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A Boarding House Protest

By W. James Pike*

I've sat around the boardin' house
An' listened to the talk
Of muckers an' of miners
An' ways of handlin' roek;
I've heard 'em timber, drill an' blast
An' listened to 'em muck;
I've heard just how to lay a plat
An' how to oil a truck:
This miner talk sounds good to me,
I listen with a will,
But the guys that make me weury

Are the ones that run the mill.

Say, when they git to goin' good,
The miners move away,
'Cause mill talk's different language
On how to make 'cr pay:
They talk of sereens an' batteries,
Of solutions an' of slime
Of pebbles in the tube mill
An' addin' so much lime;
They argue long on filters,
An' then they switch to cones,
From that they go to drivin' gears
Spur, worm an' herringbones.

Concentratin' tables is a subject very sweet, They'll rag on belts an' launders— 'Feedin' eyanide's a treat. They'll have it out both loud an' long Concernin' classifiers But when they start on chemicals They are agitating liars; An' when at last they quiet down An' chairs scrape on the floor, The miner thinks his turn has come But 'ark—the creakin' door!

Then in another mill guy comes,
An' spouts a long oration
On millin' revolutionized
By process of flotation;
An' so you hear of oils an' cells
An' other things they use,
But dann their hides, their jobs depend
On powder, caps an' fuse,
An' drills an' last that run 'em,
An' the lowly muckin' stick
(An', comin' down to cases,
On Cousin Jack an' 'Mick).

It surely makes me tired
To hear the mill guys roar,
An' buttin' in on miners' talk
Makes me good an' sore.—
Now if they'd talk of stopes an' veins
An' ways of breakin' land—
But Gad, you can't expect it
From a greasy factory hand!—
So what's the use, just let 'im rave,
The long eared brayin' cuss!
A mill guy may be useful,
But his job depends on us.

*W. James Pike, a competent and popular mining man, author of these and other veraneular verses we may select for occasional use, died a suicide in Manila a few months, when he had fallen into ill health.—Eb.