren and Wapello. At that time, the demand for coal was of little consequence, as a majority of the early settlers took up their residence in the timbered regions of the state, hence did not need coal as fuel, and of course local industries and cities, which might use some coal, had not yet developed. When the settlers increased, and the prairie land was settled, then it became necessary that a more efficient fuel be found and used. With the growth of our cities, factories and railroads,

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<sup>1</sup> Mine Inspector, Iowa Documents, 1898 Vol. III. p. 72

the demand for coal as a fuel caused the settlers to turn their attention to the mining of coal. However coal mining reached a rapid development only after capitol had been convinced that an abundance of coal existed in our state and there was a potential market for coal.

The first attempt at collecting and compiling statistics of coal produced, in Iowa, was the Eighth United States census report of 1860. This report revealed the total tonnage produced in 1859 to be 48,263 short tons valued at more than \$92,180.00. This is the first correct record of coal production in Iowa. The census of 1870 gave the number of tons at 283,467 valued at more than \$500,000.00. The Iowa census of 1875 gave the number of tons at 1,231,547 valued at \$2,500,-000. This showed a gain of five-fold in coal production in a period of five years. Iowa reached the greatest coal production in 1917<sup>1</sup> when it reached the 9,000,000 tons mark. In 1930 Iowa produces less than half the amount produced in 1917 or in exact figures 3,665,000 tons<sup>2</sup>. The tonnage produced in Iowa at present ranks us fourteenth in the list of coal producing states<sup>3</sup>.

A list of the shipping mines which opened before 1875 is given below, by counties:<sup>4</sup>

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1. Mine Inspector, Iowa Documents, 1921 p. 5.

2. Coal Mining, February, 1931 p. 42.

3. F. G. Tryon and R. M. McKinney, Bureau of Mines, 1931.

4. Mine Inspector, Iowa Documents, 1915 p. 117.

The first railroad mine opened in Appanoose County was in 1872 on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad by the Watson Coal and Mining Company with C. O. Godfrey, president. In 1873 two mines were opened, one on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad near Cincinnati, by Cope and Glen of Bloomfield, the other on the Missouri, Iowa and Western Railroad by the Appanoose Coal and Mining Company with J. W. Summer of Keokuk as president. In 1874 the Diamond Mine was opened by the Diamond Coal Company of Centerville. It was located on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad.

Some local mining was done in Boone County in 1865. The coming of the Northwestern Railway opened a rich field for coal. In 1867 T. N. Canfield and C. S. Taylor opened a mine west of Boonesboro. Another mine was opened this year by the Moingona Coal Company. The Northwestern Coal and Mining Company opened a mine in 1874, but the place was not mentioned.

In Hardin County, a mine was opened at Eldora in 1868 by C. G. Gilman and William Phillips. High water in the Iowa river flooded the mine and it was abandoned.

Jefferson County had but one mine previous to 1875. It was opened at Perlee by J. F. Wilson and R. Hufford. It was located on the Chicago and South-Western Railroad.

Jasper County started her first mine in 1871 at Watson Number 1, which was operated by John Aberheardt and James Miller. The Couch mine was sunk in 1873 by F. S. Griggs and D. C. Couch on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad.

Mahaska County opened a mine between Beacon and Oska-loosa in 1862. It was operated by John and James Burdass. In 1864 a co-operative company was formed at Beacon. From their mine the coal was hauled to the Keokuk and Des Moines Railroad by a mule tramway. In 1873 its capacity was 400 tons per day. Another mine was sunk this year by Thomas Haight and E. J. Evans, at Given. 1869 saw the Coal Valley Mine at Muchakinock opened by J. W. Huggins and Dr. A. C. Perdue. In 1873 the Consolidated Coal Company mine number 1, at Muchakinock, was started by C. C. Gilman and William Phillips. It was on the Northwestern Railroad. The Eureka Coal Mining Company established their mine, one mile southwest of Beacon, in 1874 with H. H. Heard as superintendent.

Monroe County dates its mining enterprise from the opening of the Avery mine, in 1868 by McBride, Clark and Perdue. This mine had two shafts. The coal was transferred to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad by a mule tramway. In 1869 the Coalfield mine was opened by the Black Diamond Coal Company, with Thomas Haight, E. J. Evans, Gov. S. J. Kirkwood, Ezekiel Clark and Wesley Redhead as owners. A second

mine in the Coalfield area was opened by H. W. McNeill, and William Phillips in 1870 with seventy-five miners. This mine was abandoned when the Muchakinock mine was opened in Mahaska County. A more complete history of Monroe County coal production will be given in the special study of that county.

Polk County started coal operations with the Sylpher mine in 1871. Mr. Sylpher and John Phillips were the operators. It was located about one mile from the capitol building. In 1872 the Watson and Eclipse mines just east of the Capitol were opened by C. O. Godfrey and James Brow, and J. B. Yeoman and Thomas Beck respectively.

Wapello County was one of the earliest to produce coal. By 1868, it had shipped 52,000 tons from one mine, which was opened in 1865 by C. J. Love, at Alpine Station on the Keokuk and Des Moines Railroad. The Union Coal Company was organized with O. C. Godfrey, President and James Brown, Superintendent in 1867. This mine was on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. In 1873 the Hawkeye Coal Company's mine was opened by James Harlan, Christ F. Blake and L. W. Dale. The C. F. Blake Coal Company was the successor to the Hawkeye Coal Company.

Webster County had three mines before 1875. They were opened as follows:

1870 Fort Dodge Coal Mining Company, by J. L. Platt and Thomas Fleming. This mine was three miles from the Iowa Central Railroad and mules hauled the coal by tram cars.

1870 Duncomb and Richards opened a mine. The location was not given.

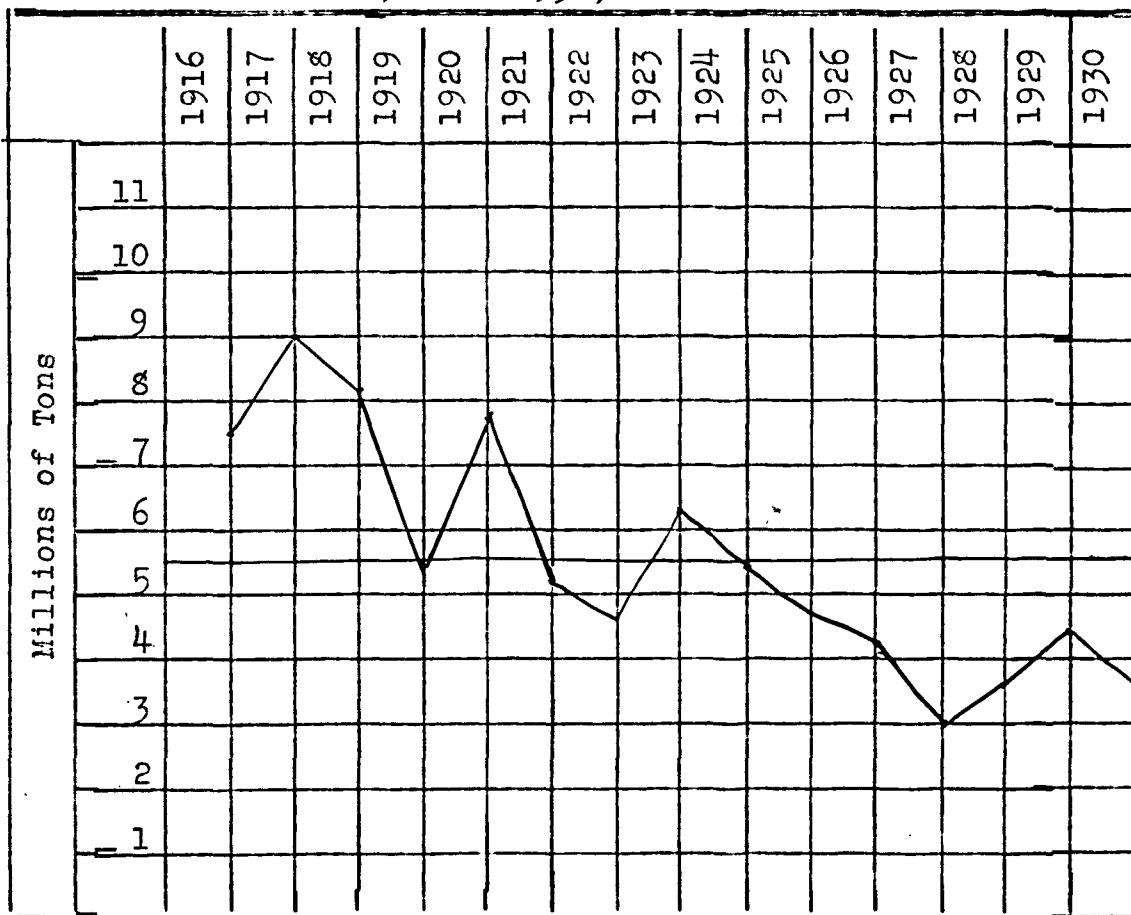
1871 W. C. Wilson of Webster City opened the Lehigh mine. The company was known as the Crooked Creek Coal and Railway Company.

After 1875 the mines and mining companies grew so rapidly, in numbers, that it would be unwise to try to enumerate all of them, but several more will be mentioned in the special study of Monroe County.

No further increase in the production of coal, in Iowa, was reached until 1881, when it was caused by a coal famine in northwest Iowa and the Dakotas, which affected the railroad as well as the domestic and commercial uses. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad having an outlet to the Mahaska County coal fields and the Chicago Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railroad to the mines of Wapello, Monroe and Appanoose Counties, immediately began to seek and secure coal from the southeast Iowa coal fields. As a consequence about two million more tons of coal were produced in the state in 1882 than in 1881. In 1888 a new record was reached with a total of 4,952,440 tons. The amount of coal produced remained about constant until 1900 when the five million mark was passed.

In 1903 the six million tonnage mark was passed. In 1906 the production reached the 7,017,485 tons mark. The annual tonnage remained about the same until 1917, the year we entered the World War, when it passed the nine million tons mark. During the World War, the United States Coal Director, gave definite zones for the shipment of coal. All coal produced east of the Mississippi was shipped to the eastern states. Iowa companies took the coal trade which Illinois and Kentucky coal companies had had before the war in Iowa and other states to the west. The following year, Iowa dropped a million tons in production. The following year Iowa experienced the coal strike of 1919, which lasted from October 31 to December 13, still further reducing our output to 5,571,630 tons. The next year we gained back about two and a half million tons, but in the spring of 1922, April 1, the mines closed, because the Mine Operators Association and the United Mine Workers of America, could not agree on a new wage scale. They finally came to an agreement the last of August, 1922, fixing the scale of wages the same as existed in the two previous years. That year we mined but 4,679,685 tons of coal in Iowa. At that time, we had 325 shipping mines and about 350 wagon mines in the coal producing counties. The twenty-three coal producing counties produced 6,120,332 tons in 1923. Thirteen thousand one hundred twenty-nine miners worked only 186½ days to produce that

The chart, below, shows the annual production of coal in Iowa from 1916 to 1930, in millions of tons



Starting with a coal production of over seven and one-half millions of tons in 1916, we reached the peak of Production of nine millions of tons in 1917. We reached the average production level of five and one-half millions of tons in 1919. There has been a marked decrease each year except those of 1923 and 1929.

amount of coal. During the peak year of coal production, 1917, we had 15,464 workers, who had a busy year of 240 working days.<sup>1</sup>

After the war the coal producers of Illinois began an advertising campaign in Iowa and neighboring states, in which they emphasized the extra qualities of Illinois coal. Iowa operators were then still using old methods of mining, the coal was not clean and the railroad rates were discriminating against the Iowa producers. Iowa coal operators could not modernize their methods and equipment in time to forestall the influx of Illinois and Kentucky coal. Iowa today uses about fifteen million tons of coal per year and supplies but a third of that amount to the Iowa consumers. The result has been that Iowa production has decreased until during the year of 1930 our coal production was 3,665,000 tons,<sup>2</sup> produced by a mining force of 7759 miners.<sup>3</sup>

An organization known as The Coal Institute was organized at Albia in 1928, through the work of the Commercial Club. Its first and only president is Mr. H. S. Harper of Ottumwa. Dr. Sweeney of Iowa State College is vice-president and Hugh W. Lundy of Albia is secretary. The first year's work of the Institute has been mostly that of an educational campaign. The officials of the Institute are not in any way connected with the coal operations in Iowa, but they desire to see the

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1. Mine Inspector, Iowa Documents, 1919 p. 5.

2. Coal Mining, February 1931, p. 42.

3. Population Bulletin, Fifteenth Census of United States, 1930, p. 13.

great industry remain one of the principal occupations of the state. They are endeavoring to get Iowa people to use Iowa coal, to keep the coal money at home, and to give work to the miners of our Iowa communities. Through the influence of The Iowa Coal Institute, Iowa people are requested to carry out the laws found in the Iowa Code of 1927, Sections 1171-b1 and 1171-b2 which states that all public institutions of the state shall, when advertising for bids on supplies, include a provision that Iowa products will be purchased if they are equal in quality and price. Many of our schools and other institutions have not been purchasing Iowa coal because, some coal dealers claim Iowa coal is inferior in quality.

Dr. Sweeney of Iowa State College has made tests of the different coals used in Iowa and he finds Iowa coal the equal of most coals sold in the state.<sup>1</sup>

The Coal Institute is fostering an extensive advertising campaign, in Iowa, this fall and winter. The program as planned will cost \$19,720.00. The radio, newspapers and speakers will cooperate to bring before the people of Iowa the fact that Iowa coal is good coal and Iowa people should burn Iowa coal.

The plan is to advertise in every county of the state except the four northeast counties, which are closer to the cheap markets of Illinois. Some of the money to be spent in this campaign will be furnished by the coal producers. Several

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I. Iowa Coal Institute. Comments and Studies on Iowa Coal.  
Albia, Iowa, 1930-1931.

of the coal companies agreed to give one cent a ton mined, to this fund.

### Some Problems of the Bituminous Coal Industry

The bituminous coal industry is affected with serious problems which illustrate maladjustment in economic production. The problem of unemployment, irregular employment, and under-employment has been the cause of much distrust and strikes on one hand and a tremendous over-production on the other hand. The mining of soft coal although a basic industry in Iowa, has been carried on with little cooperation in planning in the interest of economy and efficiency.

The Bituminous Coal Commission<sup>1</sup> appointed by President Wilson in 1919 reported, "At the present time America requires less than 500,000,000 tons of bituminous coal a year, while the capacity of the mines in operation is over 700,000,-000 tons."

The World War increased the over-expansion in the soft coal fields, as it created over-expansion in all other industries that had to do with winning the war. The over-expansion of the coal industry was extant even before the World War. This over-expansion seems to be chronic in this industry and shows the lameness and maladjustment in one of our economic enterprises. And what is even worse, the coal industry on its own initiative seems to be unable to escape or recover from this pathological state.

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1. Patterson, Social Aspects of Industry, p. 288.

Mr. Hoover had the following to say about bituminous coal industry on February 17, 1930:<sup>1</sup> "Broadly, here is an industry functioning badly from an economics and human standpoint. Owing to the intermittancy of production, seasonal and local, this industry has been equipped to a peak load of 25 to 30 per cent over the average level. It has been provided with a 25 to 30 per cent larger labor complement than it would require if continuous operation could be brought about.

"There lies in this intermittancy not only a long train of human misery through intermittent employment, but the economic loss to the community of over 100,000 workers, who could be applied to other production, and the cost could be reduced to the consumer."

It seems that our coal operators keep right on losing millions of dollars per year, without apparently trying to reach a solution of the problem. So far nothing worthy is being done to stop the loss. The competitive policies of the different coal companies seem to be using unsound business methods. "The largest and most powerful coal companies in America have paid no dividends to their stockholders for years."<sup>2</sup> Another serious result of this policy is the lowering the standard of living of the workmen, thus causing a serious effect upon the nation as a whole.

The success of the coal industry as well as other industries, must rest securely upon the principles of cooperation and good will. The relationship of the employer and the employees must harmonize and reciprocate in all matters that are important to and in their common welfare. A per-

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1. Hoover, Herbert C. Address before the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. Patterson, Social Aspects of Industry, p. 288.

2. United Mine Workers Journal, Vol. XLII, p. 6. June 1, 1931.

fect understanding and thorough cooperation in the coal industry should bring about stability and success to a failing industry.

### Strikes

A strike in the industrial world may be defined as ceasing to work for the purpose of restraining the employers from putting into practice some plan, which is not acceptable to the workers, or to bring about some change in the working conditions that can not be obtained in the usual way. If the company stops the work, the action is called a shut-down or lock-out. To society it makes very little difference whether the action is called a strike, a walk-out, a shut-down, a lock-out or whether the business is being closed for lack of cooperation. No matter what the cause or the procedure one fact remains, which is no business is being done and therefore the laboring men as well as the officials are losing interest, profit and wages.

The causes of strikes are so numerous that one cannot well index them. Some people insist that all mine strikes are to be blamed on the miners. This charge has been made so frequently that a majority of people probably believe it. Many of the charges against the miners are without foundation. Most of our miners are good citizens and do not like to strike. The miner knows, often by experience, that a strike means hardship and privations to his loved ones. It

sometimes means loss of his job as well as his home and happiness. It is wrong to suppose that a miner is unmindful of his duty as a citizen, or as a husband and father, to bring deliberately upon his family as well as upon the public, all the hardships which strikes entail. He has the same patriotic devotion for his country that other classes have. Especially is this true of the Iowa miner, who is almost 100 per cent American born or naturalized citizen.

It is true that coal miners do not hesitate to strike, when they find a strike is necessary, as a last resort for them to gain the adjustment in wages or to overcome some grievance that has been perpetrated upon them. Many of the late so-called strikes, in Iowa, were nothing more than the failure of the operators and miners to arrive at terms for the next two years' wage scale. The agreement is supposed to be signed before March 31 of each odd numbered year. If the new contract is not signed by the officials of the operators and miners, by April 1, the miners walk out and do not resume work until terms have been agreed to. There was no strike of any kind and the operators could be seen discussing their problems with the miners, without the least sign of distrust or hatred.

Going back to the period before the organization of the United Mine Workers of America in 1890, we find many strikes called, but very few were successful. Petty mine officials caused many of the early strikes because of the con-

duct of the mine superintendent, mine bosses and other officials. The coal company told the officials to get results. They undertook to get the results without regard to fair methods. They would sometimes fire a man because they did not like him, or because a friend wanted a job. If the miners heard that another mine was paying a few cents more per ton than they were getting in their own work, this was usually a cause for a walk-out. The officials would then fill the vacancies with any men they could get. Thus picketing was established and bloodshed was often the result. Today you can read of the same conditions in some of our non-union mines in Kentucky, Alabama and West Virginia. It is seldom that we see any force used in the union coal fields. The coal operators as well as the union miners are opposed to such tactics. Of course a radical leader may cause a disturbance in a community, but such is not the desire of the United Miner Workers of America officials.

Three general strikes in Iowa that stand out vividly in the mind of the writer are those of 1919, 1922 and 1927. The first two were directly due to the failure of the operators to negotiate new contracts with the employees. The last great strike of 1927 was due to a request for a new agreement on the wage scale by the operators, who claimed, apparently rightfully, that they could not meet competition with the eastern and non-union mines unless the scale was reduced to a

\$5.00 wage scale instead of the \$7.50 scale then in force. The union mining officials said, "No Steps Backward", hence a deadlock which lasted for one year and seven months in the Iowa coal fields. The scale was finally settled at \$5.80 and the miners were glad to go to work. In the meantime the non-union mines of the East had supplied coal to many Iowa consumers and the season was late, with no contracts in hands of the operators; work therefore was scarce and the coal production, in Iowa, was greatly reduced. Much unemployment resulted and much suffering was caused in the unemployed families. The Consolidated Coal Company with mines at Haydock and Bucknell, in Monroe County, were closed by the Northwestern Railroad, the owners of the mines. They have remained closed since that time. About three thousand people were living in these two mining camps. Many went to other fields of labor, but the negroes who were in the mines could get little or no work. The Union, the Salvation Army, the County, and the Service Clubs of Albia sacrificed greatly to feed and clothe these people during the winter, when they became dependent because of unemployment. Since that time there have been no long delays or extended hardships caused by wage disputes or unemployment in Monroe County. However, there is at present a shut-down at Rex No. 4 in Monroe County, until September 1, 1931. There is also a bad situation at Pershing in Marion County, due to the closing of the mines there.

These two instances are not due to any labor difficulties, however, but to the fact that the demand for coal is so slight that the operation of those two mines seems unjustified.

#### Attitude of the Miner Toward His Job

The striker quits his job, not because he wants a better job or desires to quit the industry, but to make his job a better job. He desires better living conditions, thus he undergoes hardship in the hope of gaining that end. He desires a better future for his family, a future that holds opportunities for his family and himself. With this mental attitude, the striker tends to resist any encroachments made by the strike breaker, whether the strike breaker must have a job, or not, to save his family from hardship and suffering.

#### —Mining Camps

Owing to the slow means of transportation during the early periods of mining, it was necessary for the coal companies to provide living quarters for their workers. The mines must be opened where the coal exists, and the camps must be established wherever the shaft is sunk, whether it be on a hill or in the swampy regions in some river valley. The average life of the coal camp in Iowa has been about

eight years, consequently it makes it necessary for many mining men to forego the pleasure of a permanent home. After the mines are worked out, in any one locality, the mine workers and their families are obliged to move to some other camp in which to live and labor. This transient existence eliminates all chances of seeing the cherished birth place or joys of past childhood in after days. The shale dumps alone remain to mark the place of the feverish camps. Such as was the rich camps of Happy Hollow, Kirksville, Excelsior, Carbonada, What Cheer, Muchakinock, Knoxville Junction, Pekay, Lost Creek, Keb, Buxton, Hocking and many others are now abandoned and the once flourishing camps are no more.

Picture the average mining camps of the past. My observation of many camps has left deep impressions on my mind. I will give the reader a view of one of these camps. The shaft and tipple are located at the foot of a steep hill. The railroad enters the town by a wide curve, then by a reverse curve to the tipple. The company store is close to the mine and the railroad station. The officials have good homes located close to the store building, which is also used to house the offices of the company. The homes of the miners are small four or five room houses, built without foundations, one story, sided with sheeting, lathed and plastered, with no provision against the cold. These houses

are placed within a few feet of others, along a crooked narrow street with no side walks. The back yards are so small that no garden space is available for the family. A small privy stands close to the house. The streets have no regularity, they seem to radiate from the store. Most of the houses are in the valley. No electric lights are seen and the water works and sewage system are absent. Water is obtained from shallow wells or cisterns and waste is dumped in the back yard. No provision is made for recreation. A mission church or two may be found, a community hall is found over the company store. The school house is the original rural school with additions. (School buildings in the present mining camps are very good and compare favorably with the small town building, since the coming of state aid to the mining camp schools.)

The brief duration of the mine is not conducive to the erection of any substantial houses or maintenance of attractive camps. The occupants of camp houses must live close to nature. They have little beauty to look upon or any means of dispelling the gloomy aspect of their immediate environment. Before the coming of the automobile, it was almost impossible for some of the inhabitants to go to the neighboring city or town.

The coal camps of Iowa are probably no worse than those of other states. Probably they are not as bad as some found elsewhere. Although the camps built of late years are better than those that were built earlier, nevertheless the men shun the

camps and now live in neighboring cities and towns where the family may have the benefits of cultural and educational advantages, whenever and wherever that is possible. However, circumstances still force a large number of families to live in the camps. There must then be something radically wrong and decidedly lacking in the camp's make-up, when people do not want to live in them.

Miners are sometimes called vagabonds by those who think they move more frequently from desire rather than need. Probably this unjust opinion would not be extant if people knew that roving life of such workers is often forced upon them by need of finding work in another field when the mines are closed or worked out. The mine workers and their families find no joy in continually moving. They desire permanent friends and a permanent home where they can rear and educate their children into more capable men and women. The miner should not be held responsible in the minds of the public for the condition of the camp and the appearance it makes, nor should we conclude from such evidence that they need nothing better. It must be borne in mind that the coal camps are no better than the mine owners intend them to be. The company decides the number, size, mode of building, the location of the streets, employs its own labor, sells its own goods, and determines what manner of men shall work in its mines. We, who live among the mining people do not have the erroneous

opinions concerning the conditions under which they live and labor. We know there is a constant craving in the hearts of the people for a home to dwell in, located in a proper environment where work is constant and where educational and social advantages are found. An employer of labor who fails to encourage these noble desires in his employees is blind to his own best good, to say nothing of community welfare.

Today mining camps are unnecessary for the accommodation of those who work in the mines, or for the development of coal fields in Iowa. Work trains such as run from Chariton to Williamson and trucks which transport the miners from nearby towns to the mines, on paved or shaled roads, make the old style camp unnecessary, and the interest of common human welfare should make it a thing of the past. But doing away with the mining camp would no doubt place a burden on other communities or towns by an increased school population and educational expenditures. The policy of the State is to give state aid to all towns in mining territory where the enrollment of miners' children is over fifty per cent of the total school enrollment. Some state aid might perhaps well be given communities where less than fifty per cent of the school children come from miners' families, because of the transitory and uncertain nature of the coal mining industry.

#### Mining Camp Schools and State Aid

Aid for the mining camp schools was first established by an act of the 38th General Assembly. This act appropriated \$25,000.00 for the schools located in the camps.

Under the provision of this act, an inspection was made by Mr. P. E. McCleahan, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Mr. George S. Dick, Inspector of Consolidated Schools; Mr. Joseph Morris, President of the United Mine Workers of America; Mr. George Heaps, President of the Mines Operators; and Senator John R. Price of Monroe County, of the mining camp in the State. The inspection revealed many conditions that were little suspected. In some mining communities the tax was very low while in others it was extremely high, indicating the degree of local interest in schools. The size of the district and the amount of taxes made very little difference as to the type of schools. In the camps some homes were owned by the miners, but most of them were owned by the respective mining companies. The valuation of the local and mining property was very low and the companies were taxed in other counties or in other states where the head offices were maintained. This left a large number of children to be educated at the expense of the rural school districts without adequate sources of taxes for the number of children of school age and attendance.

Some findings of the inspectors indicated that the buildings were frequently of poor type and construction, the grounds rough and inadequate, the outbuildings unsanitary, the library and equipment meager, that low salaries were paid the teachers, and inefficient teachers were secured at the

salaries paid. Each camp presented a special case to the inspector.

The 39th General Assembly doubled the appropriation when it realized what had been done and what need to be accomplished. This law provided a special inspector who should give his entire time to the work. Mr. Harry D. Kies was the first mining school inspector. He was very efficient in his work, as shown by the rapid development and improvement of the mining camp schools in the state. This improvement was noted and further fostered by the 41st General Assembly, which by law provides the following:

"For the superintendent of public instruction for state aid to public schools there is hereby appropriated for the biennium beginning July 1, 1925, and ending June 30, 1927, the sum of ----;

"Rural Mining Camp Schools . . . . . \$100,000.00

"The appropriation for mining camp schools shall be used by the state superintendent of public instruction, with the approval of the executive council and under its direction, but not until there is submitted to the executive council by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction a comprehensive program showing the entire proposed expenditure of the appropriation for the year under consideration, and not until all of the mining camp schools applying for funds from said appropriation have been notified of said contemplated division and of the time and place when the proposed division of such funds is to be passed upon by the executive council. Notice of the hearing by the executive council shall be given by registered mail addressed to the secretary of said mining camp school boards and mailed at least ten days prior to the time fixed for the hearing." 1

Under this law twenty-eight mining camp schools received aid during the school year of 1926-27. Appanoose County had

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1. Section 49, Chapter 218, Laws of 41st General Assembly of Iowa.

eight schools, receiving a total of \$9,000.00. Dallas County schools numbered five with aid amounting to \$6800.00. Lucas County applied and received aid for three schools, amounting to \$5300.00. Marion County, with two schools, received \$6600.00. Warren County was granted aid for one school, the amount being \$800.00.

Next year (1931-1932)<sup>1</sup> the amounts to be distributed to the mining camp schools in various counties are as follows:

Appanoose County	19 schools	\$15,150.00
Boone County	2 schools	2,500.00
Dallas County	5 schools	5,450.00
Lucas County	3 schools	2,850.00
Marion County	9 schools	11,300.00
Monroe County	9 schools	8,900.00
Polk County	4 schools	2,100.00
Wapello County	1 school	250.00
Warren County	2 schools	200.00
Wayne County	1 school	600.00
Webster County	1 school	500.00

There is also an appropriation of \$30,000.00 for emergency purposes, for mining camp schools in addition to the above.

I. State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Iowa Unprinted Data.

The following table shows the amount and distribution of state aid to a few of the mining camp schools in Iowa, from 1926 to 1931 inclusive. The table is to show the instability of the mining camp schools. See notes below for explanations.

Mining Camp School Aid						
Year	Camp	Tax Pop.	Mining Levy	Children	Total Enrollment	Aid
1926	Brazil	550	116.6	103	103	\$1500.
1927		500	32.3	106	106	1500.
1928		500	26.0	146	146	1250.
1929		500	32.2	121	121	1400.
1930			40.3	95	95	1300.
1931						1200.
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1926	Hocking	620	177.0	150	158	3000.
1927		500	214.0	157	170	3000.
1928		400	184.0	123	130	2500.
1929		400	120.0	85	92	2500.
1930		---	90.0	37	39	1000.
1931	Camp deserted, Rural district					500.
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1926	Williamson		106.9	70	136	2000.
1927			107.0	87	140	1500.
1928			115.7	89	199	2000.
1929			115.7	155	233	2000.
1930			136.9	227	293	2600.
1931						4000.
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1926	Mystic	2500	---	---	---	---
1927		2800	201.0	511	621	4000.
1928		2800	220.5	491	635	3500.
1929			217.0	488	608	3500.
1930			230.0	473	595	3800.
1931						4000.
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1926	Bucknell	2243	152.0	515	526	5000.
1927		2000	234.0	417	445	4000.
1928		1200	180.0	---	403	3500.
1929	Closed as a mining camp					
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(Continued on next page)

Mining Camp School Aid (Continued)

Year	Camp	Pop.	Tax Levy	Mining Children	Total Enrollment	Aid
1926	Rex 5	—	Did not exist			
1927				47	47	\$ 250.
1928		750	--	115	143	1000.
1929			108.0	134	145	1500.0
1930			118.0	136	143	1500.
1931						1700.

The Brazil school in Appanoose County is a typical mining school. It has remained about constant in enrollment but the tax levy has been reduced from 1926. The Hocking school shows the effect of the working out of the mines. The Williamson school shows the effect of the influx of miners from the Hocking camp. Rex 5 shows the effects of enrollment and taxes in a rapidly growing mining camp located in a rural community.

Herein then are given several reasons for the aiding of the mining camp schools. The opening of a new mine, for example with its influx of population without any increase in the assessed valuation of the rural district concerned, creates a serious educational emergency in the district concerned. Without state aid coming to the rescue, large numbers of children would be deprived of school privileges. The continual shifting of the population also brings other difficulties. For example, at one time a two-teacher school was being maintained in a rural independent district while another district in the same township had 12 teachers; the following year, due to changes in the working conditions of the mines, the former school was required to employ 14 teachers while the number of teachers in the latter school was reduced to two. These changes came about after the levies were made. State special

aid provided money for teachers' salaries, tuition, supplies, equipment such as charts, maps, etc., repairs on buildings, furniture, and heating plants. The additional emergency fund which had been appropriated annually was to be used when such emergencies occur, or when buildings have burned, additions needed, health work and salaries for additional teachers.

The following is a list of permanent improvements made during 1929-1930 in some of the mining camp schools:<sup>1</sup>

Avery, heating plant; Hamilton, toilet system; Numa, toilet system; Mystic, roof on the school building; Lovilia, toilet system; Williamson, addition to the school building; Cincinnati, wiring the school building for electricity; Bussey, wiring the school for electricity; Kirksville, new seats; Buelah and Moran, blackboards; Harvey, heating plant and repairs on building; Oralabor, moving the school building; Woodward, new building; Cummings, new seats and Rathbun, heating plant.

Before the opening of school last fall, several more improvements were made. Attica built an addition for physical training and class work which cost \$7,000.00. Melcher built a new building for physical training and class work costing \$5,000.00. Lucas voted bonds to build a new gymnasium. Lovilia put down a deep well and repaired the roof

<sup>1</sup> Department of Public Instruction, Bulletin, March 1, 1930, p. 5.

on the main building. Many other improvements were also reported by Mr. Dunlavy, mining school inspector. Most of these improvements could not have been made were it not for the emergency fund appropriated by the legislature.

The opening of school in September always finds many adjustments to be made in the mining camp schools. The ever changing conditions are more prevalent at this time than at any time in the history of our mining industry. A majority of the schools are affected by the movement of the miners from one camp to another, occasioned by the closing of mines and the reopening of others in the fall. As a result of these changing conditions, the number of children fluctuates to such an extent that it makes adjustment very difficult to handle. The children from these transient families find it very difficult to adjust themselves to the new conditions found in the new system. When children enter school where there are both negro and white children, and perhaps a dozen or more nationalities, then the problem develops a new phase in Americanism. Bucknell had just such a condition. After the closing of the Hocking mining camp on December 31, 1929, a number of the coal diggers from that camp moved to Williamson. The high school at Williamson had an increase of over 150 per cent. This same fact is stated in another manner in the table, on page 29, which shows the instability of the mining camp schools.

### Work of Mining Camp Schools

The work in the mining camp school compare very favorably with work done in other schools of the state. This is shown by tests and measurements given in various mining camps, in March 1928. Dr. E. L. Ritter of the extension department of the State Teachers College of Cedar Falls, gave tests to all mining camp schools in Monroe County, having four year high schools, and also to Melrose a non-mining camp school. The results of these tests did not show any superiority in ability in the subjects tested, favoring either type of school. In my own experience as superintendent of the Albia schools during the past nine years, the Hocking pupils have been the best prepared of any pupils coming to us from the eighth grade as tuition pupils. Several of these mining camp pupils have maintained scholarship sufficient to be the honor students of the high school graduating classes. The eighth grade county examinations as well as teacher's examinations, by various contests in spelling, declamatory, debates and athletics, academic tests, short course, exhibits at the county and state fair have shown the pupils to be the equals of our town schools.

These schools are planning on giving diagnostic tests this year and follow up with remedial work through the school year.

Miss Lou Shepherd and other instructors from the extension department of the State Teachers College have been doing excellent work with the primary and intermediate grade teachers in the schools of Monroe and Marion Counties during the past school year.

Parent-Teacher Associations are doing splendid work in several of the camps. The Cummings school completed the organization in its school, last September.

The newspapers, the victrolas, radios and community meetings are putting these schools in the class with the best in the state.

At the state fair last year, the mining camp schools made an excellent showing. The work exhibited compared favorably with other schools, if we are to judge by the number of premiums secured. Mystic, Pershing, Hamilton, and Zookspur each received special premiums. The set of classics offered by the F. A. Owen Publishing Company was won by Leo Mitchell, a fourth grade pupil of Hamilton.

#### The Workmen's Compensation Act

Iowa coal miners come within the provision of the Workmen's Compensation Law of the state. This law became effective July 4, 1931, (see Chapter 70, Code of Iowa, 1927). The office of a Commissioner was provided for in the law to administer its provisions. Immediately following the establishing of the office, the in-

surance rates were reduced from \$6.50 per \$100.00 pay roll to \$1.75 for coal miners. The Iowa rate in 1916-1917 was \$1.83 while Ohio's rate was \$1.10; Wisconsin's \$2.61; California's \$2.86; New York's was \$3.11. This Compensation act now includes all industries with the exceptions of domestic and farm labor (Causal employment excepted also).

Some of the conditions of the act are as follows:

Approval schemes may be substituted, but no reduction of liability is allowed.

Employers must give proof of the salary of the workman to secure payment.

In order for a workman to be compensated, he must continue to be unable to work for more than two weeks.

In case of death his burial expenses to the amount of \$150.00 is granted. His beneficiary receives 50 per cent of his wages for a period of 312 weeks, with \$5.00 as the minimum and \$10.00 as the maximum.

For total disability he shall receive 55 per cent of the regular wages for 500 weeks with \$5.50 as the minimum and \$13.20 as the maximum. The total is not to be over \$5000.

In case of partial disability he shall receive 50 per cent of his wages for not to exceed 300 weeks, but no wages shall be considered above \$24.00 or below \$10.00 per week.

He shall receive medical and surgical aid during the first 30 days, but not to exceed \$200.00.

He must give notice of injury within 30 days, and file his claim within two years.

All disputes are to be settled by the industrial board, but if an appeal is made to the courts certain limits are specified.

Under the act, employers may qualify to carry their own risks. Nearly all of the larger coal companies carry their own workman's compensation losses. The railroad auxiliaries, which mine coal do this also. None of these companies has ever defaulted a payment, on the part of self insurance. In all the losses in our state, there have been very few cases in which the insurer has failed to make good. Except legal obligations due to enforced liquidation, the payments have usually been made promptly. The exception to the rule has nearly always been confined to the field of mining. This fact has tended to increase the insurance rate, which is considered by operators to be burdensome and discriminating against the small operators, where the working conditions are more menacing than at mines developed by large companies. This condition spells ruin for the small operators.

The average settlement for a fatal mine accident is \$4500. Nearly every case of compensation in our state, in mining accidents, is handled by the attorneys for the United Mine Workers of America, who have their offices in the Miner's Temple at Albia, Iowa.

### Dangers of Mining

The accidents in and around the coal mines, have been reduced very little in the last 40 years. In 1890, the rate of fatalities was 3.56 per one million tons of coal; in the past year it was 3.25; despite the fact that we have many agencies working in the interests of accident prevention, such as the United States Bureau of Mines in investigations, experiments, recommendations and advice. There is no question but they have done much good in helping to keep down the number of accidents. Mining Institutes, safety associations of many kinds, and safety meetings held by coal companies, safety posters at the mines and in the miner's halls, have contributed much to educate the workers. We have numerous mining laws to keep pace with the increasing use of machinery and electricity in mining, supplemented by safety rules put into effect by the mining operators.

Silas S. Hall states that 95 per cent of all the mining accidents are preventable and are caused by some other person or persons.<sup>1</sup> In the first place it is the duty of the operator to see that all mining laws are enforced, and that they are responsible for the accidents if they do not exercise their authority. Efficient ventilation in mines is the first defense from hazards from ignition of explosive gas. Haulage

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<sup>1</sup> Coal Mining, Vol. 8, p. 43, February 1931.

ways should be planned to eliminate heavy grades, and stable roof conditions should be maintained through the mine. The mine inspector usually reports all his findings to the state officials, and recommends definite corrections. Workmen do not always obey the mining laws, and thereby bring many accidents upon themselves. Fifty per cent of all mine accidents, in Iowa, are due to the falling of slate which is loosened by the damp condition of the atmosphere in the mine.<sup>1</sup> Iowa fatalities during the past 30 years have averaged more than 27 men each year. The rate was 1.9 per thousand men employed. The greatest number of victims came from the coal diggers, shot-firers, drivers and timbermen, all underground workmen.

Mine explosions have been quite frequent in the past. They are caused by faulty drilling, placing of shots improperly, accumulation of gas in poorly ventilated mines, and coal dust in the dry air. In order to overcome these defects, we have shot examiners, inspectors for testing the mine air, and a rock dust coating sprinkled over the coal dust and watered down.

Occupational diseases are frequent in the mining communities. The accumulation of dust in the lungs of the workmen make them more susceptible to pneumonia, and tuberculosis. The damp air and wet coal in which the men work also cause a change in the condition of the skin, which makes it very

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<sup>1</sup> Mine Inspector, Iowa Documents, 1915, Vol. 3, p. 23.

susceptible to the sudden changes of air currents in the mine and also when coming from the mine. The eyes are also affected by the unsteady light as well as the dust entering them. When coming from the mine into full day light, the eyes cannot always readily adjust themselves to the intensity of the light. Sounds of great intensity in the underground workings also have a more serious effect than those without the mine.

#### Social Costs of Unemployment

<sup>1</sup> Unemployment is costly to society as well as to the employers, but the burden falls chiefly on the laborer. Unemployment means, for him and his dependents, a lower standard of living due to the loss of wages. When it strikes, the worker is either forced to starvation or to charity, after his savings have been exhausted.

Other workers are also affected by specific unemployment, because a general reduction in the use of man power often occurs in the other industries as a result thereof, and men seeking employment in other fields are likely to decrease the wages in all fields, if the unemployed seek employment at any price rather than starve. Again some workers will accept cuts in wages in order to get and to retain the job for which they aspire.

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<sup>1</sup> Patterson, Sociological Aspects of Industry, p. 283.

Unemployment also has a mental effect as well as a material aspect. The discharged worker is thrown into a mental attitude which is demoralizing to him and in many cases leads to crime.<sup>1</sup> Unsteady habits are acquired by those who desire to and most likely would, if employed, form steady habits. The formation of thrift habits and industrious habits are almost impossible among unemployed. It is very easy to drift with the multitude into the current of transient laborers. Pauperism and poverty are the final results of many workers who have been in the unemployed class for a long time. To bring them back to be industrious and efficient workmen is always a difficult task and often not achieved.

Social cost of unemployment shows its effects in the production of crime. Unemployment may be both a cause and a result of delinquency and dependency. Delinquency is also caused by the improper use of leisure time. Where parks with play supervisors are employed, delinquency is greatly reduced. The mind and the body must have proper exercise and relaxation if the mind is to function properly in moral affairs. The mind of the unemployed man, is lead to imagine that wealth and property have not been rightfully gained. He thinks the world owes him a living, thus he proceeds to obtain that living by taking what is not his. His criminal career may start from bad thinking. The incarceration for

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<sup>1</sup> Gillin, Criminology and Penology, p. 193.

crime, brings dependency and delinquency to the family, after the means of support have been removed.

Industrial depression, such as we have been having, will increase greatly the demands made upon the public. The writer desires to cite a few incidents that came within his own observation during the winter of 1927-1928, and at the present time in our own state. Following the strike of 1927, which lasted for one year and seven months, The Consolidated Coal Company failed to open the mines at Numbers 18 and 19 in Monroe County. The camps at these mines had a combined population of about 3000 people. Many miners, living there sensing that the mines would not open, went to Detroit or Gary to obtain work. However, a large percentage of the workers were negroes, who found it impossible to find work elsewhere. Most of the negro families are large, and the aid received from the Miners' union was insufficient to alleviate the suffering. The conditions became so bad that it was necessary to bring relief to the suffering people. The Union officers were unable to take care of the members of the Union. When the report of the conditions was sent to Albia, by neighbors, a committee was sent to Haydock-Bucknell mining camps to investigate. The committee found conditions even worse than had been reported. Representatives of the various service clubs met and decided that help must be sent at once. The American Legion, The Auxiliary of the Legion,

the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the Commercial Club, and the Womans Club got busy at once. That evening a truck full of supplies was sent to the camps, and distributed to the needy. A committee headed by the superintendent of schools at Haydock-Bucknell, had charge of the relief work in the camps. The records show that it did its work efficiently. Every article of food or apparel was checked to the family served.

The Salvation Army of Des Moines heard of the conditions in the camps. They, at once, sent supplies of all kinds.

The American Red Cross was asked to aid in the relief work, but refused on the grounds that the suffering was the direct cause of an industrial strike, and it was not the policy of that organization to aid under such conditions.

The schools in these camps were affected very much by this poverty. The enrollment at the beginning of the school year was over 400. The attendance was very irregular. When cold weather came it was reduced one-half, due to the lack of clothing for the children. When spring opened, only 120 pupils remained in school and the teaching force had been reduced to four, which included the superintendent.

Today we have a case almost parallel to the case given above, at Parshing, Iowa. Here are some items from the Des Moines Register,<sup>1</sup> relative to the situation there:

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<sup>1</sup> Des Moines Register, June 16, 1931.

"IDLE PERSHING MINERS ARE IN SERIOUS STATE"

"Fifty families in Pershing are in Soup Lines as Result of Shutdown."

"The first bread-and-soup line ever to be seen in Marion County is now functioning in the mining town of Pershing, seven miles southeast of Knoxville. Almost four hundred persons are being fed from the central kitchen and distributing point.

"Each day long lines form at the entrance to the basement of the Miners' Hall, and their amount of food, according to the number in the family, is dispensed to them. Miners' wives cook the food in large boilers and portions out each family's allowance as the name is checked from the list of destitute.

"A committee of miners is working all the time soliciting food, contributions for buying food, and doing the best to stave off the pangs of hunger and pennilessness, due to the sudden shut down of the big Pershing coal mine recently.

"While the mine has been shut down many of these men have not been idle. They have been out looking everywhere for work. Yet they know no other trade than coal mining and the market for unskilled labor or apprentices in other trades are flooded. Many men have been compelled to stay home because of their families."

The officials of the Pershing mine offered to open the mine if the coal miners would take \$5.00 per day in cash and the rest of the \$5.80 scale, or eighty cents in common stock. This they cannot do, because the laws of Iowa states that all wages must be paid in cash.<sup>1</sup> The contracts with the United Mine Workers of America contain the same agreement. How this difficulty may be solved still remains a question.

Adult unemployment is sometimes a contributing cause of the women entering industry as well as child labor. We know

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<sup>1</sup> Code of Iowa, Section 1323, 1927, p. 215.

that each state regulates the child labor laws of the individual state, but we also know that in periods of depression, the judges are prone to overlook many points, rather than to force state aid for the sufferers.

Unemployment breeds a spirit of unrest, which in turn brings discontent, discontent turns the mind to radicalism, against the economic condition or existing order. The men who are willing to work, yet have no chance are very willing to listen to the call of the wild of radicalism. They will follow after the siren song of the communists, who are now making inroads into our industrial systems.

#### Standard of Living

In 1919 the United States Bureau of Labor<sup>1</sup> made a study of miners' wages and wages in other industries. The average annual wage of male employees in both groups was about \$1330. Irregular employment and under-employment among the miners reduced rather high wages to meager earnings for many even in that year of high wages. The writer knows several men in the coal industry who have worked only 80 days in the past year. The present mining scale is \$5.80 for eight hours, for the regular men. The coal digger gets \$1.04 per ton for his work. The average number of tons produced per man is four and one-half tons each day. Eighty days at \$5.80 per day is \$464.00

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1. U. S. Bur. of Labor. Industrial Survey in Selected Industries in the United States in 1919. Bul. No. 265, pp. 37-38. May, 1920.

wages for the year. If you consider the coal digger, his wages will amount to \$374.40 per year. The greatest number of days the Monroe County mines have worked during the past year, has been about one hundred fifty days, and at the regular scale, the miner would receive but \$870.00 for the year. The income of many families is insufficient to maintain a subsistence standard of living and it is generally far from sufficient to maintain a comfortable standard for a family of five people.

A large majority of coal miners have no electric lights, no city water, no sewage disposal system, no bathroom, no piano, no washing machine, no library, and very few pictures to enliven the walls of the dreary mining camp home. A few of the workmen have automobiles, but they were purchased during the days when there was plenty of work.

No average American family can maintain a healthy existence on a salary of \$400.00 to \$500.00 per year.

#### Social Effects of Low Wages

Low wages have serious social effects. Many married men are forced to supplement their wages, by the meager earnings that their wives and children may be able to earn. The wife is needed at home and the children should be in school, rather than in industry. Low wages mean low standards of living. Low standards of living cause inefficiency in in-

dustry. The physical condition as well as the social condition may be conducive to poverty. Since low wages lead to poverty, poverty is now rightfully regarded as a social disease..

Low wages cause discontent, as well as reduced efficiency. Social unrest is a result of poorly paid and irregularly employed workers. Social unrest creates ready listeners to the promises of the radicals, bolsheviks, and socialism.

Probably the most important of all the effects of inadequate wages is the reduction of the expenditures for food. Lack of proper food causes many cases of illness, as well as mitigates against the recovery of health after sickness.

Inadequate wages cast a shadow over the lives of the children. Our school nurses find many children, from such homes, to be undernourished. Many suffer from remedial defects. The milk campaigns in our schools, for the undernourished, have proven that proper food gives better mental work. We must have a better wage system in our communities or we must put into our schools more medical and dental clinics. Society cannot exploit its children and expect to have efficient adults.

#### Mining Organizations

Soon after the mining of coal was commenced, and continuing to the present time, there have been differences of

opinion as to conditions of employment, length of the working day, wage scales, housing conditions, and many other problems that can not be settled by the individual operator or workman. These conditions bring about a process of adjustment for labor disputes. In order to properly adjust these differences, there must operate the basic principle, that only through a dual knowledge of both sides can an equitable settlement be made.

Labor controversies are problems of every industry. They are found in every country. Many of these controversies do not deal alone with wage situations, but also with many phases of employee and employer relationships. Often when any one of these factors is divorced from the rest, a dispute is born, which on many occasions ends in a strike or shut down. Then work ceases and the usual inconveniences to employer and employees follow. If the cessation of work is prolonged, we find it followed by dissatisfaction, discontent, and ill will between the interested parties on the one hand and the suffering for workers and their dependents on the other. This condition of affairs is in a measure responsible for the formation of unions, and employers associations. The committees from each organization, then study the grievances and try to bring the factions to an amicable settlement. With these organizations, perfect harmony is not always brought about in all cases, as evidenced in our labor disputes of the last few years.

The United Mine Workers of America was organized in 1890, and has grown to be one of the most powerful associations in the United States. The membership is over a half million scattered over the bituminous and anthracite fields in the United States. There are a number of non-union miners in West Virginia and neighboring states. The newspapers are carrying items telling of the picketing, and strife in those sections. The miners are unsatisfied with the treatment of the employers, and desire to join the Union, but the operators are opposed to the agitators and organizers sent in by the union organization.

The miners' union has been able, through its officers to standardize wages, hours of labor, and various conditions that have a social bearing upon the families in the mining occupation. The United Mine Workers of America hold firmly to the principle of the right of workers to organize and deal collectively with their employers. The right to organize, has been upheld by the Government, Congress and the courts in all the states. In states where the miners are organized, there are effective mine laws. The Unions have been very active in bringing about this legislation.

The Brotherhood of American Miners was established in Appanoose County in 1928, when the miners in that county became dissatisfied with the actions of Mr. Morris and Mr. Gay who were then president and secretary, respectively, of the

United Mine Workers of America. This rival organization will no doubt be absorbed by the older organization, soon.

In 1918, we had over 18,000 union miners in Iowa. Today we have but 8,000, due to the falling off of the coal production in Iowa. These miners have no desire to injure the operators, for they realize that the interests of the operators and the mine workers are identical. They grant the operators the right to organize, but insist that the operators must respect the rights of the miners to the same right to organize.

The miners' union claims the following rights: a voice in control of the coal industry, to oppose the open-shop, collective bargaining, recognition, joint wage agreement for a definite fixed period, freedom in purchasing supplies, and the right to the comforts and happiness of the American people.

The Iowa Coal operators have an association with Mr. George Heaps of Albia as its president. The Iowa Coal Operators, and the United Mine Workers of America have usually been able to adjust their difficulties and differences, very quickly, once the national conferences and organizations have reached an agreement on the matters which involve them.

The local unions and the district organizations do not quit work until the national organization can not reach an agreement with the operators association, before the first

of April in each odd numbered year. The union men remain away from the mines until the action of the national associations have made an agreement. Almost immediately the officers of the district order the men to report for work, as agreed in the terms of the settlement. The local unions in turn issue notice to its members to report for work as specified. The local unions have very little to do except to issue orders from those higher in authority.

PART II

MONROE COUNTY

Monroe County, Iowa, is located in the south central part of the state, in the second tier of counties from the southern boundary of the state. It contains but twelve Congressional townships. It is therefore one of the small counties of the state.

The elevation of Monroe County is from five hundred to nine hundred feet above sea level. Albia, the county seat, is located on the highest elevation in the county. The surface is undulating, and is composed of a drift formation, in which are located the different coal veins. These veins seem to underlay almost the entire county. Coal has been mined commercially in all parts of the county, except the extreme southwestern and the northwestern parts. The surface is drained into two river systems. The southern part of the county is drained by tributaries of the Chariton River, which flows into the Missouri River, and the rest of the county is drained into the Des Moines River, thence into the Mississippi River.

There are three distinct coal veins in the Monroe County's coal fields. The upper vein is near the surface. Outcrops of this vein are found along the banks of some of the streams. This vein, which is about three feet in thickness, was first

worked in the neighborhood of Avery, about 1868. About fifty feet below this vein is located the second vein which is about sixteen inches in thickness. The lower coal seam is about one hundred feet to one hundred fifty feet below the second vein. The lower vein, so far worked, varies in thickness from four feet to eight feet and is overlaid by a thick rock roof. This is the most important stratum of coal, from a commercial standpoint. It is also superior in quality. Hundreds of acres of coal land in the county are held in reserve in anticipation of a future demand for coal.

Expenses of mining the coal in some localities is much greater than elsewhere, owing to the faults of the coal, hilly or uneven condition of the coal veins, the unsatisfactory roofing, too much water, etc.

Mines in Monroe County, prior to 1870, have been described on page 8. The first mining camp of importance, after that date, was at Foster, in 1889, when the Milwaukee Railroad was completed through Monroe County. The stopping place was called Soap Creek Siding, near Soap Creek, and about nine miles southeast of Albia. Mr. Ira Phillips and Mr. E. I. Foster established the coal camp at Foster. The coal company erected several buildings, which included a large boarding-house and equally large store building. The store and boarding-house were conducted by the Ottumwa Supply Company, a subsidiary of the coal company. This company store issued "scrip" to the

miners instead of currency. Once each month the coal company paid the miners their wages in currency. If the miner had no money with which to purchase goods the company issues "scrip" to a certain amount on account, in his favor, against the company, for his labor. This "scrip" was a medium of exchange at the company store. This company store was an extensive concern and handled all lines of merchandise, but like other company stores it was not popular with the miners. In October 1891, the name was changed from Soap Creek Coal Company to Deep Vein Coal Company.

This mine had a daily capacity of one thousand tons. This new company paid the men their wages every two weeks. The mining population of Foster was largely made up of English, Welsh, Swedes and a few Italians and Scotch.

Foster had an excellent cornet band, which ranked with the best in Iowa. Baseball was also a favorite pastime. Foster had two churches with large memberships in each. They were the Baptists and Methodists. Today no extensive mining is done in the neighborhood of Foster.

Hynes City, another mining center, was located one and three-fourths miles southeast of Avery. The town was built in 1892 and was named for the Hynes boys who were identified with the mine. J. H. Evans, Faley Hynes, and P. H. Hynes were in charge of the Smoky Hollow Coal Company's mines, located near Hynes City. These mines had a capacity of one

thousand tons of coal per day. The mines were entered by two slopes, and ventilation was supplied by fans. The company also operated a company store in this camp.

The Hilton Coal Company of Foster sank a shaft at Hilton, five miles south of Albia adjoining the Iowa Central Railway. This coal vein averaged five feet in thickness, and was 215 feet below the surface at the point where the shaft was sunk. L. A. Chamberlain, A. L. Wright and A. R. Chamberlain were the officers in charge of the enterprise. Only the shale dump remains to mark this mine.

In 1890 the town of Hiteman was established by the Wapello Coal Company. This camp had a population of about 1500 in 1896. The population consisted of English, Welsh, Swedes, Scotch, Germans, and Negroes. The Masonic Lodge was organized, in Hiteman, in 1893. The Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows were organized the following year. The Wapello Supply Company incorporated the Hiteman Supply Company as a subsidiary with a capital stock of \$50,000.00, making it one of the most extensive company stores in the county. At one time the Wapello Coal Company owned about 5,500 acres of coal land in the vicinity of Hiteman. The workable coal averages five feet in thickness. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad took the entire output of the mine, which was about eight hundred tons per day, and this railroad continues to take most of the coal today.

In 1892 the first school building was erected in the camp. It had three rooms. Six church organizations existed there. The pride of Hiteman at that time was its baseball team.

Hiteman is a mining camp today with a population of 700. The Smoky Hollow Coal Company now operate the mines at Hiteman. The Evans Brothers of Albia own and operate the Smoky Hollow Coal Company as well as the company store in Hiteman. During the spring of 1931 they have been working about three or four days per week, and employ about one hundred miners. This is less than one-fourth the number that were employed in 1896.

The population has decreased from 1500 to 700, and many houses are falling into decay, store buildings are closed and the south part of town looks somewhat like a deserted village.

In 1891, the Consolidated Coal Company, subsidiary of the Northwestern Railroad, moved its mining camp of two thousand people, houses and mining equipment from Muchakinock in Mahaska County, to Buxton in Monroe County. This camp in a few years became the largest camp in the county, if not in Iowa. The population was said to have been over 5000. Once, over one-half of the population were negroes. A large per cent of the colored people had been imported into the county from the South, as strike breakers. At election time the beer keg was said to be the means of getting votes in Buxton. The negroes in this camp seemed to enjoy their drinks and the resulting fights. The moral tone of the camp was very low.

During the two year period of 1904-05 the Consolidated Coal Company operated four mines, and were sinking the fifth. The coal mined for that period was over one and one-half millions tons of coal.<sup>1</sup> The Consolidated Coal Company was the first organization in the mining industry, in Iowa, to establish regulations which adopted safety rules, mine rescue stations and a rescue team with oxygen helmets. It also developed contests in mine rescue work. In 1916 but one mine, No. 17, remained in operation in the Buxton territory. At that time Number 18 was opened by the Consolidated Coal Company in the Haydock-Bucknall field. This mine was the best equipped mine in the state. It was fully electrified and equipped with electric cutting machines, for undercutting the coal before it was shot down. This mine (No. 18) in 1917 produced at the rate of 1575 tons of screened lump coal in eight hours. This is the production record for the state of Iowa.<sup>2</sup> Number 19 was the last mine, in Iowa, to be operated by the Consolidated Coal Company. It was located near Number 18. During the strike of 1927 and 1928 this company withdrew from the coal industry in Iowa, leaving a settlement of suffering people described on page 41. Today, the following coal companies are doing business, on a commercial scale, in Monroe County: Smoky Hollow Coal Company, with one mine, The Mid-

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<sup>1</sup> Mining Inspector, Iowa Documents, Vol. 5, 1906. p. 71.

<sup>2</sup> Mining Inspector, Iowa Documents, Vol. 3, 1917. p. 13.

Western Coal Company with three mines, The Graham Coal Company with two mines, and the Central Coal Company with one  
<sup>1</sup> mine.

Monroe County at present has 760 men and four women working as employees in the mines of the county. Of these mine workers 360 are foreign born.<sup>2</sup> There are 355 negroes in the county, about 75 of which are not connected with the mining industry. At one time, Monroe County had over 1600 colored coal miners. The first negroes to be used in the mines in the county, were brought from Missouri, in 1880, as strike breakers<sup>3</sup> at the Cedar Mines, west of Albia. At first, it looked as though blood shed would occur, when these strike breakers were employed. The white miners raised the mining camp and fired at the negroes; the negroes returned the fire, then the militia from Albia responded to a call, and further trouble was averted.

Farmers and some cooperative companies are at present digging coal, for local consumption, from some of the workings left in the abandoned mines. It is estimated that 55 per cent of the coal was left in the ground in most of these mines.

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1 Note. A large number of the mines in Monroe County have not been mentioned, because their history is identical with those mentioned.

2 Population Bulletin, Fifteenth Census of U. S., p. 51.

3 Hickenlooper History of Monroe County, 1896, p. 187.

The following table shows the year, the number of shipping mines, the total production of coal in tons and the number of employees in the mining industry each year, in Monroe County, from 1895 to 1927.

Year	No. of Mines	Tons Produced	Employees
1895	20	313,354	1146
1896	16	401,650	1297
1897	16	389,706	1253
1898	14	594,300	1060
1899	14	662,500	1187
1900	18	641,928	1694
1901	19	937,750	1948
1902	16	1,268,973	2591
1903	19	1,600,148	2839
1904	19	1,808,975	3529
1905	20	2,117,127	3916
1906	23	2,443,687	3875
1907	20	2,441,770	3497
1908	23	2,167,011	3634
1909	24	2,029,130	3455
1910	20	1,805,791	3650
1911	20	2,298,859	4045
1912	23	2,195,806	3844
1913	25	2,614,402	4368
1914	26	2,410,369	4156
1915	24	2,148,935	3932
1916	22	1,800,199	3469
1917	22	2,450,029	3304
1918	23	2,417,084	3433
1919	22	1,723,438	3196
1920	22	1,074,446	3182
1921	21	1,300,302	3029
1922	19	1,138,685	3492
1923	20	1,560,812	2445
1924	24	1,090,996	2378
1925	17	816,373	1437
1926	16	879,420	1361
1927	19	454,510	1438

Nineteen thirteen was the year of Monroe County's greatest coal production. It was also the year showing the greatest number of mine workers. The greatest number of shipping mines was in 1914. The coal production remained about constant until 1919, when it was reduced by a three months strike. From 1920 to 1924 there was about one-million tons less produced each year. This was probably due to the closing of the Buxton field. The great reduction in 1927 was accounted for by a strike beginning on April 1 and continuing until late in 1928. No records were available for the past three years.

#### ↓ Sociological Aspects of Coal Mining in Monroe County

The sociological aspects of the coal mining industry in Monroe County as revealed by the interviews and questionnaires returned, show the same general situations as cited in Part I of this study, and in addition reveals the present situations and conditions in the county mining communities. These more specific facts will next be noted:

About thirty per cent of the miners own their own home, about twelve per cent are owned by the coal operators, the rest of the miners live in houses rented from private owners. The houses average five rooms each, and in most cases the houses were originally mining camp homes. Where the privately owned and rented houses are located in the mining camp, the surroundings are much the same as those owned by the comp-

any. The poor type of the mining camp house is due, no doubt, in part at least, to the short life and tenure of the mine. The owners of these houses do not like to invest money in modernizing the houses when they realize the short time the houses may be in demand. More than fifty per cent of the miners have lived in mining camps for over ten years, chiefly in Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Missouri, Pennsylvania and England.

Some measure of the living conditions, standards of living and possible standards of living for these mining families is indicated by facts listed in the next group of tables. It will be noted that the figures given in the following tables, are based on the reports of 250 miners out of a total of 760 in Monroe County. The replies came from various mining communities in the county and show a similarity in conditions for all mining communities in the county. In the interviews with the miners, operators, and United Miner Workers officials, the conditions listed below seem to be confirmed. Another partial check on the reliability and probable representativeness of these 250 cases is indicated by the proportionate distribution of the nationalities in Monroe County. The percentage distribution for the different nationalities in the two cases is very similar.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Population Bulletin, Second Series, Iowa, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, p. 46.

Table 4. Number of rooms in homes as reported by  
250 miners in Monroe County, Iowa.

Number of Rooms	Number of Homes	Total Rooms
2	1	2
4	71	284
5	121	605
6	41	256
7	<u>16</u>	<u>112</u>
	250	1259

The average number of rooms per house is five and a fraction (5.03). It will be noted too that the five room houses comprise the model group.

The conveniences listed in Table 5 are not the choice of the miners, but the results of circumstances. That is, as regards these matters the miners must take largely what the community offers or provides.

In Table 6 the personally owned and supplied facilities, probably are some measure of the families' relative desires to have facilities that will bring the more desired satisfactions. Here the individual family can exercise choice, and relative force of these choices is doubtless reflected in the things listed.

Table 5. Conveniences found in the homes of 250 miners in Monroe County, Iowa.

:	Number of Homes	:	Per cent
Electric lights	32		12.8
Oil lamps	218		87.2
City water	8		3.2
Wells or cisterns	242		96.8
Sewage disposal	15		6.0
Bath rooms	15		6.0

Table 6. Personally owned and supplies facilities by 250 mining families in Monroe County, Iowa.

:	Number of Families	:	Per cent
Washing machines	55		22.0
Radios	112		44.8
Pianos	53		21.2
Gardens	225		90.0
Automobiles	100		40.0

Table 7. Average number of days worked by 250 miners in Monroe County, Iowa, during the year ending April 1, 1931.

Days Worked	:	Number of Miners	:	Total Days Worked
0		10		00
80		21		1680
120		39		4680
140		56		7840
150		<u>124</u>		<u>18600</u>
		250		32800

The above table gives, to each miner an average working year of 131 working days. At the regular Iowa scale of \$5.80 per day, which is paid to nearly all laborers except to the coal diggers, the yearly average wage per miner would be \$759.80. The coal digger gets \$1.05 a ton for his work. The daily average number of tons produced by a digger is four and one-half. His yearly wage therefore was \$619.97 for the 131 days. The men who worked 150 days received an average annual wage of \$870.00. The average cost of living of 12,096 industrial families in 92 industrial centers of the United States, for the year ending February 28, 1919, was \$1434.00.<sup>1</sup> A study of the cost of living of 451 Iowa farm families in 1922-23 shows that these families spent on an average \$1680.00 per year.<sup>2</sup> The average cost of living of both of these groups of families compared to the incomes which the miners' families have to spend indicates that the standard of living of the latter must be relatively very low.

Table 8. The nationalities of 250 coal miners in Monroe County, Iowa, are shown in the table below.

Nationality	:	Number of Miners	:	Per cent
American		113		45.2
Scotch		15		6.0
Welsh		37		14.8
Swede		5		2.0
English		25		10.0
Slavic		25		10.0
French		7		2.8
Italian		20		8.0
Others		3		1.2

1 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, Bulletin number 357, Cost of Living in United States, p. 5. 1924.

2 Bulletin 237, Cost of Living on Iowa, p. 55. 1926.

Table 9. Membership in organizations of 250 coal miners in Monroe County, Iowa.

Organizations	:	Number of Miners	:	Per cent
Lodges		50		20
Churches		40		16
United Mine Workers		250		100

A STUDY OF THE COAL MINING SITUATION IN IOWA

This study is being made by Mr. Fasold, Superintendent of Schools at Albia, in co-operation with the Sociology department at Ames.

Please fill in the blanks and return this to me at once:

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you own the house in which you live? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, who owns it? \_\_\_\_\_ How many years have you lived in this house? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you live in a mining camp before moving to your present position? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
How long? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have electric lights? \_\_\_\_\_ City water? \_\_\_\_\_ Sewer system? \_\_\_\_\_ Bath room? \_\_\_\_\_ Radio? \_\_\_\_\_ Piano? \_\_\_\_\_  
Washing machine? \_\_\_\_\_ How many rooms are in your house? \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality? \_\_\_\_\_ Married? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children? \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth of children? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an American citizen? \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you been in this country? \_\_\_\_\_ What was the last school you attended? \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you graduate from high school? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of a lodge? \_\_\_\_\_ What? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you belong to church? \_\_\_\_\_ What church? \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of other organizations of which you are a member \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a job at present? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many days did you work at the mines during the past year? \_\_\_\_\_  
Days lost by strikes or shut-downs? \_\_\_\_\_ What other occupation do you have besides mining? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you have a garden? \_\_\_\_\_ Automobile? \_\_\_\_\_  
Were you ever injured in a mining accident? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where? \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of the accident? \_\_\_\_\_

Were the results of the accident permanent? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your opinion of the mining situation in Iowa as a future occupation?

The Present Condition and Future Outlook of Coal  
Mining in Monroe County

The coal mining situation in Monroe County is in a bad way at the present time. This is due partly to the closing of the Hocking mine and the mines of the Consolidated Coal Company. The Hocking mine was controlled by the Minneapolis and Saint Louis Railroad. This railroad is in the hands of a receiver. It is at present purchasing from the Illinois fields the coal needed to operate its trains. The receiver does not care to open a new mine in the Hocking field, because of complications which might occur in the disposition of the coal fields now owned by the Hocking Coal Company. The Consolidated Coal Company is controlled by the Northwestern Railroad. It was operating two of the best mines in the county previous to the strike of 1927. Since that time these mines have not been operating. This leaves the Burlington as the only railroad now purchasing any quantity of Monroe County coal. The mines now in operation are selling a large amount of the coal produced to local users, schools, state institutions, and manufacturing institutions. If the operators can establish an association for the sale of fuel, in Iowa and other states, then the miners will have plenty of work in the future, because the amount of coal remaining in the county is estimated as enough to give work to a thousand men for at least one hundred years.

The miners are very pessimistic as to the future of the mining industry in Iowa. The replies given by the miners to the following question: "What is your opinion of the mining situation in Iowa as a future occupation?" were not encouraging in the least. Representative replies are quoted below:

"I don't like to think of having to depend on it, to support my family. In fact I don't think much of it."

"It depends on the loyalty of the Iowa people to burn Iowa coal."

"It looks pretty blue."

"There would be full time for every miner and lots more could be employed, if Iowa industries and Iowa people would use Iowa coal, because it is as good a coal as there is in the country."

"I think Iowa mining is about to a close."

"Iowa is using too much scab coal, burn Iowa coal and Iowa will work."

"Not very good on account of gas and electricity. It has done away with the burning of coal and has hurt the coal trade to a great extent. I think that all the state industry should protect the work of all the working classes."

"Grave yard situation".

"My opinion is if there isn't steps taken soon to help the coal industry, that it will sone be done."

"Rotten."

"If Iowa would buy Iowa coal we miners would all have work the year around."

"The situation for the future looks very bad indeed."

"I believe that mining will become worse each year and would be a very poor occupation."

"My opinion is that natural gas, gasoline and fuel oil, for at least 10 or 15 years will keep coal down in price. It will be a poor man's fuel."

"Very poor and getting worse all the time."

"It does not look very good."

Since 1927, the Monroe County mines have been working less than half time. The miners do not receive wages enough to provide them with means for a decent standard of living. Think of the average family of five trying to provide right standards of living with an income of but \$750.00 per year. The miners have become very pessimistic in their thinking, as shown by the answers to the last question of the questionnaire. The miserable living conditions that have been witnessed and experienced in the periods of forced idleness in the coal mining industry show a striking social contrast between the rich and the very poor in living conditions. Much of the local social unrest and discontent is due to the inequalities in the living standards found in the different industrial fields. The present economic order offers the miner no guarantee of a decent standard of living in return for his efforts.

The conditions in Monroe County show a maladjustment in the demand and supply of labor. There have been at least twenty per cent more miners in the county during the past five years than were needed even in the busiest coal mining years. The social and economic rank and well-being of the mining population cannot be very high when eighty-seven per cent still use the coal-oil lamp for light, ninety-seven per cent are drinking water from the shallow wells or cisterns, ninety-four per cent have no sewage disposal systems, ninety-four per cent have no bath tubs, seventy-eight per cent have no washing machines, over eighty per cent have no church affiliations, and a large majority of the homes have neither exterior nor interior manifestations that beauty has any place in the lives of these people. That is the present situation in Monroe County among the miners, who are largely American born or naturalized citizens. And what is even worse there are no apparent indications that their lot will soon improve.

The mine workers as a class, are peaceful, law-abiding, intelligent citizens. They are economical and industrious. The Iowa miner and his family compares favorably with any other class of manual workers in America. Many of them have attained to prominent and responsible positions in Monroe County, both in business and society. Not a few of the clerks and business men in Iowa have stepped from the mine or from

miners' homes to their present positions. The miner is fond of his family; his children are dear to him, and he is always trying to better their conditions. He is anxious to send them to school rather than to the mines. He has seen real disappointment in his mining career, so he wishes to prepare his children for a larger place and enjoyment of life than he himself has had.

The people of Iowa are apparently very little interested in the coal industry of Monroe County or of the state.

It will, however, be a mistake for the people of Iowa to permit the coal mining industry of our state to be eliminated as an occupation through indifference and lack of patronage. Iowans must boost for and use these Iowa products if they would make Iowa an industrial as well as an agricultural state. That Iowa coal may well be boosted for and highly recommended for Iowa use seems to be well founded on both practical experimentation and use and by scientific experimentation and analysis. A few representative authorities on each of these experiments may well be quoted in support of using Iowa coal in Iowa:

Dr. O. R. Sweeney,<sup>1</sup> Head of the Chemical Engineering Department, Iowa State College, says: "The need for a factory system in Iowa of more liberal proportions than the present one is very great.....

The only way that we can successfully keep a reasonable population within the State of Iowa is to create a factory

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<sup>1</sup> Iowa Coal Institute, "Comments and Studies on Iowa." Albia, p. 11. 1930-1931.

system within the state so that there will be a means whereby the people residing here can make a living. The basis of factory system is raw material and power. There are ample raw material within the state to support an enormous factory system and there is ample coal within the state to supply power for a factory system of great magnitude for an indefinite period.

"Every user of Iowa coal will tend to make the mining and cleaning of coal cheaper and more satisfactory. The quality of the coal is sufficient for all present and future needs. .... It is true that like all other coal, there are certain idiosyncrasies which must be understood to get the greatest value from it. However, when proper combustion conditions of Iowa coal are determined, it is found to burn free, generally with less smoke than most of the coals with which it is in competition and with more heat units per dollar than any coal which can be shipped into most shipping points of the state.....

"The high ash content in itself is of little importance, as the amount of ashes that need be carried out, if the coal is properly burned, will not make the chore very much greater than with very high grade Eastern coal. However, when the amount in saving is considered, the saving of Iowa coal far offsets the objection that ash may offer."

"Most interesting information has been obtained at various times on tests of Iowa coal from sources which are too reliable as to be questioned. For example, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and the Iowa State College ran a joint test for the firing of Iowa coal and Illinois coal, for locomotives. The conclusions were that from a total test standpoint, the Illinois coal showed, if anything, a slight disadvantage. When of course the relative price consideration was introduced, this put Iowa coal in the lead for Iowa conditions. The surprising thing about this test was that Iowa coal produced less smoke. From a theoretical consideration, one would be led to believe that this should be the case. However, so wide-spread was the opinion that Iowa coal was a smoky coal that results were a surprise to most people. In tests which I have conducted at Ames, I have found that Iowa coal when properly fired produced less smoke than most bituminous coals."

Mr. W. A. Smith,<sup>1</sup> factory manager of the Maytag Company, Newton, Iowa, says: "We believe, that if Iowa coal is pro-

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I Iowa Coal Institute, "Comments and Studies on Iowa Coal"  
p. 10. 1930.

perly prepared for industrial use and proper equipment is adopted, will result in a great economy for Iowa industrial plants as well as others who are confronted with the task of heating and burning coal."

1 Mr. B. A. Winger, Master Mechanic, John Morrell Packing

Company, Ottumwa, Iowa, says: "While the company's policy of favoring home state products has been influential in selecting Iowa coal for their boiler plant, yet tests have shown that it is the most profitable coal to use in this plant."

2 "The Hawkeye Portland Cement Company and the Pennsylvania Dixie Cement Corporation, both of whom are located at Des Moines, Iowa, use Iowa coal exclusively, which means that they furnish employment to about 300 miners who produce this fuel and whose annual income is over \$385,000.00.

"The Hawkeye Portland Cement Company with a daily capacity of 4,500 barrels, uses 400 tons of Iowa coal per day, and the many beautiful bridges and buildings and the hundreds of miles of Iowa's magnificent paved highways stand as undeniable evidence of the groundless ballyhooing we sometimes hear from outsiders who try to elaborate on the poor qualities of cement made with Iowa coal. Any cement that can measure up to the high standards set by the Iowa State Highway Commission should be good enough for Iowans....."

"It is believed in the light of certain studies that have been made, that Iowa coal will give, at prevailing prices, more heat value and a more economical return for the investment than the coals that are usually shipped into the State of Iowa. It is not alone, therefore, for the good of the community that Iowa coal should be developed and used, but for the fact that a cheap fuel supply will attract within our borders industries which will cause our state to develop." 3

1 Iowa Coal Institute, "Comments and Studies on Iowa Coal".  
p. 11. 1930.

2 Ibid: p. 22.

3 Dr. Sweeney: Op. cit. p. 14.

## PART III

### SUMMARY

Coal has been mined in Iowa since 1840. During the first few years of mining the coal output was very small.

Coal is now mined in twenty-three counties, employing 7759 miners. In 1917 over 18,000 coal miners were employed in the state.

About three hundred shipping mines and three hundred fifty wagon mines are operating today in Iowa.

Strikes were very common during the early years of the coal mining industry. Today we have very few strikes, which is partially due to the organizations of miners and operators. Also many of the problems which caused strikes, in the past, are regulated by laws.

The attitude of the miner toward his work has never been better. He feels that the operators' problems are his problems and what is good for the industry is good for him and his family.

The mining camps, with almost everything detrimental to the best interests of society as their accompaniments, are fast passing away, and the modern miners are beginning to enjoy the privileges of our urban people. They are no longer the distinct class living in separate communities that they once were.

Mining camp schools are doing work, the equivalent of that found in other towns of equal size. The aid from the state for the mining camp schools has equipped the camp school to do efficient work.

The state laws provide workmen with compensation for injuries and death. The industries are required to carry insurance on their employees. This may of course be carried by the company operating the industry. The compensation laws save much suffering in the worker's family due to accidents.

The dangers from mining are still very great. The conditions in the mines have however been improved by law as well as by the organization of other agencies to prevent accident.

The social cost of unemployment needs much study. Many social workers are of the opinion that unemployment breeds discouragement, deficiency, delinquency, poverty and pauperism. These in turn endanger our social system.

The standards of living in the mining industry are very low. The uncertainty of regular work and the inability of the miners to work at other skilled labor makes an improved standard of living almost impossible.

The social aspects of low wages are almost identical with the conditions that affect part time employment. Low wages bring the women and children into the laboring world in order to obtain the necessities of life. This in turn affects the social life in the home.

The organizations in the Iowa Coal mining industry that function to bring better social conditions; are the United Mine Workers of America and the Coal Operators Association. These represent respectively the miners and the operators.

Monroe County has a part in the coal mining industry of the state. A survey of the coal mining in this county shows that the social status of the miners in this industry is quite low. The facts gathered by interviews and a questionnaire show many conditions which make it largely impossible to achieve and then to maintain a decent standard of living for those employed therein. Furthermore the fact that oil, gas and electricity are being increasingly used in industry makes the future usage of coal even less certain. And so the future prospect for the Iowa coal miner is not at all encouraging.

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