

## How they "Histed" the Sheriff over the Fence

The strike of 1900 in the anthracite district was perhaps won in the shortest time and with less violence than any other strike recorded in history. The women played a most important part in that strike; they organized and went out every night.

It was pathetic to see them; old women, with their heads white with years of sorrow and care; young women, with hearts beating with hope for a brighter day, joined forces and marched close up to the mines. In one instance we marched 15 miles in one night. During the march we stopped to rest. Few knew where we were going, but there were 5000 men in some mines which we wanted to call out and get them to join our forces.

### HALTED BY TROOPS

One night 5000 women from different camps gathered together and marched 15 miles over the mountains to Coledale, Pa. We had a band along, so we played and sang patriotic songs as we marched to Lansford, and the people dashed out in their night gowns and said, "— —ll, it is that old woman and her army. They are going to clean us all up."

As we attempted to pass along the road the glitter of bayonets in the dead hour of night faced us. The Colonel yelled, "Halt!" and we obeyed orders, of course.

### ALLOWED TO PASS

"You will not charge bayonets," said I, "not on this crowd. We are not fighting the Government. We are simply going to get 5000 of our brothers, who are still working, to join our forces."

The regiment was the crack 13th, of Pennsylvania. The militia saw that we did not have a single weapon in our hands, but were armed only with our voices, which we raised in defense of childhood yet to come. We were peaceful and law abiding, but we wanted justice, that was all. So finally the soldiers let us pass.

After a while we met the miners, some of them coming down to work on the cars. We took possession of the cars and cleaned them out, and the men went back home, and those fellows were among the first to lay down their tools in response to the call of 1902.

Then more than 5000 went to the hotels where the militia had ordered

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their breakfasts, took the food right out of the kitchen and ate it and allowed the militia to go without.

### DROPPED OVER FENCE

We went on singing as the band played until we met the little Sheriff. He made a lot of fuss about our "disorderly" conduct. I guess he didn't like our singing, or the way the band played. Anyway he was awfully cross and flashed his star all the while he was trying to boss us.

The easiest way to get by him was to remove him from the road, we thought. That some of the women did by picking him up and dropping him down on the far side of the fence.

He was shaking like an aspen leaf as he got up and ran away.

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