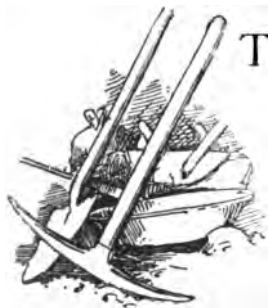


THE COEUR D'ALENE RIOTS, 1892.

THE STORY OF A GREAT STRIKE.



THE mining district known familiarly as the "Coeur d'Alénes," Northern Idaho, is some thirty miles long, with an average width of three to four miles. The entire region is mountainous, covered with pine, cedar, and tamarack. Streams rise in the eastern portion, flow through narrow gorges westward, and uniting in the Coeur d'Aléne River, empty into Lake Coeur d'Aléne. There is only sufficient space for the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific railroads to run their branch lines through the cañon parallel to the water courses, from end to end of the district.

The three principal means of communication with the outside world are: eastward, via the Northern Pacific railroad through Mullan to De Smet, Montana, where connection is made with the main line of the Northern Pacific; westward, by the Union Pacific railway to Tekoa, Washington, where connections are made either south to Boise, the capital of Idaho, or westward to Spokane, the principal commercial and railway center of Eastern Washington; or by the narrow gauge line of the Northern Pacific to The Mission, where connection by steamboat is made down the Coeur d'Aléne river and lake to Coeur d'Aléne City, Idaho, thence by broad gauge Northern Pacific railroad to Hauser, at which junction the main line east or west can be taken. In addition to these modern means of travel, the old Mullan stage road from Spokane could be utilized in an emergency, and a trail from Burke through Thompson Pass to

Thompson Falls, Montana, on the main line of the Northern Pacific was possible for pack train, horse, and foot. Scattered through the district are extensive mines of galena and silver. In the region about Murray, on Prichard Creek, are numerous gold properties.¹

The greater part of the miners employed were members of the Coeur d'Aléne Miners' Union, a branch of the Butte, Montana, Miners' Union, probably the most powerful and wealthy labor organization in the Northwest,—and had been on a strike for nearly a year. Their causes of dissatisfaction may be classified under three heads:—

First, reduction of wages;

Second, being obliged to trade at the company's store;

Third, the unmarried men being forced to board at the company's boarding house. The questions of trading at the company's store and boarding at the company's boarding house were local complaints, and pertained mainly to two localities, Wardner and Gem, and could not be considered as grievous. In fact, these adjuncts were established more to supply the wants of the men than as sources of profit, so the vital cause of the

¹ The aggregate assessed value of the mills and concentrators in the district in 1892 was \$1,350,000. The principal silver and lead mines were the Bunker Hill and Sullivan, value \$2,000,000. The Emma and Last Chance, value \$500,000; the Sierra Nevada, \$300,000; the Stem Winder, \$200,000,—about Wardner. The Consolidated, \$200,000; the 'Frisco, \$500,000; the Gem, \$500,000; the Black Bear, \$500,000; the Standard, \$500,000; the Union, \$500,000; the Granite, \$500,000; the Custer, \$500,000,—these mines were located in the cañons centering about Wallace, none more than seven miles distant. The Morning and Hunter, \$500,000 each, near Mullan. The Poorman and Tiger, value \$500,000 each, at Burke—where branch lines of the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific railroads terminated. The total estimated valuation of these properties was \$10,050,000.

strike was the reduction of wages made by the mine owners, from three dollars and a half to three dollars per day. The miners claimed that all men working under ground should have three dollars and fifty cents per day, the mine owners offering that to actual miners, and three dollars to carmen and shovelers.

Up to July first, upwards of a million dollars in wages alone had been lost to the community. During this time the unemployed men and their families were supported by voluntary contributions of provisions and remittances of money from the Butte Miners' Union. Several vain attempts at settlement of the questions at variance had been made.

The Miners' Union, as a retaliatory measure against the Mine Owners' Association, endeavored to have Congress pass an act abolishing the tariff on lead-silver ores.

The Mine Owners' Association, having in mind the valuable aid given the civil authorities in Pennsylvania, during the Mollie Maguire troubles by Pinkerton detectives, employed one of their men, who was known in the Coeur d'Alénes as Seringo, — his real name was C. L. Allison. This man ingratiated himself with the miners and joined one of the Unions, — which in fact, was almost a necessity for every miner desirous of retaining work in the region. Seringo, who was an extremely adroit man, was soon elected Secretary of the Gem Miners' Union. Thus the Mine Owners' Association was enabled to obtain records of the meetings and keep well posted upon the plans and actions of the Union.

In the spring the Association of Mine Owners decided to start work, but the members of the Miners' Union refused to work, saying they would be traitors to their mates if they resumed under the conditions offered. New men were then brought in from other mining sections,

even as far East as Michigan. Some of these new comers joined the different branch unions, and others were frightened away.

Early in April two men, William M. Pipkin and George L. Wolf, non-union men working at three dollars and a half a day at the Hidden Treasure Mine near Burke, were driven out of town by a party of which one John Tobin was said to be the leader. This gang was believed to be composed mainly of Union men. These unfortunates were marched up the gulch to the accompaniment of a tin can serenade, were refused provisions, and ordered to get over into Montana. They left the country by the Thompson Falls trail and were two days without food or shelter.

The mine owners were also threatened and the following copy of a letter received by one of the most influential firms will give an excellent idea of the general tenor of the threats: —

April 4, 1892.

Cambell and Finch,

You are standing on the edge of a precipice and if you dont look out you will go over it. You have done what we are agoing to prevent any capital doing in this man's country.

We are 17 strong and the miners' union are too slow for us. We have nothing to do with the union and are going to take the thing in our own hands. You had better pack your traps and go to some other country or you will find a hoter one. You want to put the working the miner down with the chinese and dagos. Your life is not worth 1 cent if you try it enny longer. look out for when we strike we strike hard. Your company dont know what you are doing the people are on the side of the miners. this is a warning the next will be destruction and the next hell.

When the hell is raised look out for your oficers and judges will do you no good

M— No. 1.

We have made up our minds to wate a week. then we come

We will have no slaves in Idaho.

M— No. 2.



GENERAL JAMES F. CURTIS,
COLONEL COMMANDING IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD.

The Mine Owners' Association on May 7th, obtained from Judge J. H. Beatty of the U. S. District Court for Idaho a temporary restraining order, restraining defendants from in any way interfering with the operation of plaintiff company, or from preventing any one entering the service of said company. Warrants were issued on May 10th. United States Marshal Joseph Pinkham, served them in person May 12th. The news created intense excitement. Some of the non-union men remained in the country, nerved by the action of the

Court, and started up work upon the Bunker Hill and Sullivan at Wardner, and the Gem and Frisco at Gem, about three miles from Wallace.

On June 4th, the governor of Idaho issued a warning proclamation :--

Whereas: it has come to the knowledge of the Executive of this State by the affidavits and petitions of reputable citizens and property owners of the county of Shoshone, and from other well considered sources, that there now exist in the county of Shoshone, State of Idaho, combinations of men concerting and conspiring for unlawful purposes.

This proclamation of Governor Norman

B. Willey was treated with contempt, and matters gradually drifted from bad to worse. On June 6, in the United States Circuit Court at Boise, (the Hon. Albert Hagan, in behalf of the mine owners,) Attorney Frank Ganahl, for respondents, argued that a virtual injunction had been issued under guise of an order to show cause, and that the Court at the time the injunction was issued had no authority for the proceeding. July 10, Judge Beatty declined to dissolve the injunction. This decision further incensed the Union miners.

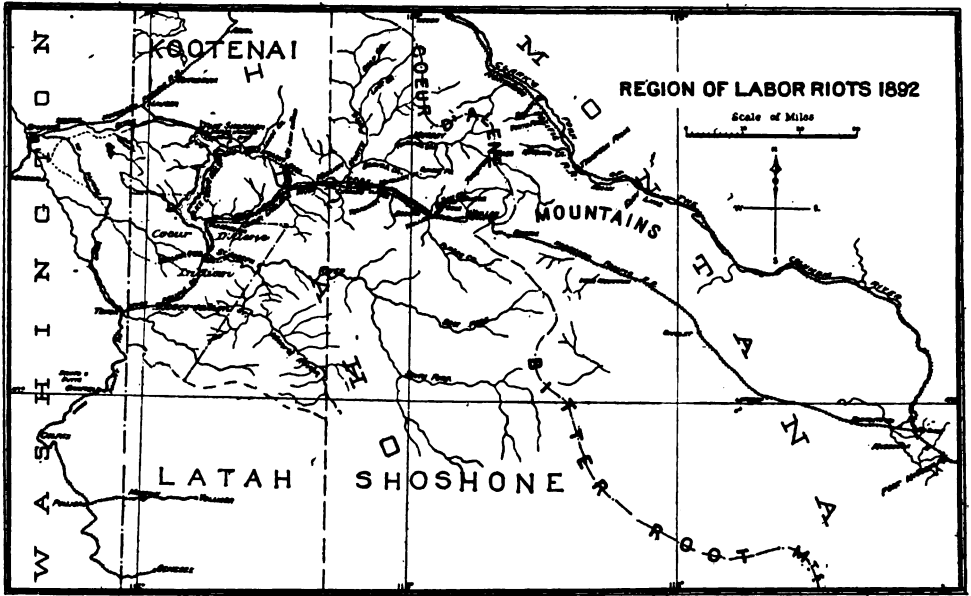
The leaders of the Miners' Union and the representatives of the Butte Union were informed at Wallace, by General James F. Curtis, Inspector General upon the staff of the Governor and acting in his behalf, that any overt act of violence would meet immediate attention and punishment at the hands of the State authorities. General Curtis, who had been sent to Shoshone County in May, to observe matters and to report such steps as might become necessary, was peculiarly well fitted for his duties by long experience in the West. Prior to the Rebellion he had served two years as chief of police of San Francisco, and through the Civil War was Colonel of the Fourth California Infantry. He had been brevetted Brigadier General in '65 by President Johnson.

It was well known that cases of rifles and ammunition had been received, addressed to the president of the Miners' Union at Wallace, and also that the mine owners had armed guards to protect their new men, so a collision was imminent. A reign of terrorism and ostracism had existed throughout Shoshone County for months. No Chinese were allowed in the Coeur d'Alénes. Respectable citizens suffered insult and intimidation, and the existing civil authority was powerless to check or punish ruffianism; in fact, the

Miners' Union, having the sympathy of the local peace officers and a majority of the people, acted as if they alone owned the country. So-called "scabs" were ordered to leave the country, owners of mines were threatened with violence and the destruction of their property, and a vendetta was pronounced upon nearly all of them.

In this emergency, General Curtis wired the Governor from Wallace, that only an armed force could cope with the conditions; that the militia was inadequate, and that a force of United States troops would be required without delay. These statements were rapidly verified within the next few days.

July 10, an altercation ending in a free fight occurred at Gem, and the impending crisis broke. On the morning of the 11th, an armed band of Miners' Union men collected at the Gem, attacked and destroyed the Frisco Mill, which was valued at \$200,000, blowing it up with giant powder, which was exploded down the penstock. Killed, one employee; wounded, twenty; prisoners, seventy. From there the gang proceeded to the Gem Mill, half a mile distant, and demanded its surrender. The guard was armed with Winchesters, and though outnumbered, stood the rioters off, killing five and wounding fourteen. The owners to save the lives of their workmen and their property from destruction surrendered to the mob, which was about four hundred strong. The terms of surrender were that the Winchesters and two thousand rounds of ammunition should be placed in the hands of disinterested parties, and that the non-union men should be shipped out of the country the next day. Within an hour thereafter, while endeavoring to move the arms to Wallace for safe keeping, the committee when opposite the Granite Mill was overpowered and the arms taken by the mob.



There was a company of State troops, A, Second Regiment of Infantry, I.N.G., stationed at Wallace, under command of one Captain W. E. Hood. Ten stands of their arms had been stolen from the armory the previous Saturday night, July 9th. Captain Hood himself left town, and could not be found. The available strength of the company for the emergency was practically nil. General Curtis immediately reported the fact to the Governor by telegraph, and on the 11th telegraphed recommending the immediate disbanding of the company, upon the technical ground that it had fallen below the minimum authorized strength, and was utterly ineffective and unwilling to act. The remaining arms of the company in the meantime were locked up in the vault of the First National Bank, of Wallace.

The Sheriff of Shoshone County, R. A. Cunningham, reported to General Curtis in Wallace, that he could not raise sufficient civil posse to enforce law and order, had no arms, and must call on the Governor for the assistance of the State troops. It was altogether useless to

summon the power of the county, as most of the people were in sympathy with the strikers, the remainder practically unarmed and consequently afraid to act. In this emergency, General Curtis; C. W. O'Neil, District Attorney, First Judicial District; Sheriff R. A. Cunningham; and George T. Crane and John L. Livers, County Commissioners, all united in sending a telegram to this effect to Governor Willey, then in Boise City, six hundred miles away.

The mob in the meantime, inflated with its success over the non-union men, escorting one hundred and ten of them, and infuriated over the death of five of their own members, whose bodies they guarded, moved down the cañon from Gem three miles to Wallace, where they paraded the streets heavily armed.

General Curtis again telegraphed that Federal troops would be an absolute necessity, also that the telegraph wires were being cut by the strikers. W. B. Heyburn, attorney for the Mine Owners, telegraphed from Spokane City to the Governor for help, reporting that the armed Union men were preparing to at-

tack Wardner that night, that the wires were cut below Wallace and a massacre might be anticipated. The rioters sent bogus telegrams, purporting to have been written by V. M. Clement, manager of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mining Company, urging the Governor not to send in troops, so as to avert unnecessary bloodshed. Judge Hagan and Heyburn, learning of this fact, telegraphed from Spokane City, to Attorney-General George H. Roberts at Boise, that the pretended telegrams from Clement were bogus, to forward the troops, and inform the authorities at once.

The strikers took a body of unarmed non-union miners, estimated at about a hundred and fifty, to the mouth of Fourth of July Cañon, near Cataldo, twelve miles below Wardner Junction,—where they were waiting for a steamboat to take them out of the country. At dusk a squad of armed men charged down the railroad track upon them, yelling and discharging their rifles. The refugees scattered, running for the brush along the river, swimming the stream, and hiding in the gulches. About three hours after this, the belated steamer came along and picked up all the refugees that could be



COMPANY A, FIRST REGIMENT, IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD.¹

On the night of the 12th, the mob moved down the cañon from Wallace, stealing hand cars en route, to Wardner Junction, twelve miles below, and under threats of attacking different mines and destroying the mills, obtained the surrender of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan, Sierra Nevada, and Last Chance mines. Great quantities of explosives were placed in the Bunker Hill and Sullivan concentrator, and under threats of its destruction non-union miners were discharged and work stopped.

¹In camp at Wallace, Idaho.

found. They were wet, cold, and in a pitiable state of excitement.

Many had been driven down Fourth of July Canon, two were known to have been killed, many were robbed, and a number wounded. As to whether the Miners' Union, or a gang of thugs committed these acts of violence, has never been definitely ascertained. Grossly exaggerated stories of these atrocities were published in the press at the time.

Troop G, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, under command of Second Lieutenant E. A. Helmick, Fourth Infantry, marched from

Fort Sherman, through the Fourth of July Cañon and back, making a careful search. No bodies were discovered, and the tales of burned human bones were proved to have been a hoax.

Early on the 13th, the non-union miners, lately engaged in the Wardner mines, estimated to number three hundred, were sent out of the country on a Union Pacific train guarded by armed strikers. These unfortunates sought refuge in the town of Tekoa, Washington.

Thus far the strikers had obtained a series of uninterrupted victories. They had only to demand and receive. They had driven the non-union men out of the country; the most valuable mines and mills of the district were in their possession and the inhabitants of the principal towns terrorized.

Governor Willey, upon receipt of General Curtis's telegram, wired President Harrison on July 11th, that the State Legislature was not in session, and could not be convened promptly; that the civil authority was wholly inadequate to maintain peace; that while he would immediately order the available military force of the State into the field, it was far too few in numbers to cope successfully with the mob,—and he asked for Federal troops.

In response the Governor was notified by the acting Secretary of War, July 12th, that troops would be at once sent to his assistance and to communicate with Brigadier-General Ruger, commanding the Department of the Columbia. The State troops consisted of twelve companies, none properly equipped for field service, scattered at great distances apart in the different towns of the State,—which, it should be borne in mind, comprises an area nearly equal to the States of New York and Pennsylvania, with a population of but one hundred thousand.

Except the Wallace company, which had been tried and found wanting, all were far south and remote from the scene of trouble.

On the 12th the Governor ordered six companies¹ to proceed to the scene of trouble.

On July 13th,—acting upon the following dispatch,—

WALLACE, July 13th.

Governor N. B. Willey:—Pursuant to section four of the revised statutes, we urgently make application to your excellency for the enforcement of the provisions of sections 7,400 to 7,408 of the revised statutes. C. W. O'NEIL, District Atty. of Shoshone County.

H. S. GREGORY, Probate Judge,—

the Governor issued his proclamation declaring martial law in the county of Shoshone.

General Ruger received orders by telegram from the Major General commanding the army, to send the available infantry force from Fort Sherman to the scene of the disturbance, with directions to report to the Governor of the State. He was also authorized to increase the force if necessary. Pursuant to these instructions, Colonel William P. Carlin, Fourth Infantry, left Fort Sherman with companies A, D, F, and H, Fourth Infantry, in the afternoon of July 12th, and reached the Cataldo Bridge the next day at 10 o'clock, A. M. The six companies of the First Regiment, Idaho N. G., 191 strong out of a total of 196, arrived at Cataldo at 12.15 P. M., the same day, and reported to General James F. Curtis.

In the meantime, other troops were being rushed forward by rail. A battalion of the Fourteenth Infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Theaker, companies B, C, D, E, and F, left Vancouver Barracks, 507 miles west, on

¹Co. F, Capt. Johns, Halley; Co. A, Capt. C. C. Stevenson, Boise; Co. B, Capt. Degitz, Weiser; Co. M, Capt. Moody, Vollmar; Co. I, Capt. Haymond, Genesee; Co. K, Capt. J. H. McCallie, Moscow.



GOVERNOR NORMAN B. WILLEY,
GOVERNOR OF IDAHO, 1892.

the 13th, and arrived at the scene of trouble at noon on the 14th. A battalion of the Twenty-second Infantry under command of Lieutenant-Colonel John H. Page, companies B, D, F, G and H, left Fort Keogh, 642 miles east, the evening of the 13th, and arrived at Mullan on the 15th. A battalion of the Fourth Infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Cook, companies B, E, and G, left Fort Spokane, 189 miles northwest, on the morning of the 13th, made a forced march of twenty-six miles in eight hours to the nearest railroad point,—this being the only battalion ordered to the scene of trouble not having direct railway communication,—took the train at Davenport, and reached Cataldo at 5:55 P. M., on the evening of the fourteenth, passing at Tekoa the non-union men that had been driven out of the Coeur d'Alenes the day before, and who were congregated about the station, a motley crowd,—foreigners for the most

part, some cursing, some bewailing,—a class not calculated to excite much sympathy either by their appearance or actions.

At Harrison a battalion of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, from Fort Missoula, under Captain W. I. Sanborn, F, G, and H, was passed. These were colored troops, and were as soldierly a battalion as ever wore the blue. They had been ordered from Fort Missoula on the 12th, being the last battalion to join General Carlin's command, although the first on the scene of action, and the one suffering the greatest inconvenience in obeying their orders for the concentration.

The colored troops were extremely objectionable to the lawless element, but by their discipline and cheerful performance of duties won the encomiums of their superiors and comrades in arms, and quickly forced the unruly to appreciate the fact that they were not to be trifled with.

On July 14, General Carlin advanced from Cataldo, leaving a guard to protect the telegraph operator there, to Wardner Junction, where he established his headquarters.¹

General Curtis, commanding the Idaho troops, placed his headquarters at Wallace, telegraphed Governor Willey, "We control the situation," and issued the following order, which was published and posted throughout the district:—

¹The following was the disposition of Carlin's command:—Co. H, 4th Infantry, to guard the mines of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan and Sierra Nevada up the gulch at Wardner. Co. F, 4th Infantry, to guard the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Concentrator, half a mile below Wardner Junction. Co's A, B, G, and E, 4th Infantry, F, G, and H, 25th Infantry, and four companies of the Idaho N. G., making a total of eleven companies, were camped at Wardner Junction. One company of the Idaho N. G. was sent forward to Osborne. Four companies 14th Infantry, under Lt.-Col. Theaker, were placed in Wallace. Co. B, of the 14th Infantry was sent to Burke. Co. D, of the 4th Infantry and one company of the Idaho N. G. were stationed at Gem. The 22nd Infantry, leaving one company at Mullan, moved westward with the remaining four companies to Wallace, where under command of Lt.-Col. Page they went into camp. Google

Headquarters Idaho National Guard, Wallace, July 15th, 1892. To the officers and members of Coeur d'Aléne Miners' Union, whether permanent or temporary:—You are hereby commanded to surrender yourselves and your arms to the commanding officers of troops at your respective localities. Protection under the law will be guaranteed; all good citizens of this county are requested and commanded to aid in identifying and arresting those who do not surrender.

Acting for the Governor.

JAMES F. CURTIS,
Colonel I. N. G., Commanding.

the hands of the rioters, none were ever surrendered, nor were any ever found by search parties.

Early in the morning of the 15th Company B, Fourth Infantry, was sent back to Tekoa, and returned the afternoon of the same day escorting the evicted "scabs." At Wardner Junction, the men disembarked from the train, and under a heavy escort, were marched back up the gulch to the Wardner mines, where they resumed work. The entire



BATTALION 22D U. S. INFANTRY—LIEUTENANT COLONEL J. H. PAGE, COMMANDING.¹

To the troops in Shoshone County General Curtis published a terse and forcible order. "If any person is apprehended in the act of blowing up railroad bridges or property, or mills or houses or other property, with dynamite, or placing it in position, shoot him on the spot."

It was a significant fact that no man surrendered, and although over 800 Winchester were positively known to be in

¹From Fort Keogh, Montana—at Wallace, Idaho.

force of troops at Wardner Junction was held under arms, ready to defend the non-union men, but the rioters made no demonstration, although congregated in great numbers about the railroad station and very sullen in their demeanor. That evening, and thereafter, arrests were made of all known members of the Miners' Union at Wardner, Wallace, Gem, Burke, Mullan, and wherever else they could be apprehended.

There being no adequate prison facilities at Wardner Junction, a one story frame building opposite the Union Pacific station, which had been originally intended for a small general merchandise store, was utilized. It was soon overcrowded with prisoners. At Wallace, two empty cottages and a large wooden store house were pressed into service as prison pens.

All saloons in the district were closed and the towns patrolled day and night.

The President of the United States issued a proclamation, which was received on July 16th. Copies were printed, both of this proclamation and the Governor's, together with an extract of Section 7407, Revised Statutes of Idaho. These were posted conspicuously throughout the district. Very many were immediately torn down or defaced, and apparently were of little effect.

It became so evident that Sheriff Cunningham was acting in the interest of his friends, the strikers, to whom he owed his election, that General Curtis removed him from office,—also Thomas Argyle, City Marshal of Wallace, and John Steffes, Marshal at Wardner, on account of their inefficiency, incapability, and unwillingness to act.

General Curtis issued the following order:—

H'DQ'RS. IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD. }
WALLACE, IDAHO, July 15th, 1892. }

Special Order No. 3.

Dr. W. S. Sims of Wallace, Idaho, is hereby appointed Acting Sheriff of the County of Shoshone, State of Idaho, and is empowered with all the authority of that office under Martial Law, now in force in said county.

By Order. JAMES F. CURTIS,
Col. Idaho National Guards, Commanding.

Doctor Sims was a surgeon of high repute, a Southerner by birth, and a man of great personal courage and force, whose services were invaluable during the insurrection.

The civil courts were not interfered with and were in session for the hearing of criminal and civil cases. Honorable Junius Holleman, Judge of the First Judicial District of Idaho, was called upon to decide the legality of Governor Willey's proclamation declaring martial law. It occurred in this way: in a criminal case pending before the court, at Murray, Idaho, a motion was made by James H. Hawley, attorney for defense, to quash an indictment, inasmuch as the grand jury had been impaneled by Sheriff Sims, who was claimed to have been appointed to office without due authority of law.

After a masterly argument before the court, which continued for two days, made by Captain J. G. Ballance, 22d U. S. Infantry, in which all the powers of martial law were exhaustively presented, the court decided that the proclamation was valid and that Sims was not only the *de facto* but also the *de jure* Sheriff. It was known to a few only, that had the decision of the court been adverse, the functions of all civil courts in the district would have been immediately suspended. The argument of Captain Ballance was to the effect that during the existence of martial law the courts were only permitted to exercise their functions so long as they were subordinate to the military power.

July 16th the Mine Owners' Association agreed that the miners could board and trade where they pleased hereafter.

The railroad authorities were directed on the 15th and 16th of July not to sell tickets or transport passengers through the county of Shoshone without passes from military headquarters. All trains were searched by troops and all persons attempting to evade the order were summarily ejected from the trains. This precaution was taken to prevent the escape of participants in the riots.

By the 16th, three hundred prisoners had been apprehended, those arrested at Burke, Gem, and Mullan, being sent to Wallace to be guarded. Their subsistence devolved for the time being upon the State, and Quartermaster General A. J. Pinkham, I. N. G., was charged with providing the necessary rations, blankets, lights, and medical stores. Upon the 18th many dependent families of Union men and others applied to the authorities for subsistence.

Upon the 25th, the Hailey and Boise companies returned by rail to their respective homes, acting as escort to twenty-five of the prisoners prominent in the various unions, who were taken to Boise and lodged in jail, pending trial upon information filed July 19, in the U. S. Circuit Court by Hon. Fremont Wood, charging about eighty-five of them with contempt of court.

The trial commenced August 2, and terminated on the 11th. Robinson,



HEADQUARTERS U. S. TROOPS, 4TH AND 25TH INFANTRY, AT WARDNER JUNCTION.

On the 19th, reports having been received that a party of about a hundred armed rioters were lurking in the mountains near the Montana line, Generals Curtis and Carlin, escorted by two companies of infantry, made an armed reconnaissance to Saltese, where they found nothing material, and a telegram to Governor Toole of Montana, for permission to pursue the rioters across the State line being met with refusal, the troops returned to Wallace and Wardner.

Hugh McGee, O'Brien, Poynton, Doyle, Peterson, Eaton, Nicholson, Fitzgerald, Dean, Heeney, and Boyce, were found guilty of contempt of court, and sentenced to be confined in the county jail of Ada County, for terms varying from four to eight months each. The others were discharged.

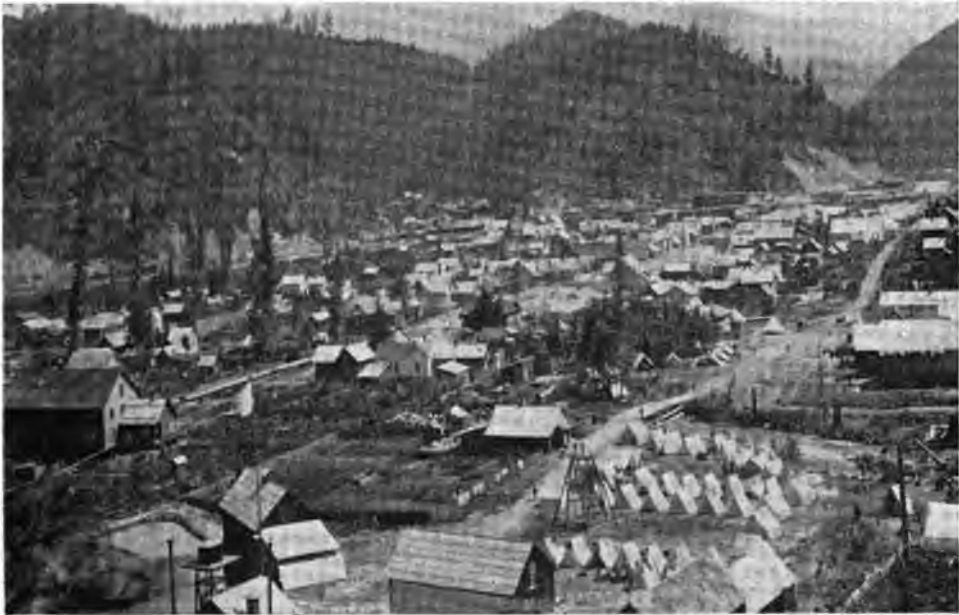
The Weiser and Genesee companies, I. N. G. left for home the 26th of July. On the 27th, the Vollmar company and the battalions of the Twenty-fifth U. S.

Infantry, from Wardner Junction, and the Twenty-second U. S. Infantry, from Wallace, left for their respective posts, via Mullan, where they had the satisfaction of seeing the American flag floating proudly at the staff head instead of being at the half staff as it had been placed by dastards.

Upon the 29th, the prisoners at Wardner and Wallace were turned over to the custody of the U. S. Deputy Marshal, thus relieving the State of the expense

trial, it was recommended that they be released on parole.

In nearly every instance the prisoners refused to sign the parole, the clause requiring them to report at all times when ordered to do so being considered by them an undue restraint upon their liberty. Their lack of confidence in the integrity of purpose of the lawful authorities made abortive this attempt materially to reduce the number of prisoners under guard.



WALLACE, IDAHO—WEST END.

and throwing the cost of their further maintenance upon the United States government. Hearings were held in July, by Judge Advocate General Geo. M. Parsons, I. N. G., at Wallace, and Captain S. C. John, I. N. G., acting assistant Judge Advocate General, at Wardner, as to the complicity of the prisoners in the recent riots. When it did not appear that there was sufficient evidence against them to warrant their being held for further examination and

On Aug. 11 the remaining prisoners at Wardner Junction, forty-eight in number, were placed in box cars, and guarded by Companies E and H, Fourth Infantry, were brought to Wallace and confined in the prison there, the pen at Wardner being abandoned for sanitary reasons. The troops reported for duty to Lieutenant-Colonel Theaker, Fourteenth Infantry, commanding at Wallace.

The owners of the mines were anxious to open their properties and to transact

their legitimate business and on that account were lenient in their treatment of many of the men. Although an agreement was made between the mine owners that none of the rioters should be reemployed, still it was found that the Tiger and Poorman management at Burke, which was considered the most dangerous camp in the district, and where the Unions were strongest, were evading the agreement, and their mines were re-

and all mining work therein will cease after 12 o'clock midnight, Saturday Aug. 20th, 1892, until further orders.

II. The "Tiger Mine" will "shut down" and all mining work therein will cease after 12 o'clock midnight Saturday, Aug. 20th 1892, until further orders.

By order Col. J. F. Curtis.

T. J. Cable, Lt. I. N. G., Asst. Adj. Genl.

Under this order these mines were kept closed until September 1st, when they were allowed to reopen, new men having been introduced to replace those objec-



BURKE, IDAHO.¹

opened by the employment of many of the most violent of the strikers. So unfair to the other mine owners and so destructive of discipline was it, that it was deemed necessary to close these two large properties, and the following order was issued: —

Headquarters I. N. G.,
Wallace, Idaho, Aug. 16, '92.

Special Orders No. 53.

I. The "Poorman Mine" will "shut down"

¹ Showing Tiger and Poorman Mines.

tionable to the authorities and the Poorman mine being placed under an entirely new management.

On August 13 very early in the morning a very desperate character, Webb Leasure, who was charged with the murder of Ivory Beau (the first man killed at Gem), together with some of his intimates, who were also wanted, was captured in a saloon at Mullan by First Lieutenant H. P. McCain, Fourteenth United

States Infantry, who with a detachment of troops accompanied by Sheriff Sims had left Wallace at one o'clock in the morning, by special train, and accomplished single handed without bloodshed the arrest of this desperado, who had openly boasted that he would never be taken alive. The mine owners were greatly pleased over this capture and offered Lieutenant McCain a handsome purse of money as a token of their ap-

I.N.G. of Boise, was given direct supervision of policing the town, and prosecuted his duties vigorously. His business-like methods quickly abolished the nuisances, and it may be safely stated that when he had finished the work, Wallace was the cleanest, neatest, and best behaved town in Idaho.

Complaint having been made by some of the prisoners to the Department of Justice at Washington as to their condi-



FRISCO MILL AFTER THE EXPLOSION.

preciation, but he declined the proffered gift, stating that in making the arrest he had merely performed his duty. This was probably the feat of most personal daring on the part of an officer during the insurrection.

The sanitary condition of the town of Wallace was very bad, and the extreme hot weather caused the most noxious odors to pervade the atmosphere. First Lieutenant C. H. Turner, Company A,

and treatment, Special Agent F. B. Crossthwaite was sent out to make an immediate report by wire. He found that while everything was not as comfortable as might have been desired at first, when several hundred men were rushed into a temporary place of confinement necessarily arranged hastily, wrongs had been righted as fast as possible, and the entire prison was as good in average condition as fifty per cent of the prisons of the

country; that the prisoners were provided with good water and wholesome food in abundance, and were in no manner ill treated.

Whereupon General Curtis requested General Carlin to convene a board of officers to investigate and report upon the rumors and inquiries concerning the treatment of prisoners in the jail at Wallace. The board, consisting of Captain W. H. Bisbee, Fourth Infantry, Captain John Murphy, Fourteenth Infantry, Captain J. H. McCallie, I.N.G., Company K, Moscow, and Second Lieutenant Hermann Hall, Fourth Infantry, met August 20. After taking testimony and making a personal examination of the prison, it rendered an opinion that under the general

rule of confined prisoners, subject to prison restraint, no ill or mal-treatment had been exhibited; that all prisoners were treated fairly alike; and that prisoner Breen was not an exception, being in one of the new cells. This finding was approved by General Carlin, and a true copy furnished the commanding officer of the I. N. G.

August 22nd, Company K, I. N. G., the last company of State troops, was relieved from duty. It and all the other companies that had served in the district received a letter of thanks from Governor Willey for their services, personal sacrifices, and the military spirit shown in the discharge of trying duties to which they were all unaccustomed.

A plan of legal procedure was arranged for the prisoners remaining in custody. They were taken before U. S. Commissioner Hoffman, — at Wallace, — who issued warrants of arrest as the individual cases were brought to the bar. Those bound over were delivered to the custody of the U. S. Marshal, and no further paroles were given. Many who could furnish the requisite bonds were admitted to bail. The prisoners were allowed to exercise daily in the prison yard and could see from there the guard mount of the troops each morning. One of their number, John Tobin, who was extremely popular among them and had been in the English service, organized a drill and guard mount. The prisoners made themselves wooden guns, and decorated their clothing with stripes, chevrons, and shoulder-straps, of flannel. Tobin himself



WARDNER, IDAHO.

was resplendent, having ingeniously fashioned a holster from an old piece of leather, which was worn on the right hip and a curved knob of wood shaped like the butt of a revolver protruded therefrom, imitating excellently an army officer's appearance in the field. Late every pleasant afternoon, he would put his men through a drill ending with a guard mount, giving all the commands prescribed for an adjutant in a distinct voice except those designating the non-commissioned officers when assigned to their posts, since, as these commands were always given in a tone only audible a few feet away, he had not been able to hear and memorize them as he had the others, — this was the only flaw in his burlesque. As a rule, his men drilled exceedingly well, but sometimes when depressed and out of sorts, they would not respond quickly to his commands. Then he would convulse the crowd that habitually made an afternoon pilgrimage to witness this performance by exclaiming, "I am disgusted with yees, ye don't drill any better than the Idaho militia." This sally of Irish wit never failed to evoke applause and merriment.

September 3, U. S. Commissioner Hoffman held thirty prisoners for trial before the U. S. District Court at Coeur d'Aléne City, on bench warrants issued out of court after indictment for conspiracy by the Grand Jury, which held its sessions in Coeur d'Aléne City. A military escort guarded the prisoners to that place. The remainder of the prisoners, numbering about two hundred, were released on their own recognizance. The duty of guarding prisoners having ceased, and tranquillity having been restored in a great measure throughout the district, the saloons were allowed to reopen under greatly modified restrictions, and the necessity existing no longer for so large a force of Federal troops, the battalion of

five companies of the Fourteenth Infantry returned to Vancouver Barracks September 14.

Judge Beatty opened a session of the U. S. District Court, September 2, at Coeur d'Aléne City, where the court was ordered, to save expense and for convenience in securing witnesses. C. W. Bushniell, the Miners' Union Attorney, Geo. A. Pettibone, John Norton, W. H. Frazer, Barney Reilley, Mike L. Devine, C. Sinclair, John Murphey, Daniel Cadigan, F. M. Grey, Jack W. Wallace, — familiarly know as Shell Game Wallace, — Joseph Trainer, J. W. Glass, Frank Hyatt, and Joseph Gillis, were tried for conspiracy in disobeying the order of the court in the injunction issued in the cases against the Miners' Union of Wardner.

The trial was completed September 28. Four were found guilty and sentenced. The remainder were found not guilty and discharged. Those convicted were taken to Detroit, where they served several months. All were subsequently released on an appeal taken to the U. S. Supreme Court on account of a defect in the indictment. Peter Breen and Webb Leasure were tried for murder the following winter, the cases being moved to Kootenai County, before Judge Holleman of the District Court of Idaho. After a protracted trial they were both acquitted.

On September 22, affairs continuing tranquil, three more companies of Federal troops were withdrawn from the district, leaving but four companies, all of the Fourth Infantry, in the field.

Although in the gold camp about Murray there was no rioting, the citizens of that town, during the insurrection, evinced their loyalty to good government by the application of Commander Ingalls of Canny Post No. 11, G. A. R., for thirty stands of arms and accouterments, and tendering their services to the State.

The reputable business men of Wal-

lace, having a sense of the need of a reliable military protection, and realizing that when Federal troops were withdrawn, they would be forced to rely on their own resources, applied to the Governor, through General Curtis, for permission to organize an efficient company, to replace that disbanded.

Early in August, their application was favorably considered and on the 7th of September, the company designated as Company A, Second Regiment, I. N. G., was mustered into the service, with the following officers: Captain, William S. Sims; First Lieutenant, William C. Fuman; Second Lieutenant, William E. Mann. The rank and file were composed of the most prominent and influential young men of the county. A regular army officer drilled them, and the greatest interest was evinced in mastering the details of the drill regulations. They quickly became a credit to the State.

The Populist Legislature of 1893 practically abolished the Idaho National Guard by withholding all appropriations for it. Representative Neil, who had been a prisoner in Shoshone County in 1892, moved that the militia item be stricken out of the Appropriation Bill for 1895, on the ground that the militia was worse than useless, powerless to quell riots, and only a burden to the State. He said there had never been an instance when the militia was called out that United States troops did not assist, being generally first on the scene of action. The motion carried without division.

As the fall advanced, the political campaign was the engrossing feature of the situation, wild rumors gained currency, and the undercurrent of lawlessness cropped out from time to time. On October 19, a notice written on a fly leaf of a pocket note book was found fastened at the upper tunnel of the Gem Mine:—

Look out, scabs. One more warning, the last one. Before this month is over 1500 lbs. of Giant powder will be exploded and all in this mine will be sent to Hell. It is in the mine, the fuse attached, now ready for action. If we can't work the mine no one else shall.

Bloody Jack.

On the same day there was deposited in the Gem Post Office a letter addressed to Mrs. John Monahan, wife of the foreman of the Gem Mine; the letter was written upon a fly leaf evidently torn from the same note book and read as follows:—

Dear Madam:

I have a wife and daughters myself. Therefore am sorry for you. The day of reckoning is close upon all Scabs. Your husband will be blown into fragments inside of a month and the next fight will not be a milk and water one like the last. The men will be killed, and the women raped. Young and old. . . .

Get out!!! and leave Monahan to the fate he deserves.

These anonymous communications threw Cañon Creek into a state of great excitement. The notes were empty threats. No clew was obtained of the perpetrators. Nevertheless *the float* from the hidden vein of Anarchism had a most disturbing effect.

The November elections passed off without bloodshed. One source of congratulation to the law and order element of Idaho, thank God, was a majority in the State, if not in Shoshone County, for General James F. Curtis for Secretary of State, Republican nominee, and this in spite of the venomous attacks made upon him for his fearless discharge of the arduous and trying duties of the position which he had been so unexpectedly called upon to fill.

The 19th of November, martial law was suspended by proclamation in which occurred the following order:—

II. The commanding officer desires to express his great appreciation of the moral support which

the law abiding citizens of Shoshone County have given him in restoring the peaceable and prosperous state of affairs now existing.

He wishes also to acknowledge the cordial and efficient support rendered by the officers and enlisted men of 4th, 14th, 22d, and 25th U. S. Infantry, and especially to Gen. W. P. Carlin, Col. 4th Infantry, who since July last has been in command of the U. S. troops in the "Coeur d'Alénes," and whose prudent and wise disposition of the troops prevented a conflict, which on July 13th, seemed impossible to avoid.

By order Colonel James F. Curtis.

T. J. Cable, Lieut. I. N. G., A. A. A. G.

The four remaining companies of the Fourth Infantry were withdrawn to their respective stations, and the military gave way to civil rule.

A most formidable insurrection had been suppressed without the shedding of a drop of blood by the military authorities, and although both State and general government had been forced to great expense to maintain law and order, they had effectually demonstrated their ability to do so. In the opinion of the thinking men familiar with the details of the trouble adequate punishment was never inflicted upon the great body of the malefactors. Was this due to a faulty system of trial by jury, or to mistaken clemency on the part of the courts? The cost to the State of Idaho was paid by appropriations of the Legislatures of 1893, \$16,000; and 1895, \$7,650; total, \$23,650. This amount included a per diem of one dollar to the enlisted men of the militia who were on service,

the transportation charges of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and the maintenance of the State troops and of the prisoners for that portion of the time before they were turned over to the custody of the United States Marshal. The Chief Quartermaster of the Department of the Columbia reported that \$34,110.25 was expended in that Department in connection with the movement of troops in the district. These are the only figures I have been able to obtain, and represent but a small portion of the total expenditures.

The cost to the community immediately concerned, although enormous, cannot be estimated in mere dollars and cents. It was far reaching in its consequences and involved financial ruin to many engaged in mercantile pursuits and the alternative of starvation or emigration to hundreds of the laboring classes.

The action of the mine owners in again giving employment to the rioters and members of the Miners' Union has practically condoned their offenses. The low price of silver and lead has had less effect in paralyzing the industries of the section than has the continued unfortunate and impudent demands of the Miners' Union. In many of our States rioting is a misdemeanor. It should be made so in all, and the District Attorney that did not enforce this law should be considered a more dangerous enemy than the rioter.

George Edgar French,

1st. Lieut. 4th U. S. Infantry.

WITHOUT US.

WE STRUGGLE and strive for a wonderful place
In the wonderful world about us,
And then we die, and the wonderful world
Goes merrily on without us.

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Carrie Blake Morgan.