

## REPORT BARES BRUTALITIES IN MINE DISTRICT

Posse Beats 60-Year-Old Preacher, Surrounds Home With Guns.

This is the first of a series on conditions in the Harlan county (Ky.) mine strike zone, where terrible conditions have prevailed for months. It is written by John Moutou, a staff writer of the Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, barred from the courtroom because of an editorial in his newspaper dealing with the verdict in a murder trial in the district.

BY JOHN T. MOUTOUX  
Times Staff Correspondent

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 5.—Brutalities of the "law" in Harlan county, Kentucky, center of recent coal mine disorders, again are exposed in a nine-volume report on conditions in the mine areas by a commission appointed by former Governor Flem D. Sampson.

The report consists of some 1,200 pages of testimony obtained by the commissioners, J. Smith Hays of Winchester and A. A. Babits of Lexington at the scene of the trouble. Both are leading members of the Kentucky bar.

In addition to the many atrocities the report discloses an amazing disregard of civil liberties and demands that those who "outraged common decency be prosecuted."

Wholesale raids were made on the homes of miners, many of the miners lodged in jail without opportunity to make bond, and kept there for days and weeks before being given an examining trial.

The report was presented the day before Governor Sampson left office, yielding to Governor Ruby Laffoon. No action has been taken on it.

**Sheriff Is the Law**

The "law" as it is known in Harlan county is Sheriff John Henry Blair and his more than two hundred deputies. Blair himself did not participate in any of the clubbings administered by the deputies, but in a statement to the commission he takes full responsibility for their acts.

During the recent trials at Mt. Sterling of William Burnett, for murder, and W. B. Jones, for murder conspiracy, much evidence was introduced by the commonwealth on the whipping of one Charlie Carpenter, strike breaking miner.

There is no doubt that the whipping occurred and that it was a brutal affair, but that incident was unimportant compared with the beatings which miners have received at the hands of the deputies and Evans policemen, and revealed in the commission's report.

Here is a typical case from the report:

Mrs. Viola Grace, 37-year-old wife of the Rev. J. M. Grace, 60-year-old Southern Methodist preacher, told of the kidnapping of her husband and the beating he received.

**Beat Preacher**

He was taken out of the jail at Neon, Ky., turned over to the Jenkins bunch, who turned him over to the Harlan county bunch, she said.

They took him to Lynch, took him up the mountain on the Virginia side, and beat him on the head with a pistol till his head was as black as your suit. His cheekbones were busted, both his eyes were bruised up where they hit him with a blackjack or something; they kicked him across the back, over the kidneys, until he spit blood three days.

He finally got away and fifty shots were fired at him as he ran. He went to Middleboro, Ky., and joined the National Miners Union. They sent him to New York to get aid.

Later, the commissioners asked Sheriff Blair about this incident and all the other atrocities they had uncovered.

"At the time this happened I was in Grand Rapids," the sheriff said.

**Men Were Armor**

"Did your posse have anything to do with that?" he was asked.

"They say not; I am sure they did not," Blair replied.

Mrs. Grace also described the surrounding of her boarding house at Walling Creek by deputies.

"John Henry Blair sent out fifty or sixty gunmen who surrounded my house with machine guns," she said. "They had a tripod planted right under my window. All the men had from one, two, three and four guns on them; had ammunition in their belts buckled around them; had breast plates on front and back."

"You saw the breast plates?" she was asked by one of the commissioners.

"Sure you could see them. George Lee had one on; it looked like a baseball outfit. This little three-foot gangster—nobody in Harlan county ever saw him before; they say he is from Chicago—he was plated until he cracked."

**Negro Is Victim**

George Lee is chief peace officer at Black Mountain camp. The man referred to as "three-foot gangster" is George Haywood of Chicago, one of the Black Mountain mine guards.

He formerly was a salesman of riot equipment and was taken on as a mine guard. During the Jones trial he brought \$50,000 slander suit against J. M. Robison, former United States senator and chief of the defense counsel in the miners' trials, because Robison referred to him in the trial as "the man nicknamed Alphonse Capone."

The commissioners asked Sheriff Blair about this. He said:

"We had information that there were arms at Mrs. Grace's house, a lot of literature, a lot of guns. I sent thirty men. They took guns sufficient to handle any situation that might arise. They took a Browning or two, some machine guns, some automatic guns."

Henry Thornton, 48-year-old Negro miner, said one night a party of eleven deputies headed by Bob Blair came to his house.

Q.—What did they do?

A.—They jerked me out of bed, took me out on the road, and knocked me in the head.

Q.—Did they say why they were doing this?

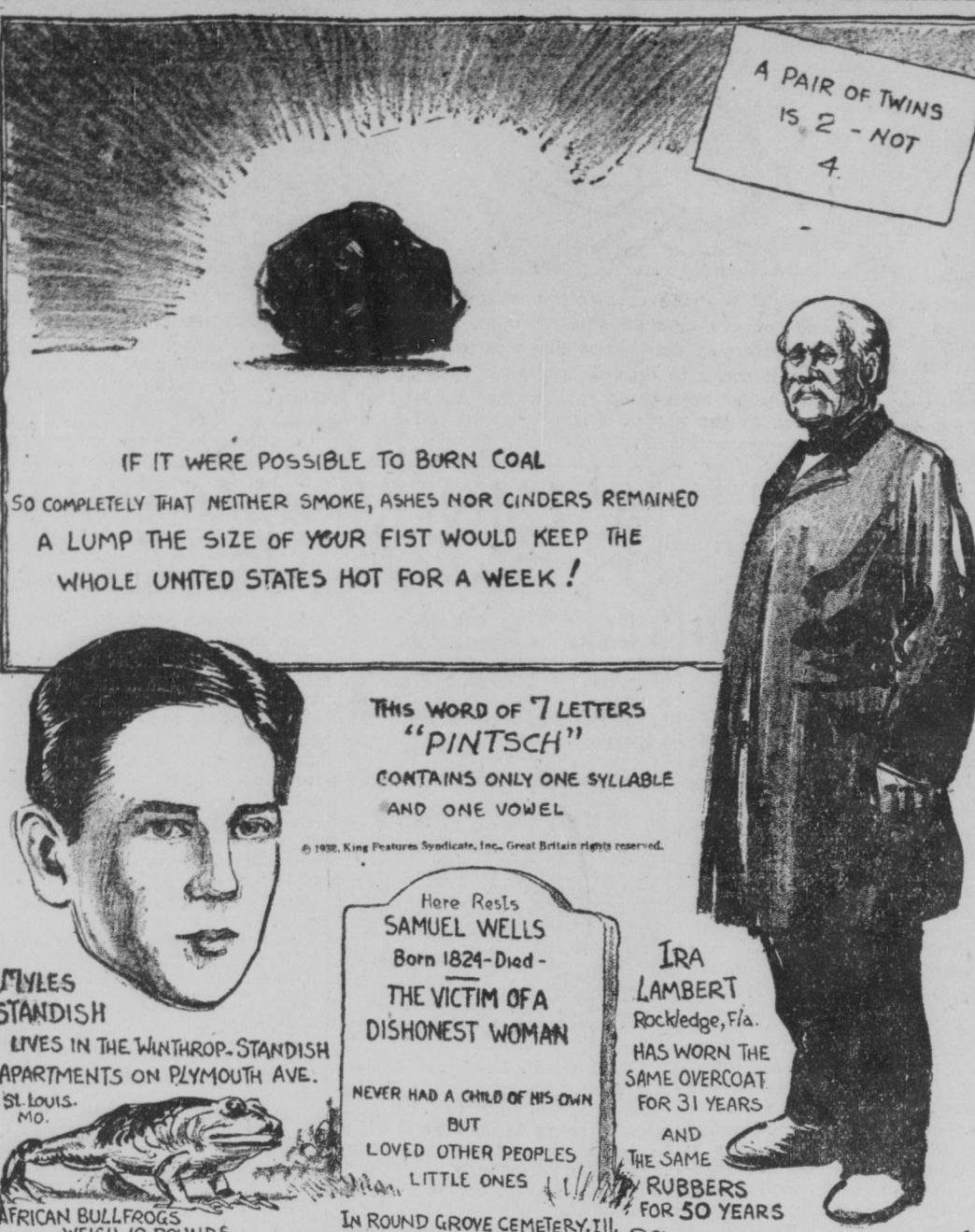
A.—They said I had been attending the meeting of the National Miners' Union.

Next—More About Harlan County's Police Brutality.

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

On request, sent with stamped, addressed envelope, Mr. Ripley will furnish proof of anything depicted by him.

BY  
RIPLEY  
Registered U. S.  
Patent Office



Following is the explanation of Ripley's "Believe It or Not" which appeared in Monday's Times:

**The Fastest Nebula**—Discovery of a nebula far out in space, which is rushing away from the earth at the rate of 11,000 miles a second, was made Dr. Milton L. Humason of the Carnegie Observatory at Mt. Wilson, Cal.

It is estimated that the nebula is 120,000,000 light years away from

the earth, or 120,000 times the distance that light travels in a year (light travels 186,000 miles per second).

**Fourteen Times a Widow**—Anne Oudette Grappin died at the age of 134 years on Jan. 5, 1841, at the White Peacock, in the town of Grez, in the old province of Franche Compte, France. According to the death certificate signed

by the Rev. Francois Brinbur, cure of the Saint Paul cemetery, Mme. Grappin's last husband was Francois Le Brun, fiscal procurator of the Lords of Beaumont. She had married 14 husbands prior to her last matrimonial venture, and had been widowed an equal number of times.

Wednesday—"The Greatest Farmer of All Time."

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**PEACE MOVE IS URGED BY PAGE**

Editor Calls for Slashing of War Debts.

Only by quick action of the United States in strengthening peace agencies such as the world court and League of Nations, and by further drastic reductions of war debts can we aid in re-establishment of European countries, Kirby Page, editor of the World Tomorrow, told more than 250 men and women at the Columbia Club Monday.

"If the middle-of-the-road government in Germany goes down, goes the peace of the world and the disintegration of civilization," Page said.

He asserted that "the simplest reason why America should cancel the war debts is because we're not going to collect the money anyway."

Stumbling blocks to peace lie in the attitude of European nations toward permanent peace, Page said.

"France is unwilling to disarm because of fear of Germany, and of invasion," he asserted. "Germany, on the other hand, is seeking revision of the Versailles treaty, believing that reparations demands are too severe."

Bishop Edgar Blake of the Indianapolis area of the Methodist church introduced Page. Mrs. Isaac Bush, vice-chairman of the Indiana council on international relations, sponsored the resolution.

Williams Creek Petition Wins Commissioners' Approval.

Approval of a petition for incorporation of the town of Williams Creek, north of the city, was given Monday by county commissioners following a hearing.

The board set Jan. 16 as the date for voters of the town to meet and elect three inspectors, who will arrange for a town election.

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## NEW SCOTTISH RITE COMMITTEE TO MEET

Policies for 1932 to Be Outlined by Executives at First Session.

First meeting of the new executive committee of the Scottish Rite will be held at the Grotto clubhouse tonight to consider appointment of chairmen of standing committees and to determine 1932 policies.

C. Wilbur Foster, who was installed as monarch at the Atheneum Monday night, will preside.

Foster has announced the appointment of the following men to serve in appointive offices: William E. Sprigdon, marshal; Charles Forrest, captain of the guard; J. Steven Fullen, orator; Jack Stone, sentinel; Isaac Geese, assistant sentinel, and Harold G. Lanham, chaplain.

Past monarch's fez and jewel was presented to Carl B. Schey, retiring monarch, Monday night. Charles G. Walsh, past monarch, was in charge of installation ceremonies.

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## MAYOR'S VETO IS BACKED BY CITY COUNCIL

First Action of Kind by Sullivan Hits Ordinance on Taxi Stands.

Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan was sustained by city council Monday night in his veto of the taxicab ordinance adopted at the council meeting two weeks ago, when the ordinance was stricken from the files.

The ordinance was the first vetoed by Sullivan since he took office. He held that certain clauses, removing restrictions from taxicab stands, are unconstitutional.

A substitute ordinance, providing for designation of stands by the city, without charge, was introduced.

Four ordinances authorizing the

city to borrow nearly \$1,000,000 in temporary loans were passed under suspension.

The largest loan, \$750,000, is to pay city bond and interest charges. Three other loans, to finance health department funds, were included, one for \$175,000, another for \$20,000 and a third for \$15,000.

The council amended the traffic code to ban parking on both sides of Blackford street, between Washington and Maryland streets; on the north side of Thirtieth street, between the Monon railroad and Meridian street, and between Capitol avenue and White river.

Parking bans on New York street, between Blake street and White river, and on Station street, between Roosevelt avenue and Twenty-fifth street, were removed because the two streets have been widened.

Ordinance for purchase of one police emergency car and three cruising cars was introduced.

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