

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY
DECEMBER 24TYLER WINDOW GLASS
COMPANY MUDDLE

A labor strike at the Tyler Window Glass Company in Sistersville ended on December 24, 1903.

CSO: SS.8.7, SS.8.8, SS.8.24, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (*Sistersville Daily Oil Review*, November 25, 1903)

1. The workers in the news article are striking against what company?
2. Why are the workers striking?
3. How many months out of the year was the glass factory supposed to operate?

Think Critically: What is a strike? What impact would a strike have on the company? Would striking also have an impact on the larger community? Do you think the workers in the article should strike? What sentiment does the article appear to have towards the strike?

Sistersville

Daily Oil Review

School Books
at
McCoy's
Book Store

VOL. IX, NO. 278. SISTERSVILLE, W. VA., WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 25 1903 ONE CENT A COPY

School Books
at
McCoy's
Book Store

WINDOW GLASS MEN STRIKE

The blowers, gatherers, snappers and cutters at the Tyler Window Glass company went out on a strike this morning on their own motion and without orders from the officers of the Glass unions. The trouble is over a new wage scale the men want the company to sign. It is well known when Eph Wells made a deed to the company for the land on which the glass plant is built, that the company was to operate the plant ten months in a year. The men employed in the plant subscribed for sixteen thousand dollars worth of the stock of the company of which amount they have paid about one half. They were to pay for this stock by having deducted from their wages each month a certain per cent of their earnings to pay for the stock they had bought. The new wage scale provides that all the wages are to be paid to the men and not a penny is to be deducted for stock. This is directly opposite to what was agreed to and the company declined most emphatically to change their original

contract. Another clause in the wage scale objected to is that the plant is only to run until May 28th 1904. This is less than a ten months run and the company having agreed with Mr. Wells to run ten months if possible and propose to carry out this contract if its possible to be done. This morning the men refused to work, the glass in the pots was balled out and the factory closed. The men are out on a strike and the managers propose to stand by their original contracts if the plant rots. We understand the men offer subterfuges by which they can get around these two objectionable clauses in the wage scale but the managers say they have made fair and square contracts, propose to carry them out and do not intend to agree to do one thing and do another. There is very little money in the business now and we are sorry the strike is on. The work ingmen have everything to lose while the other stockholders have their other occupations and the factory standing idle makes substantially no difference at all to them. Its certainly a silly move