

**REPORT ON THE
STEEL
STRIKE OF 1919**

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Report on the steel strike of 1919 by Various

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VARIOUS

**REPORT ON THE
STEEL
STRIKE OF 1919**

REPORT ON THE STEEL STRIKE OF 1919

BY

THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY,
THE INTERCHURCH WORLD MOVEMENT

BISHOP FRANCIS J. McCONNELL
Chairman

DANIEL A. POLING
Vice-Chairman

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ALVA W. TAYLOR

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Advisory { BISHOP WILLIAM MELVIN BELL
 { BISHOP CHARLES D. WILLIAMS

HEBER BLANKENHORN
Secretary to the Commission

With the technical assistance of
THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, NEW YORK



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1920



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RAHWAY, N. J.

TO THE PRESIDENT

[Following is the essential part of the letter addressed by the officers of the Commission of Inquiry to President Wilson in presenting a copy of the Report.]

Authorized by the Interchurch World Movement to investigate industrial unrest in general and the steel strike in particular, the Commission, of which the undersigned are Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, has gone forward with its work for a little more than seven months. The publication of its completed report has been authorized. It is the very earnest desire of the Commission that since this report ventures to suggest certain actions by the Federal Government, it should come first to the President of the American people.

The Commission finds in the iron and steel industry conditions which it is forced to describe as not good for the nation. It fails to find any federal agency which, with promise of early result, is directly grappling with these conditions.

Unless vital changes are brought to pass, a renewal of the conflict in this industry seems inevitable. The report suggests the appointment of a special commission to bring about immediately free and open conference between employee and employer. This commission to go forward on the precedents of the presidential commission for the bituminous coal industry, named by you after a strike, and of the anthracite commission, appointed to avert a strike. . . .

The conviction has grown upon this Commission that it should not fail to recommend a practical suggestion of peace for an industry drifting toward unrestricted warfare. As Christians we can do no other.

FRANCIS J. McCONNELL, Bishop Methodist Episcopal Church,

Chairman, Commission of Inquiry.

DANIEL A. POLING, Associate General Secretary, Interchurch World Movement,

Vice-Chairman, Commission of Inquiry.

[The White House received the copy of the Report on July 27, 1920.]

CHRONOLOGY OF THE INVESTIGATION

Establishment of an independent, representative Commission of Inquiry by the Industrial Relations Department of the Interchurch World Movement Oct., 1919.

Personnel: Bishop Francis J. McConnell (Methodist)
Dr. Daniel A. Poling (United Evangelical)
Mr. George W. Coleman (Baptist)
Dr. Alva W. Taylor (Disciples)
Dr. John McDowell (Presbyterian)
Dr. Nicholas Van der Pyl (Congregationalist)
Mrs. Fred Bennett (Presbyterian)

Advisory¹

Bishop William Melvin Bell (United Brethren)
Bishop Charles D. Williams (Protestant Episcopal)

Field investigation Oct., 1919—Feb., 1920.
(Mediation effort, Nov. 28,—Dec. 5, 1919.)

Report adopted unanimously by the Commission of Inquiry
March 29-30, 1920.

Report received by the Executive Committee of the Interchurch Movement May 10

Recommended for publication by Sub-committee of Executive Committee June 25

Personnel: Dr. Hubert C. Herring, (Congregationalist);
Bishop James Cannon, Jr., (Methodist South); Mr. Warren S. Stone (Congregationalist).

Adopted unanimously by the Executive Committee of the Interchurch Movement June 28, 1920

¹ The advisory members did not take part in the active field investigation but signed the report after full examination of it and the evidence on which it was based.

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REPORT ON THE STEEL STRIKE, 1919

MAIN SUMMARY

NOTE.—This volume presents the Summary of industrial facts as drawn from all data before the Commission and adopted as the Report of the Commission. On it a sub-committee of the Commission based the Findings, from the Christian viewpoint, which are printed at the conclusion of the book.

Another volume will be required for the supporting reports and exhibits by the staff of field investigators: George Soule, David J. Saposs, Miss Marian D. Savage, M. Karl Wisehart, and Robert Littell. Heber Blankenhorn had charge of the field work and later acted as Secretary to the Commission.

The principal sub-reports, frequently quoted in this Summary and awaiting full publication, deal with the following topics:

Civil Liberties.

Welfare Work, Pensions, Etc.

Discharges for Unionism.

The Press and the Strike.

The Pulpit and the Strike.

The Strike in Johnstown.

The Strike in Bethlehem.

Family Budgets and Living Conditions.

Intellectual Environment of Immigrants.

Rank and File View.

Under-cover Men.

History of the National Committee.

The Steel Corporation's Labor Policy.

The Negro in the Steel Industry.