

NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS 1888

Seattle P.I.

August 21, 1888

Miners in Roslyn went on strike in early Aug. demanding an 8 hour work day.

Five trains loaded with Negroes and U.S. Deputies numbering several hundred were brought in amongst jeers to work. They were intended to work longer hours at less pay.

There was no violence when the Negroes were unloaded, but it was expected later.

Seattle P.I.

August 23, 1888

Strikers went to Cle Elem to arm themselves. They are still working and no violence is expected until the Negroes are put to work.

Feeling is against the deputies and with the miners.

Seattle P.I.

August 24, 1888

The mines at Roslyn were closed when Northern Pacific discovered coal on land homesteaded by Mr. Ross.

The white miners were upset that the black miners were coming.

Seattle P.I.

August 25, 1888

The coal company miners were arrested and put in the hands of the Kittitas County Sheriff.

Tacoma Daily Ledger

August 25, 1888

They arrested some of the black coal miners on their way to Roslyn.

Tacoma Daily Ledger

August 28, 1888

The petition of less hours and more pay was put to vote. It was used as a campaign promise by politicians.

Tacoma Daily Ledger

August 28, 1888

Shooting broke out, but no one was seriously hurt.

Seattle P.I.

August 29, 1888

Gov. Semple leaves for Cle Elum to be present at the hearing of the guards at Roslyn.

Tacoma Daily Ledger

August 30, 1888

Arrested men released, Strike settled. Black miners given opportunity to go back east if they wanted.

Tacoma Daily News

August 31, 1888

The miners petitioned Gov. Semple to help them get benefits he didn't have the power to give i.e. better schooling, an 8 hour day, more money (since the cost of living was higher than in Puget Sound mines). They also wanted more protection in mine no. 3.

Seattle Press

August 31, 1888

It was the opinion of some journalists that the railroad company was just importing votes in their own favor when they brought in black labor. They also felt the white labor was being treated unfairly and forced to vote for the company by a threat to their jobs.

300 Negroes were brought in from Brierwood, Ill. They left there at midnight.

Seattle P.I.

August 31, 1888

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Tacoma Daily Ledger

September 1, 1888

The miners went back to work with the following pay conditions:

A) \$3.00 for 8 hours work

or

B) \$1.25 per ton of room coal and \$2.50 per ton of entry coal up to a maximum of \$3.50 per day. Miners working on plan B could meet this allotment from 3p.m. to 7 p.m.

Seattle P.I.

September 4, 1888

Black miners went to work today. Trains are running with deputies. There was no violence but the white miners cursed the blacks every chance they got.

Seattle P.I.

September 7, 1888

White miners threaten to strike again. Black miners continue to work at mine no. 3 without violence.

Seattle Press

September 7, 1888

The railroad company refused to recognize any labor union, either the Knights of Labor or the Miners Union. The unions reported that the blacks were being used to break the unions up.

Many of the miners (200) were married in the process of buying homes.

Seattle P.I.

September 9, 1888

The miners went on strike again closing mines and all but mail trains down. The railroad company is expected to import more blacks.

Seattle P.I.

September 16, 1888

The miners petition to get their jobs back as winter is coming and they have families to support. The company won't open the mines again unless all their terms are met. Miners are anxious for settlement and have agreed to 10¢ per ton reduction.