
Miners of America!

Resist the Terrors of Your Masters!

[March 1920]

Unsigned 2 page leaflet of the Communist Party of America,
specimen in Comintern Archives, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 9, l. 43.

Again you are faced with the alternative of seeing yourselves and your families reduced to a condition beneath any other group of workers on earth or the absolute necessity of fighting the mine barons and their bloodthirsty henchmen. You have fought many a heroic struggle against the master class of America and you have faced many a bitter defeat. This time you should enter the struggle determined to win your demands. THIS TIME YOU CAN WIN IF YOU USE YOUR ORGANIZED POWER AGAINST YOUR ENEMY. You have never used that power as it should have been used. The master class fights you with every weapon known to mankind. Already the daily press of the nation is spreading lies broadcast about you and branding you as beasts, yet they never utter a word about the degenerate thugs and gunmen of the private detective agencies (the murderous mine guards) who assassinate you and your families, who rape your wives, daughters, and mothers as they did in 1912 at Paint and Cabin Creek, W.Va., in 1913 at Calumet, Michigan, in 1914 at Ludlow, Colorado, where men, women, and children were burned alive by the hirelings of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the owner of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. Again today in West Virginia the white terror of thugs and gunmen of capitalism is in action against the miners; again your families and driven from the company houses onto the public highways, and compelled to exist

in tents while the state constabulary, the militia, and other vicious elements assist the paid gunmen of the corporations in their crimes against you.

Your strike, on April 1st, must settle once and for all this question of terrorism in the mines. You should serve notice on the mine barons that not one ton of coal will ever be mined until the mine guard system is destroyed and a standard of living fit for human beings guaranteed you by the barons. BUT IN ORDER TO WIN YOU MUST FIGHT!

The Communist Party of America, a revolutionary working class organization, calls upon you to rally to the struggle and to exert every ounce of energy you have against your enemies. The first thing necessary to ensure your success is that the strike be general in the entire industry — every mine in the country should be closed at the same moment and *not one* should ever resume work until *all* resume work. Even though the owners of one district plead with your officers that they have nothing to do with the rest of the owners, do not believe them as they make those please in order to divide you and thus defeat you. In relation to this question you should watch your officers and see that they do not manoeuvre you into a position of compromise or arbitration which is always the first step in the betrayal of the workers in any struggle. Remember, your officers should be watched closely, for just as they deserted and

betrayed the Kansas miners who were fighting the Industrial Court Law of that mental eunuch and moral pervert, Gov. Henry Allen of Kansas, so they will betray you unless you make sure you can intimidate them so they will not dare betray you. State your demands in no uncertain terms AND THEN ACT TO MAKE THEM REALITIES.

Furthermore you should not and you must no stop with your own officers and your own organization. Remember that the railroads play a very important part in the mining industry and you can make success doubly sure by appealing to the railroad workers to REFUSE TO TRANSPORT COAL FROM THE STRUCK MINES. Even though the traitorous officials of the railroad workers organizations have promised capitalism in America that they will not strike in support of the miners does not mean that the rank and file of the railroad workers are all deaf to your pleas. You should force your officers to make an alliance with the railroad workers, by going over their heads to the workers themselves. Issue appeals to them and see if they will respond. Even if a few divisions respond it will help to show the masters of the earth that the workers are awakening and will strike terror into their craven hearts.

When you have been on strike before, you have been crushed by the state constabulary (cossacks), by the state militia, and by the armed forces of the United States government. All these forces are the tools of the capitalist class which are used to crush you and keep you in slavery. You must fight these organizations of the state and national governments for they are your mortal enemies. You cannot resist the power of the army by armed

force for the simple reason that you haven't the equipment to fight with, but you can prevent them entering the coal fields if you CAN REACH THE RAILROAD WORKERS WITH YOUR MESSAGE AND CONVINCING THEM THAT TO RUN TRAINS CARRYING CONSTABULARY OR MILITIAMEN OR SOLDIERS IS AN ACT OF TREACHERY TO THE WORKING CLASS. You stop mining the coal, ask the railroad workers to refuse to run trains carrying coal and soldiers and the strike can be won. Let the jay-bird lawyers sitting on judges benches in the courtrooms of the nation issue their injunctions and charge treason against you, as they have done in West Virginia. The Communist Party of America tells you that no worker can be guilty of treason against the capitalist government and the capitalist class which it serves. There is only one treason a worker can commit and that is treason against his own class.

Close your ranks, miners of America!

Resist the terror of the mine guards by defending your homes and your dependents with any force at your command! They are worse than rattlesnakes and should be treated as such!

Ask the railroaders and the transport workers to refuse to handle coal!

Stop the cossacks, the militia, and the soldiers!

ACT AND VICTORY WILL BE YOURS!

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