

# FOUR COLLIERIES FLOODED

## Damage to Property of Mine Operators Estimated at \$1,500,000.

### This Will Delay Resumption of Work Long After Strike Is Settled—Yesterday a Quiet Day at Shenandoah.

SHENANDOAH, Penn., Aug. 6.—William Stein, the State Mine Inspector for the Shenandoah region, to-day announced that five collieries under his jurisdiction which have an estimated value of \$1,500,000, have been rendered useless by reason of having been flooded and have been permanently abandoned by the companies owning them. Four of them—Bear Run, East Bear Ridge, Kohinoor, and Preston No. 3—belong to the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, and he places their value at about \$300,000 each. The other colliery is the Lawrence, and is owned by the Sheaffer estate of Pottsville and also represents about \$300,000.

Mr. Stein estimates that out of the thirty-six collieries in his district only fourteen are in a condition for immediate operation if the strike were ended. The others are in such a condition that it would require anywhere from one to four months to clear them of water and make repairs. He said the average time would be about two months.

The abandonment of the five collieries will compel 2,000 mine workers to seek employment in other parts of the region, and they may have trouble in finding it if the thousands of men who have left the region during the strike should return. This condition of affairs, the mine inspector said, is a serious matter not only with the companies, but also with the men. After the strike shall have been ended most of the workmen will have to remain in idleness for another period of time until the collieries are placed in working condition.

In the coal fields south of here, Mr. Stein said the situation is about as bad. But in the Wyoming and Lackawanna region the mines are in much better condition.

The Mine Inspector's statement created considerable interest here, as it confirmed the belief of some of the coal company officials that a full resumption of coal mining will not take place this year, and in consequence the tendency of coal prices will be upward rather than downward.

The situation so far as the peace of the Shenandoah region was concerned remains unchanged to-day. It was probably the quietest day since the soldiers were called out one week ago to-night. Matters around Brigade Headquarters at the Ferguson House have settled down to a routine condition and Brig. Gen. Gobin has completed all the details of supporting the civil authorities in their task of enforcing the law.

Everything was quiet in the camp of the troops, the only matter of interest being a dress parade in town of the Twelfth Regiment in honor of Gen. Gobin. The two companies of infantry are still kept on guard duty in the town, one at the Reading Railway station in a foreign settlement, and the other at the Pennsylvania Railroad station, close to another foreign colony.

Gen. Gobin has ordered the establishment of a signal system from brigade headquarters to the camp, which is nearly a mile distant. The heliograph and flag will be used in the daytime and the torch at night. This will be the first time the signal system has been in operation since the Homestead strike ten years ago.

Gen. Gobin, in speaking of the conditions in this region, said to-day that Shenandoah, for a town of its size, is more thickly populated than the worst tenement district in New York. He thought the sanitary condition in the foreign quarters of the place were extremely bad because of the lack of sewerage. In reply to a question he said he had been advised that foreigners in this vicinity were being drilled, but he would not say whether the information he had received was correct.

Paul Pulaski, National Organizer of the United Mine Workers and Vice President of District No. 9, who looks after the foreign members of the union, came here to-day. He denied all the stories of secret drilling by the Polanders and others. He said there is no secret organization within the miners' union. He admitted that the Polanders who belong to beneficial societies keep up a form of military organization, but he said this was done only to keep alive the memory of their days at home. These organizations, he said, can be found in most cities where there is any considerable number of foreigners. "The foreigners," he concluded, "think too much of the freedom they have in this country to turn guns against its Government."

Mr. Pulaski came here to-day and addressed two large meetings of foreign-speaking strikers in his city. There were from 1,500 to 2,000 men present. The men declared in meeting they would not return to work until after the strike shall have been officially declared off. Mr. Pulaski said the men are in good financial condition and need no relief. He addressed another large meeting of foreigners in Mahoney City this afternoon.