

It has no regard for facts, no veneration for learning, no gratitude for benefits and no consideration for the historical foundations of the municipality and the state. Unconscious of its own ignorance and incapacity, it substitutes blatant arrogance for efficiency and wilful daring for careful and competent investigation. This lowest stratum of the liberal factor disturbs the peace of these communities, leads to culpable wastefulness in management of public finance, and confounds industrial relations so that the mining business is either raised to the verge of a revolution or debased to the condition of abject servitude.

#### THE TWENTY-SIX PEOPLES NOW RESIDING HERE.

The labor required for the development of the anthracite coal fields has been furnished by immigrants. In the first fifty years of the development of the industry, the British Isles and Germany furnished the supply. In the last twenty-five years the Slav nations of southern Europe have done so. The change in the character of the immigrants to the United States is synonymous with that which has taken place in these coal fields.

The following table brings out very clearly the increase percentage of Slav and the decrease of British and German immigrants to the United States, as given by the Commissioner of Immigration.

Year.	Slav and Italian.	British and German.
1861-70	1.05%	77.38%
1871-80	6.44	57.46
1881-90	17.65	52.72
1901	68.50	13.50

In the census of 1870, the Slav element in Lackawanna, Luzerne and Schuylkill counties was hardly perceptible. In the last census they numbered 72,748.

In 1880, not 5 per cent. of the mine employees were Slavs, to-day about 50 per cent. of them belong to these races. In the report of the Bureau of Mines for the year 1900, returns

from 232 collieries showed 42.31 per cent. of the employees classified as "non-English speaking peoples." In this computation the Slav breaker-boys, most of whom are native born, are not classified as "non-English speaking." These, however, are Slavs in training and sentiment. The mine inspector of the Fifth District had, in 1902, 51.24 per cent. Slavs among the employees in his territory. We can safely say that 50 per cent. of the miners and laborers in the anthracite collieries are Slavs, which gives us between 34,000 and 35,000 adult males of these nations. Half of these are married, and being from necessity endogamous, their wives are also Slavs. The 17,000 Slav families give us a population of 85,000, and the 17,000 bachelors added gives us in the anthracite coal fields over 100,000 of these peoples.

This change in the character of the labor force of the anthracite coal fields well illustrates a Gresham law operating in the labor as well as in the financial world. The Anglo-Saxon \* mine employees, in the early eighties of the last century, felt the operation of the law and tried in various ways to ward off its effect. Laws were passed to create boards of examiners to issue certificates of competency to miners. An apprenticeship of two years is required before a laborer can become a miner, and many think that familiarity with the English language is a necessary qualification to mine coal. Social barriers also have been erected against the Slav, but all to no effect. A silent but steady exodus of the most intelligent and capable mine workers goes on, and simultaneous with it, the Slav, conscious of his inferiority, adapts himself to the conditions and thrives.

The immigration of the Slavs into the anthracite coal fields is well illustrated by the following table, relative to their settlement in the cities of Scranton and Wilkesbarre.

\*The word Anglo-Saxon is used in this work to designate the English-speaking mine employees, and the word Slav to designate those who are generally called "foreigners" and have little or no command of the English language. This use of the word, though not ethnologically correct, gives us a simple means of contrasting these two elements of our population without naming the various races in the groups.

## SCRANTON.

Year.	Austro-Hungary.	Poles.	Italians.	Russians.	Bohemians.	Total.	Percentage of Foreign Population.
1870	7	15	7	0	0	29	.18
1880	28	67	12	27	4	138	.87
1890	1,106	600	367	488	11	2,572	9.00
1900	1,390	3,750	1,312	671	63	7,186	24.80

## WILKESBARRE.

1890	382	393	23	149	29	976	9.57
1900	601	1,632	189	469	19	2,910	23.85

The steady flow of Slavs and Italians into the population of these cities is synonymous with what has been going on in the anthracite coal area. The change has been more thorough, however, in mining villages and towns than in the above cities. Many mining camps, which in the seventies were inhabited by Irish, English and Welsh, have passed wholly into the hands of the Slavs, while every mining town has within it a colony wholly composed of "foreigners." In 1870, of the 38,161 foreign born persons engaged in mining in the State of Pennsylvania only 121 or 3 per cent. were Slavs and Italians. By 1890 the proportion in the anthracite coal fields was 25.67 per cent. and in 1900 it had reached 46.36 per cent.

The foreign born peoples forming about 32 per cent. of the total population of our area represent 26 different nationalities. They are English, Welsh, Scotch, Irish, German, Swedes, French, Swiss, Dutch, Poles, Slavonians, Austrians, Hungarians, Bohemians, Tyrolese, Russians, Lithuanians, Greeks, Italians, Hebrews, Negroes, Arabians, Cubans, Mexicans, Spaniards and Chinese. The last seven mentioned form an insignificant portion of the total population. The Slavs and Italians would form about 15 per cent., the Anglo-Saxons and Germans 17 per cent., and the remainder 68 per cent. native born. If, however, we classify the native born of foreign parentage with the foreign born we have over 70 per cent. of the population in that class.

Some economists have said, that the labor necessary for the development of our industries would have been supplied by the

natural increase of the colonists if immigration had not taken place. This statement loses sight of the operation of the law of social capillarity and the unpleasant nature of some work necessarily connected with industrial development. The work of mining coal is dangerous and unpleasant, and descendants of miners as a rule in our country cherish a strong aversion to working underground. The young men, who graduate from the public schools, will not enter the mines if they can possibly earn a living elsewhere. Those of this class, who gain a subsistence in the collieries, perform the lighter work. Mine foremen invariably say that the native born mine employee shirks hard work. Dr. A. G. Keller says that the experience of the German colonists is that a highly educated negro is a "Schurke" and absolutely useless for all practical purposes. The consensus of opinion among superintendents and foremen in the anthracite coal industry is that the mines could never be operated if they depended upon the native born for the labor supply. It would be well for the censors of foreigners to remember this. These immigrants are the hewers of wood and the carriers of water in the land, and entrepreneurs would find it far more difficult to carry on their operations if the supply of foreign labor were not at hand to perform menial toil which is shirked by wage-earners on a higher social plane.

The labor, which has developed the anthracite coal fields has virtually been wholly supplied by emigrants and their descendants of the first generation. This class in our area form over 70 per cent. of the total population, while in the country at large they form only 32.93 per cent. In the census of 1874, of the 152,107 persons engaged in mining, 94,719 or 68.80 per cent. were foreign born. If we add to the foreign born the number of native born of foreign parentage engaged in mining, the percentage will be much higher.

Year.	Foreign Born.	Per cent. of Population.
1860	49,753	27.70
1870	85,544	30.84
1880	88,779	25.20
1890	142,035	28.55
1900	161,357	25.86

The preceding table gives the number of foreign born in the counties of Lackawanna, Luzerne and Schuylkill for the years specified.

This gives an average of 27.62 per cent. of the total population of the above counties as foreign born. In 1870 in the three mentioned counties, when the foreign born were of Saxon and Teutonic extraction, 56.42 per cent. of the total population was either foreign born or native born of foreign parentage. In 1900, when nearly half those of alien births are Slavs, we have 63.13 per cent. of the total population either foreign born or native born of foreign parentage. An investigation into the nature of the population of thirteen purely mining towns located in the Northern coal fields, resulted in 32.77 per cent. of the total population being foreign born, and 72.22 per cent. either foreign born or native born of foreign parentage. It is safe to say that an average of 70 per cent. of the 630,000 people in the anthracite coal fields is either foreign born or native born of foreign parentage. In other words, 441,000 of the total population in the area under consideration are either foreign born or native born of foreign parentage. These have furnished the labor necessary to produce the annual tonnage of anthracite coal sent to market. There is much that is socially and morally undesirable in the foreigners engaged in mining, but the fact that the brawn and muscle necessary for the production of coal has been furnished by them should never be lost sight of.

It is not long since when the mines of the civilized world were manned by serfs, slaves and convicts. The last class of serfs on British soil to receive emancipation from conditions which made them little better than chattels was mine employees. This possibly accounts for the public sentiment which places a low estimate on mine workers. In the hierarchy of labor tradition has assigned the "colliers" a place low down in the social scale, and public opinion in a country where manual labor is more highly honored than in any other land still clings to that sentiment. This is due to bias and ignorance of mine employees. - They deserve greater honor as a body of able men

in the army of producers. Few classes of workers sacrifice as many lives as they do in bringing their portion to the national fund, and, considering the nature of their calling and the danger incident to it, this class of workers does not take an undue proportion of the store of wealth produced by its labor.

This heterogeneous confluence of so many European nations has a marked influence upon the economic, social and moral life of these communities. L. F. Ward has said that "the condition of the European race is such now that in point of average capacity there is probably, except in isolated localities, no distinction in the different ranks or social stations in life." From a scientific standpoint few would take exception to this statement, but in the practical affairs of life, where racial pride and prejudice play so great a part, few indeed would concur with this view. Nothing is so conspicuous in communities where the races of men mix as the ethnic confidence found in each group. The social standing of many shiftless Anglo-Saxons in these communities is the lowest imaginable, and yet they ever insist upon their superiority to the Slav and are indignant if classified with him. In a miserable mining patch we found an isolated English-speaking family among many Slavs. The conversation had hardly passed beyond the usual exchange of courtesies when the woman pointed with contempt to her neighbors and said: "We don't have nothing to do with them." Estimating the social status of the speaker by her personal appearance and the surroundings of the house in which she lived, the lowest Slav would not be improved if she did associate with her. This ethnic pride is also found among the Slav. The impoverished Magyar always insists upon his social superiority to the equally impoverished Hun. The Pole looks with contempt upon the Lithuanian and the latter is prompt to assert his claim to a more remote ancestry and an older civilization than the former. This racial pride, equally strong in each race, is the cause of many conflicts between these men when they meet over their cups. In the early years of mining it precipitated many a conflict between the immigrants of the various races from the British Isles, and the bloody and