

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY FEBRUARY 13



**On February 13, 1913, labor leader Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was arrested in Charleston for inciting to riot and conspiracy.**

**CSO: SS.8.9, SS.8.24, ELA.8.1, ELA.8.31, ELA.8.32**

**Investigate the Document: (Logan Coal Operators Association, Ms90-82; Charleston Gazette, February 14, 1913)**

#### Document 1

1. Who do you think was supposed to see this poster?
2. What is the main idea of the poster?
3. Where was Mother Jones being advertised to speak?

#### Document 2

Read the following speech from Mother Jones and answer the following:

4. What was Mother Jones trying to accomplish?
5. Who was the audience?
6. What attitude did the speech convey? Cite a passage to support your response.
7. How do you think the audience reacted to Mother Jones' speech? Cite a specific example from the speech to support your response.

**Document 3**

8. Who was Mother Jones accompanied by during her train ride from Smithers to Charleston? What happened upon her arrival to Charleston?
  
9. How did the miners feel about Mother Jones? Why did the authorities want to keep her arrest quiet?

**Think Critically:** Cite local and national events in which Mother Jones played a major role. What was life like in coal towns in West Virginia during the early-twentieth century? What were three issues facing unionization efforts throughout the West Virginia coalfields? Using your own words, describe Mother Jones' impact on the West Virginia Mine Wars and labor issues plaguing West Virginia miners.

# Mother Jones!

Known in Every Mining Town in the United States as the Great Fighter For Miners' Freedom, will Speak at

**MATEWAN, W. VA.**

**MONDAY NIGHT,  
JUNE 21st, AT 7 O'CLOCK**

THIS IS A BIG

# Mass Meeting!

**For All Mine Workers On  
TUG RIVER. ATTEND**

**And Hear Her Great Message.  
U. M. W. OF A. DISTRICT NO. 17.**



Part of "Member" Jones' Speech  
at Williams, W. Va.

It doesn't make much difference what we are called; it is what we do that tells. It is how much we use the brain that nature gave us. Today you have closed the war in Europe, so they say. And remember, this war was not a ~~big~~ psychological movement of the system. There is no getting away from that. It was not brought on by the Kaiser; it was not brought on by President Wilson, nor by Hianxá Lloyd-George, or any of that crew. It was conditions. Revolution forced it, because men don't think. Now, this war, you were told, was a war for democracy. You went abroad to clean up the Kaiser. You made twenty-four multi-millionaires during that war besides those you had before, and for every millionaire, every high-class burglar that you made, you killed three Americans. Their bones are bleaching on the soil of Flanders. Now, then, the boys have come home, and they are trying to hypnotize them. But you can't do it. \* \* \* \* \*

Today you can see the unrest, not in America, not in Mexico,-- it is all over the world. You don't get it because your papers are not permitted to convey it to you. What is the cause of this unrest? That is the question. What caused the uprising in Seattle? What caused the uprising of the railroad men all at once? What caused the uprising of the miners when the court issued the injunction? For a month they didn't go to work and dig any coal. But what was the cause? Because there is a new conception of human rights entering the brain of ~~man~~ man. The Governor may not see it, the Mayor may not see it. Their thoughts are in an old channel. But the man who sits on the tower knows before the thunder clap comes there must be a clash of clouds, and



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he sees the clouds clashing and gathering and he warns that the storm will break. So it is with us, my friends. The terrible Bolsheviki, or I.W.W's or Reds can't stop it. (Applause) Deportation won't stop it. It is the new era, the new manhood and womanhood coming to life, my friends.

Has deporting them over to Russia stopped the agitation? Not at all. It has not stopped it. Here the other day over in England they were loading a lot of ammunition on a ship to go over to Poland and after a while the fellows found out that stuff was going over to Poland for the Bolshevists. They took everything in off the ship. They said "Go to hell; we are not going to furnish that". You don't get that in the papers. That wouldn't do for the American working man to get that in his skull. No, that is dangerous. The miners said "We are not going to dig any coal; they can't run the ship without coal." So they didn't ~~xxxxxxx~~ dig any, and they didn't get the stuff. Do you see the game? \* \* \* \* Over in Portugal they all went on a strike against the methods of Parliament over there. They are striking everywhere. They are striking over there in Ireland, and the Irish are raising Hell in America, too. (Laughter and applause.) You see, it is a new fever, my friends, that is brought on. Men have come home to America from the war, and they have been told "Let's clean up the Kaiser in German and we will have democracy." Well, they came home. They didn't find any democracy, but an increased autocracy at home. Therefore they have lined up and they are giving us the signals, the railroad men, the miners and all around. Now we are after the robbers and the Kaisers at home. There is the whole of it all in a nut-shell. Industrial



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Keiserism has seen its day. They know it. You read after Schwabe, the great steel ~~magnate~~ magnate, what he says. Them fellows are begging to notice. They know they are doomed. But they are going to give us a fight, and if they want to we are going to give them a fight, and we know how to raise Hell as well as they do. (Applause.) \* \* \* \* They own the judges, but ~~by~~ bye and bye we will be the judges, and we will put them on the scrap pile.

(Referring to work in Homestead, Pa.) I want to say there wasn't a YMCA, therewasn't a minister, there wasn't social settlement worker that took a hand to make conditions better for those workers. I am talking the truth. Why don't you ministers go out and preach as Christ did? You are afraid of the high-class burglars, and there are many. You are gambling in Christ's philosophy, but you are not carrying out Christ's doctrine, and I defy you to tell me so. How many of your ministers came with us in Cabin Creek, when we cleaned out the professional murderers? There wasn't one of them; not one of them. But one went up to Washington and asked the Immigration minister to take down the bars so "I can bring in southern Italians." What do you think of that? He was working for Jesus -- and if Jesus had ever let the bars down there would have been Hell. \* \* \* Twenty years ago I was at Pocahontas. We held a meeting. We were making a move. Now, don't blame the Governor; don't blame the state officials; don't be forever charging up the Governmant with the State officials. You yourselves are men of honor, high-principled men, and have stood and seen yourselves robbed. Of every ~~cent~~ ton of coal so much was taken out and professional murderers were hired to keep you in sub-



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jection, and you paid for it. Damn you, you are not fit to live under the flag. You took the food from off the table of the child. You paid professional murderers with that money you were robbed of, and then you never said a word. Not a single word out of you. You stood there like a lot of cowards going along chewing some scab tobacco, (Applause) and you have let yourselves be robbed, by the mine owners. And why shouldn't he rob you? He has the right to do it if you let him do it. He is not in business for fun. He doesn't go into the mining business for fun. He goes in there to make all he can out of it, and no matter how he makes it he is going to do it if he can. And you let him do it, and then you go about shaking your rotten head, not a thing inside. You call yourselves Americans. Let me tell you America need not feel proud of you.

We cleaned them up in Kanawha, didn't we? When I went into the Kanawha River in 1900 these miners were working 14 hours a day; they got forty cents for every ton of coal. That is all they got. The children were in the mines; they saw no school; they never entered the school, etc. Today you are turning this great nation over to a lot of dollar thieves, and you will be worse than the slaves of Ancient Rome if you do not wake up. \* \* \* \*

Wasn't the first emigrant that landed on our shore an agitator? Didn't Columbus agitate to get the money from the people of Spain; didn't he agitate to get the crew and cross the ocean and discover America for you and me. Wasn't Washington an agitator? Didn't the Mayflower bring over a ship full of agitators? Didn't we build a monument to them down there in Massachusetts? (At this point the speaker told of a conversation with a capitalist, but the words



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were not intelligible, but the speaker said, "Jesus was an agitator, Mr. Manager. What in the Hell did you hang him for if he didn't hurt your pockets?" He never made a reply. He went away. He was manager of the steel works; he was the banker; he was the mayor; he was the judge; he was chairman of the city counsel. Just think of that in America." And he had a stomach on him four miles long and two miles wide. (Laughter.) \* \* \*

(After ~~xxxxxxx~~ women in Utah and ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Colorado having the right to vote, and condition there) I don't belong to the women's clubs nor your social settlement gang. I belong to the fighting army of the working class that is going to break those canes, and by God, we have got to do it. \* \* \* \*

We have the greatest nation in the world, but we have got a lot to do. You fellows have stood here; you have had gun men; you make the guns; they take them and they shoot you. You bring out the stuff to make the guns and go into the shops and make them, and when you get them made the other fellow takes them and hires professional murderers to keep you subdued. That is modern Christianity! \* \* \* I don't believe in asking the Governor for anything. He has got enough to do. The fight is yours and not the Governor's, and nobody has any respect for a beggar. You say "We will see what the Governor can do" and the poor fellow can't sleep at nights. Damn you, why don't you Americans put a stop to this thing, clean up your rotten gunmen, put them out of business; let them go over to the Kaiser, or King George the Third, or some of those people that need them? We don't need them in America. \* \* \* \*

I want to say to my friends, the newspaper men, this is not the time to throw poison. This is the time to sow harmony. If you



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are an American don't sow poison today in your press. \* \* \* I want to say to you newspaper men "Arise like a man. Don't bother about the dollars the companies give you. If you can't make a living out of the paper go out and work. Carry to your ~~grave~~ grave a sense of honor."

(After stating she understood there was present a Superintendent who "had something on her" the speaker said: "Throw out your ~~slime~~, now. I don't live in industrial slavery, and by the God that reigns above I will fight you and every damned robber in America.\* \* \* \*

I want to say to you men here, Don't you let one of them professional murderers stay in this country. Get them out. \* \* \* \*

(Evidently referring to Logan County) During the war you were paying for twenty five deputy sheriffs to keep Mother Jones out, and you said to the Government's representatives that the only way she could come it was over that hill, she could cut the wires and get in before you knew it. I want to say to the robbers of Logan that Mother Jones is going in, and she is not going to cut the wires, but she will cut hell out of you. We are going to clean up West Virginia. We are going to put her on the map in Washington as the leading state of civilization and Americanism, and we are going to take the flag that was bought by blood away from the blood-sucking robbers and murderers and we are going to raise it and live under the flag. We are going to take something out of your damned skulls and put something inside. Etc. \* \* \* \*

There are four or five or six hundred man here. You are going to organize. Don't be afraid of anybody. Get a move on



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you. I am not going out of West Virginia, now, until I organize every working man in it. I am going to stay with you, and then when I get you all organized we are going to have a general dinner and we are going to invite the general manager to eat with us. (Applause.) \* \* \* \* I am coming back to this Norfolk & Western, and I am going into Logan. I am not going to take any guns. I am going in there with the American flag; that is my banner, and no rotten robber or gunman can meddle with me, because I will just raise Hell withhim. (Applause.)



### Was Taken Along In a Taxi To Officers' Headquarters At Ruffner Hotel

### AND LATER TAKEN ON TRAIN TO PRATT

### Where She Will Be Given A Trial Before Commission For Alleged Rioting

Mrs. Mary Jones, better known throughout the coal fields of West Virginia and other mining states as "Mother" Jones, the angel of the miners, was arrested in this city yesterday afternoon a short time after she alighted from a Kanawha & Michigan passenger train from the south shortly after 3 o'clock.

The arrest was made by Special Officers Dan W. Cunningham, Howard C. Smith and Rufus Clendennis, who had been informed that the aged agitator would arrive in Charleston yesterday afternoon.

She boarded the train at Smithers, about 30 miles east of here, and was accompanied to the city by a committee of miners from that section, whom it is believed intended to call upon the governor relative to the strike trouble in the Kanawha Valley.

The party was not interfered with when they alighted from the train, but while they were walking toward the business section of the city, near the corner of Washington and Broad streets, the officers, who had been waiting there for some time accosted the party, and exhibiting a warrant informed Mother Jones that she was under arrest. The other members of the party were permitted to go along their way.

Mrs. Jones failed to show the slightest tendency of resistance, and a taxicab which was being driven from the depot toward town was hailed, and she was taken to the Hotel Ruffner in company with the officers of the law.

The party remained at the hotel until nearly time for the arrival of C. & O. train No. 8, which was a few minutes late yesterday, when she was escorted to the depot on the South Side. It required two taxicabs to convey the party which was composed of the three officers, Mother Jones and Paul Paulson, to the depot. The latter is a member of a labor organization in Wyoming, and was arrested about the same time as Mother Jones in connection with the strike trouble. It is said that he has taken a part in the speeches that have been made at many places in the county during the past few days in which it is declared by many that riot was incited on the part of the miners.

Mother Jones and Mr. Paulson were taken to Pratt, near the junction of Paint Creek, on train No. 8, where they were placed in charge of the military authorities. They are now confined in the station house at Pratt with the crowd of strikers who have been arrested this week for alleged rioting, and will later be arraigned before the military commission appointed by Governor Glasscock, which is now sitting as a martial court.

The arrest of Mother Jones, despite the fact that the officers made an effort to keep it quiet, caused great excitement in Charleston, and was the source of much comment.

She was escorted from the parlor of the Ruffner Hotel through a side-door into a waiting taxicab, in which she and the officers remained at the C. & O. station awaiting the arrival of the train.

Mother Jones returned to West Virginia Sunday from the East, where she has spent several weeks. She has been making her headquarters in Charleston since her return, having engaged a room at the Fleetwood Hotel.

During the early part of the week, previous to the recent riot, it is said, she delivered speeches in the strike zone. She also addressed a mass meeting of the miners at Smithers, Wednesday, and made another speech in that section yesterday, before leaving for Charleston where her arrest was made.

Because of the deep respect which the miners have for the advocate of their cause, it is the opinion of many that the arrest of Mother Jones and her consequent confinement may be the instigation of another outbreak of violence among the striking miners.

There was no sign of a demonstration at Pratt upon the arrival of the train there last night, however.