

JOHN W. DAVIS ACTED AGAINST W. VA. MINERS

Demo Nominee Helped Jail Organizers

By MAX SHACHTMAN

John W. Davis, presidential candidate of the democratic party, did not defend "Mother" Jones and other organizers for the United Mine Workers of America when they were on trial for contempt of court, having violated an injunction which attempted to prevent the unionization of West Virginia miners.

Not only did John W. Davis not defend the miners' union's representatives, but he was instrumental in the sentencing to jail of Thomas Haggerty, Thomas Burke, Bernard Rice, William Morgan, Edward McKay, and the prosecution of Mary "Mother" Jones!

These facts, directly contradicting the inspired statements of Democratic spokesmen, were brought to light here by the discovery of a file of official papers of the United States court for the Northern District of West Virginia.

In July, 1902, the Clarksburg Fuel Company, a powerful corporation owning scores of mines in West Virginia, was granted an injunction by Judge J. J. Jackson, of the circuit federal bench, restraining Haggerty, Burke, Rice, Morgan, McKay, "Mother" Jones, and others from interfering with the employes or property of the company. This injunction was an attempt to prevent the organizers of the mine workers' union from mingling with the miners near Fairmont and Morgantown in order to get them into the weak union.

The counsel for the coal operators included A. W. Davis, of the firm of Davis and Davis.

Davis Does His Stuff.

The suit against the organizers was brought in the name of the trustee for the bondholders of the Clarksburg Fuel Co., the Guarantee Trust Company. John W. Davis, together with his papa, John J. Davis, were the attorneys for the railroad which is now a part of the Baltimore & Ohio system, called a "short line," running between Martinsville and Clarksburg. This road hauled practically nothing but coal and was controlled by the coal mine owners. It is this gang that retained the Davises, father and son, together with other members of the firm, to institute the injunction proceeding against the union.

When the U. M. W. of A. organizers were arrested for violating the vicious injunction, it was not John W. Davis that appeared to defend them, as the inspired story goes, but V. B. Archer, John J. Coff, Charles D. Johnson, Henry M. Russell and A. G. Fickelsen. Appearing on the court orders against the unionists, however, was the name of the firm of Davis & Davis.

Servile to Coal Operators.

When the men were sentenced, and the case appealed from Judge Jackson's court to that of Judge Nathan Goff of Clarksburg, W. Va., Goff upheld the decision of his confrere and ordered the imprisonment of the defendants. Here, John W. Davis personally appeared on the behalf of the Clarksburg Fuel Co., run by the Guarantee Trust Co., in which J. P. Morgan interests are now heavily concerned. His life of service to capital, and to the House of Morgan began at an early date.

John W. Davis, who now claims that he was instrumental in keeping "Mother" Jones and Eugene Debs out of prison, was the man who appeared against the old mine workers organizer and did all in his power to keep the coal diggers from organizing to better their conditions of life, to increase their wages and shorten their hours of labor.

In Black and White.

The proof of these statements can be found in "The Federal Reporter," which gives opinions rendered by American judges on important cases. All the facts of this famous case are contained in volume 116, on page 510, under the head of: United States ex. rel. Guarantee Trust Co. of New York, trustee, against Thomas Haggerty, "Mother" Jones and others. John W. Davis, A. B. Fleming, W. S. Meredith, E. F. Hartley and Reese Blizzard, district attorney, are given as counsel for the prosecution.

The lawyers previously mentioned are given as counsel for the defense.