

*Labor Strikes of 1871 and 1903*

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*per. 3*

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## The Strike of 1871

The year 1871 made it a little over twenty years since gold had been discovered in the streams of California, but hard rock mining was still thriving in Amador County. Names like Oneida, Keystone, Amador, and Lincoln were familiar names in the county. At this time the miners worked in terrible condition and were not paid enough to feed themselves or their families. The first hand miners were being paid only \$3 a day, the seconds \$2.50 and the bucket men only \$2.25. Paying wages this low was one way the mine owners were trying to save money. They tried in every way that they could. Many of the owners had their mines reassessed to save on taxes. The Oneida mine for example was reassessed from one hundred thousand dollars to seventy thousand. With the mine owners and the miners so worried about money it wasn't surprising that the strike went on for so long.

In late May the members of the Amador County Laborers Association, also called the Miner's League, went to visit all the mines in the area. Luke W. Byrne was the president of the League at this time. The League went and asked the owners and the superintendents of the mines for \$3 a day for the first hands - which they were already getting - and a minimum wage of \$2.50. As the delegation went to all the mines the only places that they received a good welcome was at the Maxson and the Hayward. Both of those mines were small and could not handle problems with the League so they readily agreed. At the other mines in the

vicinity the delegation from the League was met by curses and an adamant, NO.

Soon after, the League met with 390 of it's 500 members and decided that:

"Resolved, that on the 1st day of June the members of this association go in body to the mills and mines in this county that refuse to pay the wages established by this association, and notify all person who may be at work to stop working until the superintendents agree to pay such wages..."

The strikers did go, on the 1st of June, to the mines that had refused. The march was orderly and no one was hurt. The strikers just calmly asked the miners to stop working - which they did. The strikers did allow the pumps to keep working so the mines wouldn't flood. In some of the local papers there was statements made about violence made at this time. The papers said that the strikers "Took possession of the engines" at the Amador and Oneida mines but that proved to be false. For about two weeks everything was peaceful and normal, except for the fact that the mines were not working.

Everything got out of hand, though, on June 17th because there was a riot. The mine owners got together and decided to call upon the state militia to protect the mines themselves and the strike-breakers. Haight, who was governor of California at

that time, did not want to call out the militia so he tried to offer the miners their old wages to stop the strike; he was refused.

At that time the militia was drastically behind the times with the weapons that they carried. The mine owners offered to re-outfit all the soldiers with new breech loading rifles. On the 22nd of June the National Guard and the Sumner Light Company moved out. These two companies together sent out a total of 177 men who were each to be paid \$5 dollars a day. The soldiers suffered because of the horrible one hundred degree weather and the hard tack and pork that was their only diet. All these facts led up to unrest among the soldiers. As a result of all the problems that the militia caused, Haight tried to call in the Volcano Blues, a self-contained militia group. Unfortunately the mustering forms for the Blues were locked in a safe and couldn't be retrieved so the group never showed.

The problems with the soldiers were soon cleared up - but the strike still went on. On June 29th the mine owners and superinten-dents proposed that the miners would be paid \$3 with a \$2.50 minimum. The owners also stated that the workers who had been laid off because of the strike would be reinstated. Finally, the owners stated that all non-white labor would be fired, which was also a request made by the miners. The Miner's League voted, unanimously, on July 5th to agree to the terms. The only concession that the miners made was that the surface



workers' wages would be set by the owners, these wages might not fit in the \$2.50 but they were only surface workers.

The strike was finally over and there were only a few problems that needed to be worked out. The first of the problems was that there were six Chinese workers working out the Oneida mine that had to be fired and new workers had to be found. That would prove difficult though because the Chinese did a job that no "White man would want." The second problem was that the Keystone mine was refusing to rehire their workers. The details were soon worked out though and the militia was sent home. That was not quite the end of the story though.

Later on, a man by the name of E. W. Hatch, a bookkeeper at the Amador Mining Company, was beaten up by Hugh McMenemy, of the League's executive committee. Bennet, the superintendent of the mine, took McMenemy to jail but he was released soon afterwards. McMenemy then tried to shoot Bennet. Bennet shot him instead and in the scuffle Hatch was also shot and killed. Newspapers all around wanted the militia to be brought back in but instead Sheriff Durham formed a posse and closed down the saloons until everything quieted down. The "Amador War" ended with Bennet walking away free.

One man said of the strike, "But of this business we see only a lamentable attempt to destroy or seriously impair a great industry of this young state by most unjustifiable means,

promptly and efficiently repressed by lawful authority  
temperately used."

## The Strike of 1903

On April 16, 1903 there was a letter written to the sheriff of Amador County, T. K. Norman, that demanded protection for the mines. The letter demanded that the sheriff appoint enough deputies so that nothing would happen to mines or any of the loyal employees. The letter was signed by the superintendents of the Zeila, Kennedy, Oneida, and the Central and Southern Eureka mines. On April 20th another letter was sent to the sheriff asking why nothing had been done. The superintendents were highly agitated. Their letter stated that, "Every municipal corporation (Amador County) is responsible for injuries to real or personal property situated within its corporate limits done or caused by mobs or riots."

Though it may have sounded drastic, the strike of 1903 was less bloody than the one in 1871. The miners were asking for things similar to those asked for in other strikes. The Miner's Union at this time wanted an eight hour shift that had the same scale of wages, as the ten hour shift that they were at that time working. The miners at that time were working for about the same amount as they were in 1871 when the last strike took place. They also wanted the reinstatement of the workers that had been fired because of their affiliation with the Union and no more discrimination against Union workers. Most of the miners in the Union at that time were Italian and Austrian. The sheriff was worried that he could not restrain them because of the language

barrier if violence broke out. The mobs of angry foreign miners had visited the mines and Sheriff Norman had to limit the pickets to a reasonable number of demonstrators.

For a while the strike went on with no one budging on either side. Then suddenly the mine managers agreed to a nine hour work day instead of the eight that the Union wanted, with the same scale of wages. The strikers were very happy to hear about the improvements that were being made, but they felt that they would hold out. The strikers were actually willing to appoint a committee with, "... a view of adjusting the strike and thus end the deplorable condition of things now prevailing."

When the manager of the Gwin mine was asked if he would receive a delegation of miners from the Union he said that he would not recognize the Union in any way, shape or form, but he would talk to his own men. He told his men that he would reduce the hours from ten to nine with the same scale of wages and would hire union and non-union men as he saw fit. The settlement reached had to be agreed upon by the Gwin Mine Board of Directors but the miners took it as the go ahead to work and thought that an agreement was reached.

At one point during the strike sabotage was found at the Oneida mine. The belt of the sawmill had been cut. This act of violence against the mines is like the straw that broke the camel's back; it is what caused the second letter to the sheriff to be written



demanding that more deputies be put in. The letter stated, "It is apparent to even the casual observer that premonitory symptoms of mob rule and mob violence are present... and property owners rarely have sufficient notice of criminal intentions of mobs... to enable them to give warning to the proper authorities."

To this the sheriff replied that he didn't think there was any need for extra deputies.

Soon after, the superintendents of the mines held a meeting and agreed to all the terms the miners asked for, except for the eight hour work day which, for the sake of money, they could not do. Ironically, the Gwin mine was the last to sign. Instead of the strikers again saying, no, the strikers actually said, yes. There had been some outside pressure to stop the strike because it was hurting the economy. The strikers themselves were losing twenty- five hundred a day in wages. Those numbers didn't include all the other timber and coal workers that were out of work because of the strike. So ended the 1903 strike.

Here is a list of some of the men who might have gone on strike in 1871. There are no records of the Labor Union Members, but these are men that worked at the Onieda mine.

A. Berryman  
John Hallon  
Angelo Conness  
James Bovr  
Thos Welting  
Matthew Fleming  
S. Dragomanovich  
Thos Hodnett  
John Bringley  
Charles Gardifile  
James Florshey  
E. McKegney  
Nick Patinovich  
Place Thomas  
Jos. Spinetto  
F. Cadamartre  
Angelo Marra  
John Spinetto  
John Young  
Sacto Devantry  
Richard Morrishey  
George Browtrich  
Walter Bachon  
N. Moon  
Henery Stark  
John Martelich  
Wm. Peters  
John Daniel  
John Gibbons  
Robert Curran  
Richard Hall  
Louis Terror  
Wm. Shrosder  
Art Harry  
John Skinner  
Thos. Rodgers  
N.B. Moon  
S. Webb  
Joseph Harris  
Bruce Ginto  
John brinovich  
Geo. Geoffrey  
Jos Hatton

Jos Barrett  
George Ellis  
Louis Montsm  
C. Fitzpatrick  
Jos. Gros  
Thomas Fuller  
Morris Finn  
S. Smallfield  
David Finn  
John Ginsto  
A.W. Goroan  
B.F. Dodge  
John Sullivan  
Louis Bach  
John Gorneta  
Mitchell Roberts  
Jos. Brignole  
Antonie Ch---g  
Chas Rochel  
Jas. Bergin  
Joseph Williams  
Nick Anse  
P. Dabrovich  
John Shields  
Chas Maloy  
P Talich  
N. Malanovich  
John Badger  
Antinio Arata  
Wm Rochel  
John Sampson  
Wm Nash

The next list is the men that worked at the Kennedy Mine at the time of the strike of 1903.

Dal Port  
G Deltorchio  
U. Raffanti  
L. Quilice  
J. Cetti  
Wn. Pascoe  
J.E. Balchelder  
Arthur James  
S. Franisione  
J. Bolithro  
John Boundy  
J.E. Hosking  
Jas Flaherty  
A. Tessandori  
J. Garbarini  
G Casazza  
Harry Caddy  
B. Gervannoi  
C. Boffo  
S. Garvanta  
J. Hosking  
Thos. Kelly  
M. Cuicicani  
R. Geovanetti  
J. Fredianni  
G. Fredianni  
M. Dal Porto  
G. Sbagria  
A. Zorv  
N. Giannanni  
Dal Porto  
T. Grosso  
G. Magnoncalda  
J. Ferre  
C. Kohler  
A. Gronrolio  
M. Mantori  
W.C. Smith  
I. Chapman  
Rt. Courling  
J. Harris  
G. Rameti  
J. Rowe  
E. Buffi

R. Seatina  
C. Cavolier  
F. Demartini  
D. Biondi  
G. Govanetti  
P. Marco  
G. Massoni  
G. Raffanti  
Jos. Magruirre  
M. Calalani  
B. Ramarino  
J. Seymour  
C. Becari  
Thos. Joy  
E. Crovgey  
C. Sire  
J. Strough  
C. Nicolletti  
L. Cesarette  
S. Giovannori  
A. Bellunover  
F. Mitchell  
V. Gannini  
J. Beanco  
N. Garbarini  
J.F. Mora  
J. Smallfield  
L. Ghingnov  
A. Enrici  
C. Murton  
S. Biondi  
A. Nicolletti  
L. Munzio  
G. Belliomine  
G Mangine  
G.B. Avansino  
D. Face  
G. Felmeth Jr.  
W.W. Thomas  
R.R. Varoli  
L. De Vechio  
S. Marchetti  
N. Tessandori  
P. Ryan

A. Poletti  
A. Fonarelli  
F. Del Porto  
C. Lerrcone  
C. Williams  
G. Drazzir  
S. Radovich  
F. Battagilo  
Jos. Casazza  
G. Garbori  
N. Franciscone  
A. Dallarma  
J.A. Burgess  
A. Bruce  
Jos. W. Phillips  
R. Langdon  
W. L. Callender  
D. Ginnino  
M. Navorie  
E. Giovannoni  
G. Rebosie  
L. Chilirro  
J. Donni  
E. Battaglio  
G. Cerva  
C. Lofronini  
V. Antonetti  
D. Lucia  
F. Burbibetti  
R. Belezzi  
A. Davallu  
M. Damdano  
G. Scotti  
D. Lazzarci  
N. Gaddini  
G. Frasier  
W.J. Nova  
L. Ports  
J. Widde  
G. Pria  
D. Basso  
H. Thornson  
V. Marconi  
P. Marcucie  
E. Giovanetti  
E. Rt Russel  
A. Contrucci  
O. Conmaggio  
T.J. Snow

A.J. Fredovar  
S. Solari  
F. Gross  
T. Brunno  
W. Martell  
W. Tyachs  
M. Feretti  
G. Cuneo  
C. Olnier  
A. Kevern  
Geo. Chinn  
G. Yelland  
R. Quesbry  
G. Wollcochs  
G. Andrieni  
D. Bagneshi  
G. Arregone  
J. Martell  
A. Podesta  
M. Cazzero  
F. Puroni  
D. Tenetti  
A. Bardie  
C. Chinn  
G. A---tarr  
G. Tucker  
P. Damilano  
E. Duegolo  
G.G. Gilronan  
J.R. Gilronan  
J. Mitchell  
G. Pecherman  
T. Francis  
J.F. Widdle  
G. Pria  
D. Basso  
H. Thorson  
Langdon  
Renetti  
Masserini  
Bullunomini  
Pel Porta  
Marchi  
Jansen  
Geonnirri  
Bresca  
Tucker  
Peason  
Sunnonirni



June 10, 1871.

Miners' Strike—Quartz Mills Stopped.

The miners belonging to the Amador county Labor Association, and who were employed in the various quartz mines in the county—especially in the vicinity of Sutter Creek and Amador—"struck" last Thursday morning, the 1st inst., for an increase of wages, and in order to enforce a compliance with their demands, the members of the Association, to the number of some two or three hundred men, well armed and equipped, visited the several quartz mines in the vicinity of the places above named—including the Onida mine, near Jackson—in a body, and forced those who refused to yield to their prices to suspend operations, and the consequence is that nearly every mill in the county has been stopped, and, unless a compromise of some kind can be effected, there is no telling when they will be started again. Although the "strike" has created considerable excitement throughout the whole county—and especially in the vicinity of their "line of march," we have heard of no bloodshed or other damage resulting from their actions, further than the stopping of mills as above mentioned. As we write, however, the strike is still going on and it is difficult to tell where it will end, but, for the sake of the welfare of the parties interested, as well as the community at large, we hope that matters may be amicably arranged in a few days, and that the mines will resume operation as heretofore. Our sympathies are certainly with the laboring classes, and we think they should have much better wages than they have been getting for several years past in our mines, and we think that no reasonable man can say that the prices demanded by the Amador association (\$2.50 and \$3 per day) are at all exorbitant or unreasonable—in fact, we think it is hardly enough, and should be glad to see them get double that amount, if they can do it by fair and honorable means, but we cannot be prepared to sanction or uphold any sort of acts of lawlessness or violence in order to obtain the desired increase of prices. We therefore put the members of this county who are the advocates of the current beyond the limits of right and reason by any undue enthusiasm or excitement on the present occasion.

**THE MINERS' STRIKE**—Up to the present writing we have heard of no further demonstrations being made by the miners who "struck" in the vicinity of Sutter Creek last week, although it was generally expected that they would demonstrate again last Monday or Tuesday.— We presume that after taking a "sober second thought," they have come to the sensible conclusion that a resort to force or intimidation is not the proper way to enforce compliance with their demands for higher wages, and that they themselves will be the greater losers by the operation in the end. Their conduct in compelling men to quit work who did not belong to the association—as we are informed they did—is very naturally and justly condemned by citizens of the county generally. Of course we should be happy to see them get the price they demand for labor, and even more; but they must learn, sooner or later that they neither have the authority nor the power to force the owners of mills, or anybody else, to pay them higher wages without first obtaining their consent. In fact they cannot compel them to employ their members at any price unless they are fit to do so. We are inclined to believe, however, that the "strike" is about ended, and that the mills that have been stopped in consequence of it will resume operations in the course of a few days, or as soon as they can get men to work, which, however, may take them a week or two, as we understand the owners of the mines have resolved not to employ any of the members of the league again.

June 3, 1871.

article in reference to the strike recently made by the Miners' League, or Labor Association at Sutter Creek, in which we—in a very mild manner, as we thought, and still think—disapproved of the illegal and unjustifiable acts of the League in forcibly stopping the mines and mills, and compelling working men to quit work who were satisfied with the wages they were getting and who did not belong to their league. For thus expressing our opinion, (which opinion is endorsed by at least four-fifths of the citizens of Amador county) several of our old subscribers—to some of whom we had given credit for having better sense—have taken offense at us and withdrawn their patronage from the DISPATCH. We think we can stand their withdrawal without much inconvenience, as we have on several occasions heretofore stood much heavier shocks without losing our equilibrium or yielding our opinion, and we would furthermore inform those enthusiastic individuals that if they expect to force or intimidate us, by such means, to sanction or endorse any of their illegal acts, they are mistaken in their man. As we have heretofore said, we sincerely wish every laboring man in the country could get ten dollars a day for his labor, and that employers were able and willing to pay such prices, but as it is not within our power to control the price of labor or the profits of other men's business, we are compelled to let matters stand, as they are until they are altered or regulated by the universal law of supply and demand, by which the

**THE STRIKE ENDED**—FERRY-THING SATISFACTORY.—In another column of the DISPATCH we publish a card from Mr. L. W. Byrne, president of the Amador Labor Association, from which it will be seen that the little "unpleasantness" which has existed between the mine owners and the miners at Sutter Creek, has at last been amicably adjusted, as we suppose to the satisfaction of all parties. We are glad to hear this, and hope we may never again be called upon to record another such a ridiculous farce. *July 15*

supply and demand, by which the price of labor and everything else always has been and always will be governed, in spite of all that can be done by any man or set of men, even though they be ten times as powerful and potent as the Amador association. If the members of this association were not satisfied with the wages they were getting and did not want to work, they, of course, had a perfect right to quit, and no one would have thought of blaming them for doing so; but the moment they compelled men to quit work, who were willing and anxious to work for the wages they were getting, and whose families were depending on their labor for support, we say they committed an act which should be condemned—as we believe it is—by every law abiding citizen in the state. We hope, however, that wiser counsel will soon prevail and that the prosperity of the county will not be much longer impeded by the stoppage of the mines. The various mining companies in this county have been paying out from \$60,000 to \$70,000 per month, which amount was put in circulation among the miners, teamsters, wood-choppers, lumbermen, timbermen etc. In fact, all classes of business and industry were more or less benefitted and advanced by men who were carrying on mining operations in this county, and of course their stoppage will be correspondingly felt by all. We believe that time will demonstrate to the actual laboring men that they have been misled, to their own injury, in this matter by men who have become members of their organization who were never known to stick a pick in the ground—men who care no more for the interests of the real miners than they do for the wind that blows, and whose only object in joining it was for the purpose of advancing their own selfish ends. For this latter class we have no hesitation in expressing our supreme contempt, and we believe the honest laboring men of the association will agree with us in the end.



June 28, 1871

More "League" Outrages  
We understand that the so-called "Labor Association" at Sutter Creek visited (by committee) several of the mines, on last Saturday, which had recently been stopped by them, and caused the workmen to stop pumping water out of the mines, and, as a matter of course the mines are being gradually filled up, and will be seriously damaged, if things are permitted to continue thus for any considerable length of time. Mr. Morgan, superintendent of the Oneida, attempted for a while to run his pump himself, after the engineers had been forced to quit, but he also was "induced" by the league to "suspend operations" after working a day or two. Now this sort of thing is getting to be almost intolerable, and we are forced to say that the leaders of the association are rapidly converting that institution into an unmitigated nuisance which we hardly think will be tolerated much longer by the law abiding people of the county. The outrages committed by this mob—for it cannot now be dignified by any other name—have been tolerated thus far, because of the general sympathy of the people for the working classes, and because they also indulged in the seemingly vain hope that wiser counsel would soon prevail, or that our authorities would soon be able to put a stop to their proceedings, by some means or other. But it seems that the league, instead of taking the proper view of the matter, have accepted the indulgence of the people as either a token of cowardice or sympathy with their outrages and have been emboldened to continue their malicious conduct until subterfuge on the part of the people has almost ceased to be a virtue, and this association, or league or whatever it is, may as well begin now to understand the fact that the people will not much longer permit them to thus interfere with every branch of industry and retard the general interest and advancement of the whole county, just to gratify their whimsical notions. If our county authorities cannot quiet these disturbers, with the assistance of the people, the state authorities should be called upon to lend a helping hand and assist us in restoring order. It is our opinion, however, that unless the authorities do something very soon, the people of the county will rise en masse and put an effectual stop to these disturbers. Our sympathies are with the workingmen, in their legitimate claims, but we do not believe they should be allowed to trample upon law, justice, and the rights of others, simply because they happen to be working men.

### Strike of the Miners' League at Sutter Creek.

SUTTER CREEK, June 1st.

The following is the report of the strike as ascertained:

The Miners' League, after a session lasting several hours last night, determined to make a strike in all the mines in this district, the complaint being that no men should work for less than \$2.50 per day. Early this morning they met at their hall and formed in procession with the American flag. After closing the Keystone, Little Amador, Hayward's, Poundstone's, Downs, Mahoney and California, they passed through the main street to the Amador mill and took possession, but the officers of the company had made a clean-up and had the bullion safe. Then they proceeded with great pomp to the Amador mine. The President having been notified of the intention, arrived from San Francisco last evening, met them in company with Superintendent Steinberger, and, after listening to their demands, told them the company was paying to-day the wages they did twelve years ago, that the company would make no concessions, that while they owned the mine they would run it to suit themselves. The mob then pushed the President and Superintendent aside and marched into the main buildings to take possession of the engines, etc. Gen. Colton, President of the company, then addressed them, and forbade their trespassing upon the property of the company, and then made an appeal to the two county officers, Supervisor Eagan and County Treasurer Meehan, and commanded them by their oaths as officers sworn to protect the Constitution of the State and the laws thereof, to come out of the mob and not disgrace the county and bring reproach upon all laws. They answered that they were responsible, and after taking all the men out of the mine, went to the Oneida and pursued the same policy. The officers of the Amador Company are in possession of all their property and have a reliable force to defend their works. At present Gen. Colton and the Superintendent have resolved to make no concession and defend the property at any cost.



## MINING TROUBLES.

We give below a communication on the subject of the late mining troubles in Amador county, and would intimate that both sides having been presented in our columns, the controversy, so far as our pages are concerned, must cease:

SETTER CREEK, June 3d, 1871.

EDITORS UNION: A dispatch from this place, published in your paper of the 2d instant, is so devoid of truth, and places the workmen of this county in such a false position before the public, that I ask the use of your columns for the purpose of giving a fair and impartial statement of the action taken by the workmen on the 1st instant.

On the 2d day of July, 1870, the workmen of this county organized the "Amador County Laborers' Association," the objects of which, as set forth in its constitution, are "for the protection of white labor, to maintain its dignity, to secure a fair compensation therefor, and to discourage competition of inferior races." The association has gradually increased, until at the present time it has about 300 members, a large majority being men working in and about the mines and mills. The wages being paid to men working in and about the mines and mills, except to a few extra miners, would not support a single man, much less a man with from three to six in family, and in order to secure for such labor a fair compensation the association unanimously established the following rate of wages for persons working in and about the mines and mills, viz: For first hands and engueers not less than \$3 per day, and for second hands not less than \$2 50 per day, ten hours to constitute a day's work. A committee was appointed to visit each mine and inform the superintendents and foremen of the rate of wages established by the association, and respectfully request them to pay the rates. The committee went to all the mines and laid the matter before the several superintendents and respectfully urged them to comply with the request of the miners. Humphrey Kles, Superintendent of the Hayward mine at Amador city, readily complied and said the rate was reasonable, and he would not ask men to work for less; in fact, he could not see how they could work for less and live decently. The superintendent of the Maxson mine also complied with the request of the committee. All the rest refused—most of them positively, though respectfully. One in particular in language very indecent and insulting to the committee and the workmen. The committee reported to the association on last Wednesday evening, about 30 members being present, and after the matter was thoroughly discussed, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That on the 1st day of June the members of this association go in a body to the mills and mines in this county, that refuse to pay the wages established by this Association, and notify all persons who may be at work to stop working until the superintendents agree to pay such wages, and that the investigating committee be and is hereby authorized to draw on the treasury of the association in favor of any member who is not able to support himself while out of employment; and that no member of this association will work in such mines or mills until such wages are paid.

Accordingly on the first day of June the members of the association met in their new hall, and were addressed by John A. Egan, who cautioned them against committing any unlawful act, to do no injury to property or person, to allow the engines and pumps to be worked, so that the mines would not fill with water, and not to act in a riotous or disorderly manner. He said he intended to go with them through the day for the purpose of seeing that nothing of an unlawful nature was done, and if any violence to person or injury to property was attempted, that he would be the first to denounce it. James Mcchan indorsed all that Egan had said, advised moderation in everything that might be done; said he was going with them for the purpose of preventing any unlawful acts if it was in his power to do so, should any be attempted. After speeches by a number of others, all to the same effect, the association marched in a peaceable, quiet and orderly manner to the Mahoney mine, where they found two men at work; they immediately stopped work on being requested to do so. From there they marched to the Amador mill, where they found about ten men engaged "cleaning up;" the men on being requested to stop work immediately did so, but were afterward allowed to finish cleaning up the mill on condition that they would not work after they finished. The association did not take possession of the mill, as the dispatch above alluded to states, nor would they have taken an ounce of the bullion had it been coined and exposed, though the dispatch wrongly insinuates that they would. From the Amador mill they marched, "not in great pomp," but in a quiet and orderly way, to the Amador mine, where they met the President of the company, Gen. Colton, and Superintendent Steinberger, who forbade any trespass on their property. I, as President of the association, informed them that such was not our intention, that we had only come to notify the men who were working in the mine to stop work until the rate of wages demanded was given. The officers of the company became very much excited, and denounced us as a mob. We then requested the men to stop work in the mine, and they readily and willingly complied. The engineers were allowed to run the engines to keep water out of the mine. We then went to the Onelda mine and requested the men to stop, which they did, and thus ended the day's work of the association. The dispatches above alluded to state that "after closing the Keystone, Little Amador, Haywards, Poundstone, Mahoney and California, they passed through the main street to the Amador mill and took possession, but the officers of the company had made a clean-up and had the bullion safe." We did not go to the Keystone, Little Amador, Haywards or Downs, for the reason that the men working in those mines all or nearly all belong to the association, and quit work to turn out, with the association. The work in the Poundstone mine was not suspended, nor would it have been in the Hayward mine had it not been for a misunderstanding on the part of the hands working that mine, they thinking that it was the order of the association that all members should turn out on the first day of June whether the mines were paying the wages or not. As for the "California mine," I know nothing about it; if there is such a mine in this county I don't know where it is, nor can I find any one here who does. In conclusion, the miners have not gone into this matter hastily; they have raised by assessments on the members a sufficient amount to keep all the members of the association who may need assistance for six months, and while they are willing and anxious to go to work at fair wages, they are able to stand a siege of six months or longer. They have the sympathy of nearly all the business men in the vicinity of the mines, and can get all they need to live upon. There is no doubt about their determination.

L. W. BYRNE,

President Amador County Laborers' Association.



body for Oneida this afternoon. They are now scattered along the road in front of the works. They have not attempted to enter the inclosure, and cannot meet those employed without so doing. Everything is peaceable so far. The Sheriff is also on the ground.

The mining Superintendents of the mines now tied up by the strike met at Sutter Creek to-day and issued the following statement to the public:

"To the Public: The Miners' Union at Jackson, on April 13, 1903, declared a strike against the following mines: Gwin, Zella, Kennedy, Oneida, South Eureka and Central Eureka. We are informed by our employes that at the time the union had a very small membership, and that few if any of our men belonged to the same, yet by threats and intimidation the union has caused a great many of our employes to quit work and have even driven off some of the engineers, with the expressed intention of flooding the mines, and thus causing almost irreparable damage. The men themselves who work in our mines have no grievances that we know of; they have never asked for concessions that have not been granted. We are now and always have been willing to treat with our own employes fairly and impartially, and give them the best pay and shortest hours our properties can afford. The ore in the mines in this district is low grade, and many of our companies are regularly levying assessments, contributed in large part by our resident citizens. Unless our employes are afforded protection by the authorities we cannot operate our properties, and they will have to remain closed indefinitely. We therefore ask that law and order be enforced by our law officials; that intimidation and threats cease, and that every man who wants to work be permitted to do so.

"Gwin Mine Development Company, Zella Mining Company, Kennedy Mining and Milling Company, Oneida Mining Company, South Eureka Mining Company, Central Eureka Mining Company."

The following notice was also served on the Sheriff:

"To T. K. Norman, Sheriff of Amador County, Cal.: We hereby notify you that our mines have been closed by a strike ordered by the Jackson Union, and that large marching delegations are threatening violence to our employes and destruction to our properties. We therefore demand that you at once appoint a sufficient number of deputies to protect our men and mines, and on your failure to do so we hereby notify you that we will hold you and your bondsmen responsible for all loss and injury sustained.

"Zella Mining Company, Kennedy Mining and Milling Company, Oneida Gold Mining and Milling Company, South Eureka Mining Company, Central Eureka Mining Company."

several hundred strong, mostly Italians and Austrians, have been visiting the various mines for the past three days threatening all employes who report for work. These demonstrations have become so pronounced that finally Sheriff Norman, it is reported, will limit these demonstrations to a reasonable number of pickets of the union. During the past few years most of the English and American miners have been supplanted by Italians and Austrians, so that now about half of the working force is composed of these nationalities, many of whom cannot speak English, and it is feared cannot be restrained when the issue becomes acute. All the mines are completely tied up except the Oneida. This company owns 240 acres of fenced land, and by means of an armed guard have kept the strikers out of the inclosure, and thus kept about forty men, one-third of its working force, in the mine. Several hundred strikers have been threatening the mine to-day, but the company still holds the fort. Nearly all the mines in California work the same hours and pay the same wages as the mines here. While wages run from \$2.50 to \$3 per day, contract men make much more. The contractors in the Central, one of the mines tied up, made \$0.30 per day on the contract just finished. It is the only mine in this county paying a dividend. The American miners, it is said, want to return to work, but dare not.



**S**UTTER CREEK, April 18.—It is thought the strike in the Gwin mine will be settled by Monday and that other mines will follow in reaching an adjustment with their men, thus ending the strike on the "Mother Lode." The Gwin employees have agreed to return to work on the following conditions:

The employees may return to work, union and non-union men, and no discrimination against either. Where the time of the underground working shift is now ten hours, the same shall be reduced to nine hours, with the same rate of wages. The union is not to be recognized.

The Jackson Union to-day issued the following statement:

"To Whom It May Concern: This union is ready to appoint a committee to meet a committee of the mining companies with a view of adjusting the strike and thus end the deplorable condition of things now prevailing.

"W. D. OULDS, President."

The Superintendents of the mines utterly ignored this manifesto, and began making preparations for a long siege.

At the Gwin mine the mules and underground machinery were taken out. This evidence on the part of the Gwin management that they intended to stand firm, struck the people of Paloma with consternation.

Paloma is a thriving little town of several hundred inhabitants, built up entirely by the Gwin mine. The people of Paloma urged the Gwin employees to go back to work, and the employees were only too willing to do so, if permitted by the union.

Later in the day Superintendent McClure was asked if he would receive a committee of the union to adjust the strike, but he replied emphatically that he would not, nor would he nor the Gwin management recognize the union in any manner, shape or form, but he was willing and ready to talk to his own employees.

Thereupon his own employees met and appointed a committee of nine and waited upon Mr. McClure at his office and wanted to know on what terms the mine would resume work and the employees be taken back.

Mr. McClure replied that the company had long contemplated making a reduction in the hours, but that he could not recognize the union nor bind himself to take back any discharged employees who might have been discharged for any reason whatever. He would employ both union and non-union men, as he saw fit, and the men might return to work, union or non-union, and there would be no discrimination between them.

Where the time of a working shift was now ten hours, he said he would

reduce the same to nine hours, with the same rate of wages.

This was entirely satisfactory to the committee, and they reported the same to all the employees, who held a meeting in the Paloma Town Hall and unanimously ratified the arrangement, and so notified Mr. McClure, who thereupon said he would call a meeting of his directors in San Francisco on Monday next, and he had no doubt they would authorize him to enter into the arrangement.

As most of the Gwin men had joined the union, it now became necessary for them to obtain the union's consent to this contract.

M. W. Moor of Denver, the manager of the strike, went to the Gwin mine and talked the matter over with the men. He found that they were all exceedingly anxious to go back to work, and so reported to the Jackson Union.

#### REPORTS FROM JACKSON.

**JACKSON, April 18.**—In reply to a notice served upon him yesterday, Sheriff Norman has issued the following statement:

To Mine Owners: Replying to your notification of the 17th instant, I will state that no official information has been brought to this office, and in fact I have no information or knowledge of any infraction or threatened infraction of the law within the limits of Amador County by any member or members of Jackson Union, or by anyone.

"Furthermore, I wish to inform each and all of you that any infraction of the law within the limits of the county will be suppressed and the perpetrators thereof promptly apprehended. In conclusion I must say that at present we should congratulate ourselves upon the peaceable and orderly conduct of affairs."

Conflicting reports are in circulation to-night. The Miners' Union held a special meeting this afternoon, at which the statement was made of a settlement in regard to the Gwin mine on a nine-hour basis and non-discrimination against union men. It was understood that the settlement was subject to the approval of the Gwin Board of Directors.

The miners are under the impression that the settlement holds good, although positive information has reached here from parties who attended a meeting of mine owners that the Gwin Company declined to ratify the action of the officials at the mine.

It is now stated that the union will call out the engineers of Zella, Oneida and Central Eureka if the strike is not settled by Tuesday. Zella mill came to a standstill to-night on account of the exhaustion of rock.



# SITUATION IN AMADOR

JACKSON (Cal.), April 18. — The like situation seems somewhat improved. All sorts of rumors are afloat concerning the prospect of an immediate settlement. At the Gwin Mine it reported that a conference was held yesterday between the leaders of the union and the mine managers, resulting in formulating a basis of agreement. The agreement embraces nine hours a day, no discrimination against union or non-Union men, and the reinstatement of discharged employees without the recognition of the Union. It is rumored that the men will return to work on this basis on Monday morning. As the five mines involved in the strike are acting in unison the agreement is interpreted as being provisional on its endorsement by a meeting of the mine owners which is now being held in Butter Creek. The Gwin Mine occupies a financial position by itself. It is a big dividend payer, and by far the largest producer of the group. Whether this agreement will be ratified by all the companies is in doubt, the general impression being that the strike will be ended by an agreement for nine hours and no discrimination, each company treating its own employees and not with the representatives of the Federation.

## AMADOR SHERIFF WILL NOT APPOINT DEPUTIES

### His Response to a Demand Made by Oneida Mine Superintendent for Protection From Strikers.

JACKSON, April 20. — Yesterday morning Superintendent Hampton of the Oneida mine discovered that the belt of the sawmill had been cut. The mill had not been used since the strike. He declared the act must have been perpetrated since the labor trouble started, but on what day is unknown. Mr. Hampton today served notices on Sheriff Norman, calling the official's attention to the strike situation. He says:

"The employees of the Oneida mine have been intimidated and threatened with violence if they continue in our employment. The members of the Jackson labor union, aided and abetted by outside members of the Western Federation of Miners, have approached our property and threatened injury thereto unless our company accedes to their arbitrary demands.

"It is apparent to even the casual observer that premonitory symptoms of mob rule and mob violence are present, and there is no telling when riotous and unlawful attempts to destroy the property of the Oneida company may be initiated and successfully carried out.

"Conspiracies to destroy the property are not publicly advertised, and property owners rarely have sufficient notice of criminal intentions of mobs, organized or unorganized, to destroy property to enable them to give warning to public authorities."

Mr. Hampton, on behalf of the company, then makes a demand for better protection.

"You cannot be heard to say that you are without funds to provide all requirements, because you have been assured that all funds necessary would be forthcoming and at your service. I do not assume to even suggest to you whom you shall appoint as deputies, but leave that matter entirely to your discretion."

Sheriff Norman made reply, refusing to appoint the deputies suggested, declaring that if he had failed in duty Mr. Hampton had his remedy in a writ of mandate.

**OWNERS AND OPERATORS MEET**  
SAN FRANCISCO, April 20.—Two meetings of mining men referring to the strike of miners in Amador and Calaveras Counties were held in this city to-day. The first meeting was the directors of the Gwin Mining Company. The second was of the California Mine Operatives' Association.

President Voorhies of the association said to-night that the mines concerned in the labor troubles on the Mother Lode and represented in the membership of the Mine Operators' Association were standing together. No decision could be reached by the Operators' Association that could be binding, for the owners of the property must be consulted before any proposition could be confirmed finally.

In the meantime, in view of the fact that any opinion that the association might entertain was subject to revision by the owners, it had been decided not to supply any information on



# AMADOR TIE-UP IS COMPLETE

Old Kennedy Mill is  
Closed Down.

Gwin Mine Joins the Others  
on the Nine-Hour  
Question.

JACKSON, April 21.—The Superintendents of all the mines included in the strike held a meeting to-day, when the compact to stand solid on the terms offered heretofore as the basis of settlement was completed by the addition of the Gwin mine, through Superintendent McClure, to the written agreement.

Mr. McClure says he understood the temporary agreement with the union to mean nine hours of actual work.

To-day has passed without new developments of interest. The Kennedy old mill came to a standstill, having crushed all the rock on hand. There is a month's supply of rock on the dump of the new mill, but men cannot be had to run it to the mill.

Not a stamp is dropping in the district. Should the strike be settled at once, it would be a month before the miners could start work at the Kennedy, owing to the flooding of the lower levels.

The Jackson Union is holding a meeting to-night to consider the situation.



# THE MINERS STRIKE

April 17

The expected had happened and the threatened strike of the miners is on. About two weeks ago, as is well known, the Miners' Union of this place sent a committee to the different mines, from the Gwin on the south, to the Central Eureka on the north, and demanded that the miners be given eight hour shifts, instead of ten hours, at the same scale of wages now existing; no discrimination against union miners, and reinstatement of the men discharged for affiliating with the union, and gave them until last Sunday to answer the demands. No attention was paid to this demand and on Sunday night at the meeting of the union the strike was ordered and notices posted, calling the men out of the Central and South Eureka, Oneida, Kennedy, Zeila, and Gwin mines.

Up to Monday morning but a small percentage of the men employed in the mines had joined the union, and the question was whether non-union men would join the movement or not. They did, and the strike at once assumed formidable proportions. The miners, the top men, the carpenters, blacksmiths and all, with but few exceptions, through sympathy or fear, joined with the strikers and walked out. This, of course, crippled the mines and caused a partial stoppage of work.

At the two Eureka, the Oneida and Kennedy work was suspended for the day, except that the mills were kept running on rock in the ore bins and the engineers kept the water slips and pumps in operation. This was not satisfactory to the union, so large delegations of strikers visited the mines and urged the men to quit work. Without multiplying words, this was done, and today not a wheel is turning in any of the mines affected, with the exception of in the mills. The union has received large accessions from the ranks of the non-union men and now numbers hundreds where it was but dozens before.

On the side of the mine owners, equal diligence has been displayed and every effort has been made on the part of the managers and superintendents to meet the situation and keep the mines going. Their efforts have been unavailable, however, and as above stated, the mines are at a standstill. Everything so far has been conducted in a quiet and orderly manner, no overt acts have been committed or countenanced on either side, and each is equally determined not to yield to the other. The shafts at the Kennedy and Zeila mines have been planked over and the engines are idle. At the Oneida, Superintendent Hampton still has about twenty men at

work to an endeavor to keep the mine open, and is resolved to keep the works running if possible. The strike has been a bad blow to the business interests of Jackson and Amador counties, from which it will take a long time to recover. All recognize this, and recognize it, should put forth every effort to adjust the matter.

If moderation, and a reasonable spirit of compromise should be shown by both sides, as we believe they will, we have strong hopes that all will be amicably settled in a very short time to the satisfaction of all concerned, and to the benefit of the community.

# THE AMADOR DISPATCH

## The Strike.

The strike situation remains practically unchanged. The mines and mills are shut down and all hands are idle. The Kennedy mill at the old works was kept in operation until last night on ore

in the bins, but that is now exhausted and the mill is silent. The engineers at the Zeila and Central Eureka are keeping the water out of the mines, and a small force of men is still at work at the Oneida, under protection of an armed guard. At the Gwin, we are informed, a force of men is at work underground, and a large number of top men are employed changing from the old to the new machinery, under an agreement entered into between Superintendent McClure and the men. A union was formed at Patona which all, or nearly all of the Gwin miners joined.

So far as the situation here is concerned, the strike seems no nearer a settlement than at first. Both sides are firm in their position and refuse to recede. The superintendents, at a meeting held at Sutter Creek last Saturday agreed upon a nine hour day, but the strikers would not accept it as presented. The hope is general that a settlement may be reached soon. On Wednesday the mine owners issued an ultimatum which is as follows: "We have had a meeting and agree to stand upon the terms specified in our original agreement, as follows: Employees may return to work, union and non-union men, and no discrimination against either. Where the time of the underground shift is now ten working hours, the same shall be reduced to nine working hours, with the same rate of wages. The union is not to be recognized. We decline to concede eight working hours." This was signed by all the mines interested except the Gwin. The following, from a dispatch to the Chronicle, states the situation here plainly and fairly: The strike is causing a loss of about \$2500 per day in wages alone. Besides this, hundreds of men in the mountains east of here are idle because of the stoppage of contracts for timber, logging and coal.

The mines involved represent two-thirds of the total industry of this county. If the trouble drags along for three months it will mean the stoppage of the mines for a year, as supplies cannot be hauled in winter over the foot mountain roads.

The business depression is more keenly felt as the days pass with the prospect of a settlement no nearer. The strikers are quiet. The mines are making no effort to start with non-union labor.

## The Strike Is Off.

Last Friday night in accordance with an agreement reached between the Jackson Miners' Union and David McClure, superintendent of the Gwin mine, representing the different mine owners involved in the strike, a settlement was reached by which the strike was declared off and union miners were notified that they might go to work immediately upon arrangements being made with the employers. The basis of the agreement entered into is as follows:

1. No discrimination against union miners as such.
2. Substitution of nine hours for what is now ten hours underground, with the same rate of wages. Explanatory: Said shift to begin when the first men start down from the collar of the shaft, and to end when first men start up from station after quitting work, with time taken for lunch added. In other words, time required to get to work and get to station after work to be on Company's time, and time required to get out of shaft at end of shift and for lunch on miner's time.
3. That reinstatement be left at the discretion of the mine management.
4. Union not to be recognized.

As soon as it was generally known Saturday morning that an agreement had been reached and the strike was at an end, a feeling of relief and thankfulness took possession of every one, and congratulations were given on every side. Arrangements were at once made to get the mines in operation and men were put to work at the Zeila and Kennedy Sunday morning getting the works in shape for the usual shifts. A full force of men is at work at the Zeila, and everything is satisfactory to superintendents and men. At the Kennedy, Oneida and Central Eureka there is, or was, a little friction over the question of the time to be taken for lunch, but that will probably be settled satisfactorily as soon as both sides get together and talk the matter over. A full force has not yet been put on at the three mines last named, but it will not be longer than a week more before things will be moving along the same as they were before the strike was declared. The people of the town and county are to be congratulated upon the peaceful and early settlement of what at one time seemed to be a stupendous proposition to tackle, and the Dispatch is pleased to accord full praise to the men whose judgment and good sense were instrumental in bringing it about.



*Kocher  
Bill*

T. K. NOYAN,

SHERIFF

JAVA/ONIRA

We hereby notify you that our mines have been closed by a strike ordered by the Jackson Union and that large delegations are threatening violence to our employees and destruction to our properties.

We therefore demand that you furnish a sufficient number of deputies to protect our men and mines and in case of your failure to do so we hereby notify you that we will hold you and your bondsmen responsible for all loss and injury sustained.

Signed

ZELLA MINING COMPANY

KENEEDY MINING & MILLING COMPANY

ONEIDA GOLD MINING & MILLING CO.

SOUTH EUREKA MINING COMPANY

CENTRAL EUREKA MINING COMPANY

*[Handwritten signatures and names over lines]*  
W. F. Noyan  
J. H. Oyster  
B. Hamilton  
John Marshall  
W. R. Thomas

*April 17 1893*



ONEIDA MINE, APRIL 30, 1903.

T. E. MORAN,

SHERIFF OF AMADOR COUNTY.

SIR:-

On April 19th the Oneida Gold Mining and Milling Companies, acting together with other mining companies in this District, notified and informed you, in writing, that its Mines and Mine Plant had been closed by a strike ordered by the Jackson Union, and that the members of said Union were threatening violence to its employees and destruction to its properties, and the Oneida, with said other Companies, therefore demanded that you at once appoint a sufficient number of deputies to protect its men and mines and on your failure to do so you and your bondsmen would be held responsible for all loss and injury sustained.

Notwithstanding this notice <sup>and information</sup> you replied on April 18th by saying that you had no official information and, in fact, no information or knowledge of any infraction or threatened infraction of the law within the limits of Amador County by any member or members of the Jackson Union, or by any one; and notwithstanding that nearly every one of the employees of the Oneida Gold Mining and Milling Company had before said time been coerced into quitting their work at said Mine by members of said Union, you expressed congratulations to the Mining Companies affected by the strike upon the peaceful and orderly conduct of affairs.

I am at a loss to understand what you mean by "official information"; you have been advised that it is as much your duty to prevent the commission of crime as it is to apprehend ~~the~~ perpetrators of crime after its commission: the Oneida Gold Mining and

Milling Company has a large amount of money invested in its Plant; and it is informed and believes that its property stands in peril and <sup>therefore</sup> insists that it is entitled to have the same protected by you; you certainly have information and knowledge of threatened infraction of the law because the notice of April 16th, 1905, expressly gave you such information.

Section 4270 of the Political Code of California provides that the Sheriff must "First: Preserve the peace; Second: Arrest and take before the nearest magistrate for examination all persons who attempt to commit or who have committed a public offense."

( Section 4482 of the Political Code provides: "Every municipal corporation is responsible for injuries to real or personal property situate within its corporate limits done or caused by mobs or riots"; you certainly know that Amador County is a municipal corporation within the meaning of this Act.)

As Sheriff of this County it seems to me that you ought to use all reasonable diligence to protect the County and its taxpayers from this liability; you ought to indulge in extra caution on the side of safety. If those supporting the strike in good faith intend to maintain it only by lawful means they can surely not object to your taking adequate measures to protect all parties concerned. You cannot be heard to say that you are without funds to provide for all requirements, because you have been assured that all funds necessary would be forthcoming and at your service.

I do not assume to even suggest to you whom you shall appoint as deputies, but leave that matter entirely to your own discretion and judgment, insisting only that a critical condition has arisen to meet which it is your duty to make prompt and adequate provision.

~~evidence that our arrangements in the presence of~~  
~~tion to you were~~  
notice was given to you the date of

wantonly out in two and rendered useless.)

Again I demand that you afford the Oneida Company, its  
property and employees, prompt and adequate protection.

*E. Hampton*

Superintendent Oneida Gold Mining  
and Milling Company.