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EDITORIAL

ARE WE IN RUSSIA?

By DANIEL DE LEON

ON the last day of last month the House Committee on Rules at Washington must have rubbed its eyes hard after a certain delegation had said its say, and left the room.

The delegation consisted of miners, led by the miner Member of Congress William B. Wilson. The miners came from Westmoreland coal fields of Pennsylvania where a strike is now on.

Their tale was simple, and to the point. They stated that indiscriminate killing, violence, conditions of peonage, interference with the United States mails and widespread abuse of the authority of the law marked the entire progress of the strike in the Westmoreland coal fields.

The delegation specified that the post offices were located on mining company properties, or that the roads leading to those offices were policed by the deputies of the mining companies; and that strikers were often arrested when they tried to approach the post offices.

The delegation then took its leave, amidst profound silence on the part of the Committee.

Of course, the Committee is a body of bourgeois, or strictly political agents of bourgeois. As such, the Committee, of course, is not ignorant of the bourgeois brutalities practised upon the wage slaves at all times, at times of strike especially. Nevertheless, "there is a limit." Such a picture as drawn by the miners' delegation of conditions in the coal fields of Westmoreland county would seem so far in excess of anything that has as yet come to light—such a picture as the post offices being located on Company's private land, and, if that is not enough to keep the strikers cut off from the rest of the world, the roads leading to the post offices being patrolled and the strikers who venture thereon being arrested—such a picture

transcends everything hitherto experienced or heard of, outside of Russia.

Let's give the Committee the benefit of the doubt.

Let's believe the Committee rubbed its eyes, and bit into its arms and asked itself, Are we in Russia?

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