

LABOR'S PROTEST

**Extensive Preparations of the
Labor Leaders of Kansas
and Missouri.**

**Their Plans Include Colorado
--Many Thousands of Min-
ers to Stop Work.**

**The Declared Object to Pre-
vent Reduction of Wages
--Faith in the Right.**

THE LEADERS' DESIGNS

Preparations for a Great Strike.

TOPEKA, June 3.—M. L. Walters, president of the Miners' union, of Kansas and Missouri, expects to start on a tour of the mining camps of Osage county to-morrow, holding meetings at every camp at which delegates will be elected to a convention to be held at Osage City, no later than next Thursday. He says that this convention will certainly endorse the strike now in force in the other coal districts of the state, and by Thursday night, at the latest, every coal mine in that region will be shut down. There are about 3,200 men, including mine laborers, employed in the Osage county mines, and when they cease work all the im-

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Meetings will be held by these mine leaders at all the camps in this district for the election of delegates to the state convention about June 20, to order a strike at all the mines in the state. This will add not less than 9,000 men to the strikers.

If the strike in Missouri fails, Walters and fellow officers will go to the Indian territory and organize strikes there, and after that will go into Arkansas, where they will lay off about 5,500 men. While Walters is organizing the strike in this part of the country, William Howells, president of the Colorado district, is at work among the miners of that state, and in a short time will have the mines of the Santa Fe road shut down at Trinidad, Rockville and Canon City. In this district 4,000 men are employed, making a grand total of nearly 30,000 men in active sympathy with the strike before the close of the month.

For Fair Wages.

TOPEKA, June 3.—President Walters was here yesterday in consultation with the labor commissioner, and other officials. Mr. Walters was one of the Populist members of the last legislature. He said last night that the men were not striking for recognition as a labor organization, but against a 30 per cent reduction in wages.

The miners, he said, were now paid 20 per cent. less than the miners in the eastern states, and their expenses were higher than in almost any other state. Their wages were 35 per cent lower than in Colorado. At Minden, Missouri, only half a mile from the state line, and at another Missouri shaft not over 400 yards from the Kansas mines, the miners were receiving the wages the Kansas miners were striking for. Last year the men averaged only \$1.05 for each working day in the year and the companies proposed to reduce them still lower. This meant starvation to the miners. He had no doubt that the miners would win in the end because they were in the right.

The Kansas Strike.

PITTSBURG, Kan., June 3.—President Walters, of the United Mine Workers' association, went to Osage county last night, and to-day he will call out the miners of that county numbering about 2,000. The number of miners out in Southern Kansas is 6,000. If the Osage county miners go out to day, practically every coal miner in the state will have joined the ranks of the strikers.