United States Coal Company:

Mr. Close turned up in Pittsburgh on the 28th and on Friday, the 30th, we went to see the coal region. In the party were two the President of the concern. J. W. A the President of the Union Supply Company and S. I. Warren who is in the welfare work, an old Red Cross man.

Melancholy business ride up the Monongahela. There are plants everywhere. We went to the McKeesport mill to begin with to see the way they are handling their direct relief. I already have set down elsewhere the theory of the conern that they must give to the 200,000 men still on their roll, at least a certain amount of money. This of course must be earned where they have the work. They are ? the workers. When a man does not earn the fixed wage settled on then they furnish relief. They furnish it, not in money, but in food, that is, for the most part. And the gathering and the distributing of this food is one of the most efficient jobs I have ever seen. It begins with their buying which is done on the theory that they must have first class goods and that they must have it at cost price. That they also must use all their own resources of transportation - skilled management - to/ save overhead.

At McKeesport a great hall, once used I suppose for management, has been cleared. The food is brought in by

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car loads on the trucks which run at the side of this shop. It is unloaded exactly as supplies for the regular worker are unloaded, that is, put from the car onto rollers that carry it onto the floor. There it is taken to the proper point for the filling of the boxes of ~~all~~ ? Very interesting the things they put in boxes. So many potatoes to begin with. These potatoes are bought from local farmers, are first class. The local people have learned that unless they give the best they will not be taken. The miners have sold the company a good many potatoes from their own patches. One man sold thirty bushds the other day.

Into the boxes one thing that goes are beans and rice. Now these beans come from Michigan in quanity., are examined with a keen eye for quality. The same provision is given the rice which is brought in car load lots from New Orleans - first grade.

They get their butter, milk and eggs every morning from the packing house. The milk is canned; different brands, four cans go into every box as you will see from the list attached.

They are mighty proud of their bacon which comes in three pound slabs in which they sell for thirteen cents a pound, I think. They opened a slab to show me that it was real stuff.

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There is a great deal of discussion about variety, buying a lot of onions and purposed to put a pound or more of onions instead of a pound of beans - introducing homony and cracked peas as a variety. The importance which is made is stated by a dietitian.

The boxes packed are taken to the distributing station ~~which at McKeesport was~~ a small office on the edge of the plant, easy to reach. The boxes were piled at one side, beside them ~~the~~ Red Cross flour in bags; a long chain of men were passing in front of the table at which sat a man who had at his side two long files of cards. As each man came he presented a brass check with his name and number. The card was looked for. If it was all right ~~he was asked what he wanted. One of the three price collections.~~ He wrote his name and ~~what he was to get~~, passed in front of the boxes and took it with the bag. They were young and old, black and white. Some as fine looking men as you would want. There was not a sign of cringing. They felt this was part of the business and it is. Probably as good a business as the Steel Corporation has ever done. Possibly it Salvation in this terrific situation ##?

I heard some grumbling among the men at their difficulty in getting a slice of the public money for relief that is coming into Pennsylvania. And so at the counter they declared

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they had paid 98% of the taxes and others fought it and ?
They find great difficulty in getting their share, as they call it.

They have gotten a large allotment everywhere of Red Cross flour and of cotton. The story of how this cotton and flour is handled is very good. The raw stuff was turned over to the mills. They ground the wheat and wove the cotton taking a toll for their work. They had two million pounds of Red Cross flour at Gary. Great quantities at this McKeesport station.

After this visit we started for the mining district. Great changes since I was down here twenty years before. The old ovens are entirely abandoned and there is coming in place of an extraordinary by product plant where they make all kinds of things. (I should get a list of this.)

It has meant an immense investment, also scrapping an immense investment in the old oven. As you drive down the valley it looks like Roman ruins, very picturesque, some things ought to be saved, just to show what was.

They discuss with a good deal of cynicism the value of all this great investment in the long run and it certainly does look dubious with all this splendid stack idle. Practically nothing doing. The coal towns are another story.

Here you have all that fine work that Lynch established and that I saw twenty years ago and put into the new ideals in business. Here you have them actually going on

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only in a larger and better way, that is the towns are larger and they are better than in those days. It is the garden of selfishness. You go through town after town and everywhere the yards are full of gardens and the country around was laid out in additional tracts. The figures are in the notes. They came from Close. Here as at Gary, and at Vandergrift the men have been kept steady by working daily on their lands. There is hardly a house in all this land that has not a cellar full of vegetables and cupboards full of fine stuff.

The men rail at Mosher because he has not repainted the houses this year, or white washed the fences. I should not have noticed if they had not called my attention for they do not look dingy or run down. Everything very tidy from one end to the other.

It is the Supt. on the job at the place that keeps things steady. He knows every man, he is seriously devoted to his town, he feels deeply and I think sometimes bitterly of the situation into which these people are forced. But he stands no foolishness and he fights inch by inch for all that the Corporation can possibly give to the men in the way of work and in the way of relief. The people, themselves, are very independent. They don't want relief excepting as the last resort, and only take it when their gardens and their one or two days will not tide them over.

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As for rent, none is collected. They are very low in the first place. How Lord

I went to the Company store and was impressed as I was twenty years ago, especially down in Alabama of the quality and the efficiency of the whole management. Arnold who has been twenty years at the head of this rules the whole thing. not only ~~of~~ efficiently but with the keenest sense of the right and the needs of the people themselves.

There are everywhere nearby independent stores but there is no comparison in prices or in quality, I think. The men, themselves, agree that when they get disgusted with the Company store and try the independent that they eventually always come back because they get better and cheaper goods there. They also can get credit.

The rush hour is after school, after four o'clock, when the children bring the orders from their mothers. So many of them sometime rushing in with their little papers that there will be a line out on the sidewalks. They have their bargain days. There was to be one the next day. Beef, 13 cents a pound. But they all admit that there is not much beef ~~xxxxx~~ bought now. They are living on vegetable soups, as near as I can make out.

"How do they stand it and why? I asked Mr. Mosher.

"Well", he said, "they are brought up in the mines. Once a miner always a miner. People wonder sometimes why a miner sticks by his

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job. I'll tell you why. I was a miner. I know why. It is one job in the world where nobody bothers you while you are at work. You are let alone, no one nags you. You don't have to talk to anybody. You get in the habit of working alone. A miner at his job is the most independent man in the world and he don't like to change. You may think it queer but I think that is the basis of the devotion."

Mr. Mosely succeeded Mr. L as the President of the company. He was brought up in the Illinois fields - a miner - and was one of the steady drivers. He is a mighty, sensible, humorous chap. ~~[illegible]~~ But great distressed and watching for points of ignition I think. He has been out recently in the region where the strike is going on in Illinois. Tells me that really it is a quarrel not between operators and miners but between two factions of miners. They have never had ~~in their minds~~ a strike. That was the record when I went over the place eighteen years ago. He tells of a kind of mass meeting that the miners held for him, he having grown up with them, been one of them. And he said, "You know they all felt so sorry for me. They were not pitying themselves but pitying me. And when I went away after this meeting they said, 'Now, don't worry we are with you.'

The loyalties ____ of men, the traditions of men are things you have got to reckon with before you upset what we have in this country. Here are groups that for years have worked

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together, grown up together, and they have suffered as well as profited together. In the disastrous '70's these mining towns went five years without work, every coke oven closed down. And the men went through it. There are men in these regions today that remember that time. They remember '93, they remember other longer or shorter periods. They remember Wars. They believe in one another. These are human things that have welded them. It is going to take a long time for a revolution made out of blue prints and slogans to overcome the experience of these

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