

this effort to relate the Hillsville atrocity to political theories of which the mountaineers had presumably never even heard, we find even papers like the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, the *Chicago Evening Post*, and the *New York Evening Post*, which are firmly opposed to the judicial recall. Says the *Chicago* paper:

"We ourselves have criticized the judicial recall repeatedly, but we draw the line at such wild sophistry as this. The Blue Ridge Mountain affair was a disgraceful outbreak of anarchy. It was an organized raid for the rescue of a prisoner. The ordinary man who is trying to make up his mind about the judicial recall can only feel, when he reads arguments like that of the *New York Tribune*, that somebody is 'trying to put something over' upon him. From being a party, overt or covert, to that sort of thing *The Evening Post* begs to be excused."

"The event and the desperate men concerned in it are to be treated, not as proof of the evils of modern notions, but as pure survivals of barbarism," says the *New York* paper of the same name. And in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* we read:

"The psychology of the Allens is simply that of unbridled individualism, setting itself above all social control. This was partly due to the frontier and mountain environment, wherein each man makes his own laws and executes them by brute force. And partly it is attributable to the isolation and interdependence of a clan. The border raids and reprisals in Scotland's history show to what ferocious lengths this anarchy of individual liberty can go. It is a survival of the clan feeling."

It is "outrageous casuistry," says the *New York Press*, to use this crime as a general political argument. But if it is so to be used, says the *Chicago Socialist*, "the action of the Virginia outlaws can more properly be compared with the minority control exercised over judges by big business interests, which proceed to immediately assassinate any judge politically, if he does not render decisions according to their wishes." To the suggestion that the crime of the Allens is a reflection of modern radical tendencies, the *New York Evening Mail* replies:

"These Virginian and Kentuckian and Tennessean outlaws are the most zealous and earnest conservatives in the world. They regulate their lives by immemorial custom. To them all 'book-l'armin' means revolution and subversion. We can testify that they once made their preparations to shoot a young man who told them of the wonders of the World's Fair at Chicago."

"Our contemporary ancestors," is the brilliant phrase with which one writer has described these people. Persons who have studied their needs and the conditions under which they live agree that isolation, the lack of profitable employment, and the absence of all forms of innocent amusement have produced mental degeneracy and a sort of savagery. "There are but two remedies for such a situation as this, and they are—education and extermination," says the *Baltimore Sun*, which continues:

"With many of the individuals the latter is the only remedy. Men and races alike, when they defy civilization, must die. The mountaineers of Virginia and Kentucky and North Carolina, like the red Indians and the South-African Boers, must learn this lesson."

As the *Richmond Times Dispatch* sees it, "the railroad, the paper, the church, and the little red schoolhouse alone can teach such men that society will protect itself from individual license; that it demands service, and will in return give protection and service beyond what any soul can hope to win by violence and fear."

## THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO COAL

SCIENTISTS who have been assuring us that there will be no coal shortage for a thousand years forgot to take account of the human element in the problem, an element that is very much to the fore in the news reports of all coal-producing countries just now. The coal is there, just as the geologists reckon, but the unfortunate part of it is that it stays there, unless miners and operators can get together on the wage question. "Must we starve and freeze because some workmen and employers can not agree?" angrily asked one British paper on the eve of their coal strike, and the answer over there seemed to be given in the affirmative. Our press are making much the same inquiry, tho they have more hope that our coal dispute will be adjusted without a strike. Nevertheless, there is evident a good deal of "pernicious rigidity," as the *Albany Journal* calls it, in the attitude of both sides.

Is this the program they offer us, asks the *Syracuse Post-Standard*—"a monopoly of anthracite in the hands of the operators; a monopoly of labor in the hands of the anthracite miners; and the consumer between the upper and nether millstones?" We are reminded that New York City alone uses 10,000,000 tons of anthracite, and 8,000,000 tons of bituminous coal yearly. Both anthracite and bituminous workers may be called out next week. Such "wickedness," cries the *New York Herald*, is "unthinkable!" There is no excuse for a strike, exclaim other papers, which remind us that the strike of 1902 cost the country more than \$100,000,000. "The public has rights," and both miners and operators, thinks the *Chicago Record-Herald*, should remember that public sentiment can not be disregarded. If they can not get together and settle it, then the people will step in, they are warned by other dailies, and their attention is called to the rumors of possible



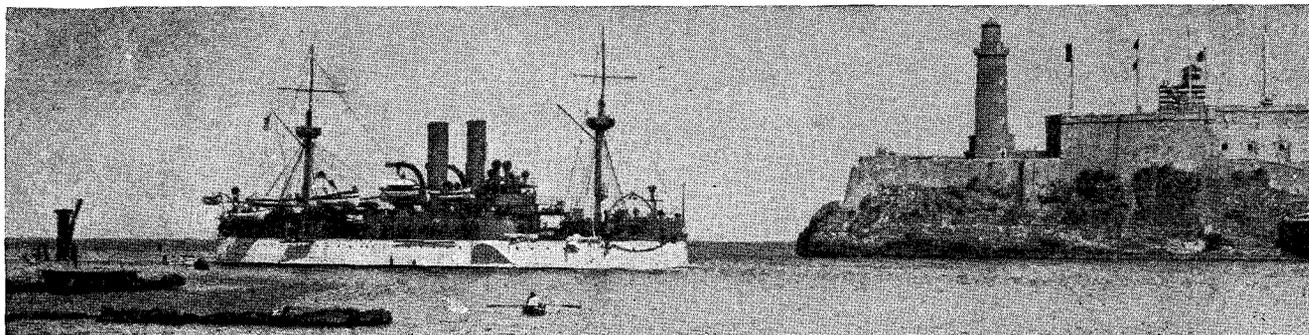
PROTEST.

—Minor in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

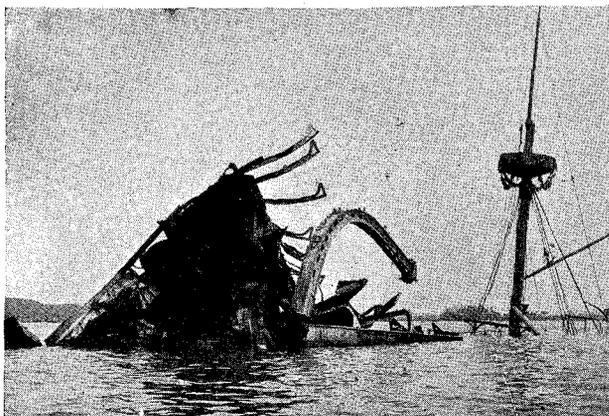
Presidential intervention, and to the several bills that have been introduced in Congress with a view toward preventing a strike.

Despite a wide-spread effort to be impartial, there is an evident impatience in some quarters with the miners for objecting to a renewal of the agreement which has kept peace in the Pennsylvania anthracite fields since 1903. There is also some inclination to justify the anthracite operators in refusing to recognize the United Mine Workers of America, the far greater part of whose membership is made up of soft-coal miners. On the other hand, one point in the operators' refusal to consider the nine demands outlined in these pages two weeks ago, is considered "vulnerable," even by some of the "capitalist" press. The employers say: "It is out of the question for the operators to advance wages unless they can in some way realize from the sale of coal produced a sum equal to the increase of wages." The *New York Commercial* hastens to agree and adds that since the consumer always pays the wages, "labor in other fields will pay most of the added wages of the miners." Not necessarily, replies the *New York Journal of Commerce*,

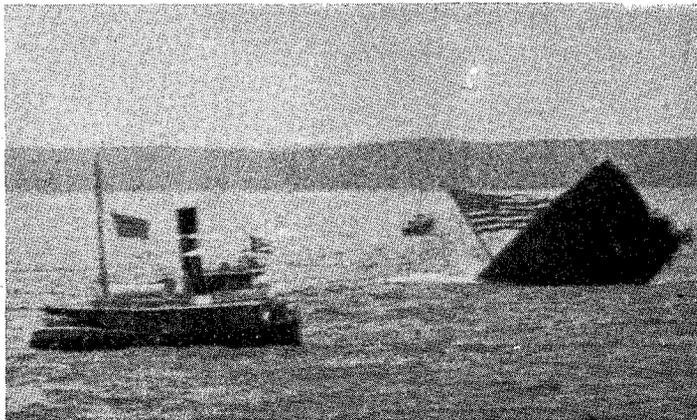
"for there is the alternative of some reduction in the profits of the coal companies, which have a virtual monopoly in the anthracite field and secure profits that can not be regarded as by any means an 'irreducible minimum.' A coal strike, as the result of the rejection of these demands, would be without excuse and would arouse public wrath instead of sympathy. An advance in the price of coal as the result of an increase of wages under all the circumstances would be only less intolerable."



ENTERING HAVANA HARBOR, JANUARY 25, 1898.



AFTER THE EXPLOSION OF FEBRUARY 15, 1898.



THE LAST FAREWELL, MARCH 16, 1912.

MEMORIES OF THE "MAINE."

The "rapacity" of the coal-barons has, in the *Minneapolis Journal's* opinion, "contributed more to the spread of public-ownership sentiment than any other one agency in the country." Sooner or later, observes the *New York Journal*, all these matters must be "made the affair of government and of the whole people"—"meanwhile, may the giant of the coal-mines win his fight if it is forced upon him!"

Strike or no strike, a temporary cessation of work in both anthracite and bituminous fields is predicted for the first few days or weeks following April 1. This would come about automatically through the expiry of existing wage-agreements on that date.

The case of the 170,000 anthracite-workers of Pennsylvania was presented in our issue of the 16th. Soft-coal miners and operators of western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana have also been carrying on a series of conferences, the chief bone of contention being the present wage of 95 cents per ton. The employers wish to reduce it to 85 cents, and the miners insist on having it raised to \$1.05. In this district there are some 200,000 soft-coal miners, and nearly 100,000 more would suspend work with them because of wage-agreements based on theirs. Thus, if work stops in both anthracite and bituminous fields, there will be precipitated, as the *New York Coal Age* points out, "the largest industrial suspension in the history of the country." To the half-million miners must be added "more than twice this number of men" indirectly affected "through the curtailment in fuel supplies, and consequent restriction of operations at steam-plants." As this trade journal figures it, there would be a total fuel-shortage of 40 per cent., and "what the effect of a forced reduction in fuel-consumption of 40 per cent. will be on the industrial world remains to be seen." This paper does not believe such a national strike likely, but if it does come, the public "must eventually pay the enormous bill."

AN INDIRECT DIRECT TAX

CERTAIN PREDICTIONS of a "short shrift" and "decent but deep interment" for the Democratic Excise Tax Bill, are now in a fair way to need revision, think advocates of this measure, and they point with no small degree of confidence to its passage in the House by a vote of 250 to 40, to its acceptance by two-thirds of the Republican Representatives who voted, and to its generally expected victory in the Senate. President Taft, they admit, may veto the bill, but in that case it will put him "in a hole" and "hamper him sadly if he is the Republican nominee for the Presidency next November." But should it get safely by the President, the *New York World* (Dem.), at least, is confident that it will be sustained by the courts. The six-to-one majority given this bill in the House is significant to the *New York Evening Post* (Ind.) of the strength of "popular feeling in favor of the policy it embodies." But it is not "the policy it embodies" that worries critics of the Underwood measure. There are good arguments for and against an income tax, they say, but to advocate one under the guise of a nominal excise bill, is "an attempt to evade the judicial interpretation of the Constitution," an unworthy piece of "legislative quibbling."

When the majority of the House Ways and Means Committee decided to put sugar on the free list, they saw, according to their report, that the revenue lost, about \$52,000,000, must somehow be made up. The committee favored an income-tax law, but did not report in favor of one for these two reasons:

"First—Because the Supreme Court has declared a general income-tax law unconstitutional for lack of apportionment, and provision has been made whereby the States are now considering the acceptance or rejection of the proposed Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution giving Congress undisputed authority to impose such a general tax.

"Second—Because through the decision of the Supreme Court,