

## LABOR

Attempts are being made by professional agitators to stir up labor in the Philippines. It was but natural that this class of trouble-makers would turn their attention to the mining industry. So far the activities of this small group have resulted only in a few strikes, all of which have been abandoned within a comparatively short time.

It is a peculiar characteristic of such a situation that it often leads the laborers to be swept away by the loud arguments of the professional strike-makers, and to be coerced into actions that in their sober moments they would not consider.

For example: a professional agitator went to one district in the Philippines, looked over the field, and announced publicly that he was going to start a strike in each of the mines in the area. He gave the order in which these strikes would occur; so far his predictions have been accurate.

The laborers in Philippine mining camps received higher pay, more benefits, and have better working conditions than do the workers in any other industry. When modern mining was started here, a few years ago, there was but little trained labor. The operators engaged unskilled workmen,

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**RALPH KEELER, Editor and Business Manager**

taught them their jobs, built comfortable and sanitary homes for them, provided them with every reasonable facility for happy living. Hospitals, schools, playgrounds, cines, roads, improvements of all kinds, have dotted the path of mining in these Islands.

Through all this the mining laborers have been contented. They have been brought to a higher scale of living than ever before, their families are better provided for than are their relatives in other industries, and, all in all, their lot has been good.

It is unfortunate indeed that a few radicals can, for the sake of the cash which they collect from each laborer whom they persuade to join their so-

called labor unions, disturb even slightly the smooth progress of the mining industry. In most cases the strikers, after they have had time to think things over, admit that they joined a walkout because of the excitement, because of the action of some one else, or for any reason in the world except one of personal dissatisfaction.

President Quezon has said that labor should take the proper legal steps in case of discontent. It is hoped that the government will see to it that the activities of the handful of organizers are kept strictly within legal bounds, and that they are not permitted to continue their flagrant abuse of the confidence of the laborers.

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