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but she knew she ought not to do it.
The priest thought for some mo-
ments before he answered her. He

Young plan, the 30 annexes prom-
ised will give financial experts some
good solid reading for the long win-
ter evenings. Sometimes the most
toothsome kernels are in the an-
nexes to a financial document, but
the shell is apt to be tough.

Former Secretary of State Kel-
logg, in his address at the unveil-
ing of a bust of James J. Hill at St
Paul Monday, reminded his hearers
that "we have the same sound finan-
cial and industrial system" as be-
fore the depression. Whether or not
he put the accent on the "sound" is
not reported.

The explanation that the Danish
court ball is to be canceled "to set
example in depression" will strike
the dressmakers of Copenhagen as
even more true than it was meant
to be.

Whatever may happen to Chin-
chow, it is sure of bigger type on
the map than it used to have, and
we may yet see a Chinchow chop
suey establishment.

IN KENTUCKY COAL FIELDS

Dreiser Committee's Report at Boston Meeting

To the Editor of The Republican:—
A vivid and startling picture of con-
ditions in the Kentucky coal fields was
given at Ford hall, Boston, the other
night, by members of Theodore
Dreiser's committee, who lately went
to Kentucky to investigate, at serious
personal risk. After listening to what
they saw and heard, it is easy to
understand why the mine owners have
been so averse to investigation. One
of the investigators was arrested, im-
prisoned, and charged with criminal
syndicalism for having in his pocket
a copy of the Survey-Graphic.

Rev George L. Paine presided at
the meeting, and the speakers in-
cluded John Dos Passos, Arnold John-
son, a student from the Union Theo-
logical seminary, and Adelaide Walker,
besides a miner, and "Aunt Molly
Jackson," a miner's wife, with a worn
face but a sweet voice, who sang
songs of her own composition.

The investigators said that flour
selling for 43 cents at other stores
cost \$1.10 at the company stores, and

plon. No one has much time to think
about second place. It is common-
place political sense to see that Joseph
the miners have to trade at the com-
pany stores or be fired. Adelaide
Walker described a typical village
where the shacks rented to the miners
had large holes in roofs and walls. The
only weather-tight building in the
village was the barn where the man-
ager of the mine stabled his horses
and cows.

The investigators agreed that the
miners were not "poor white trash,"
but were fine, energetic people, of
American revolutionary stock. They
testified courageously before the in-
vestigating committee, though they
know that they would suffer for it.
Eight of them were arrested next
day on the charge of "criminal syndi-
calism."

All the machinery of justice is
under the control of the coal com-
panies, and is used without scruple
to oppress the miners; and when they
strike against intolerable conditions
it is attributed to Moscow. "I was
born in old Kentucky, I'm Kentucky
born and bred; but when I joined the
union, they called me a Russian red!"
sang Aunt Molly Jackson.

The mine-owners themselves flout
the law. A Kentucky statute requires
that miners be allowed to have a
check weighman, at their own ex-
pense, to watch the weighing of the
coal; but the mine-owners will not
permit this, and the miners believe
they are systematically cheated as to
the weight. They have to buy the
lumber used to prop up the roof of
the mine; and they get no pay for
putting it up, nor for digging through
the great beds of slate that interrupt
the veins of coal.

Pellagra and "flux" are rampant,
due to semi-starvation. When the in-
vestigators asked the price of milk,
"a horrible laugh" went up from the
whole group of miners' wives. Milk
is not looked upon as a food, but as
a medicine. If a child is desperately
ill, a great effort is made to get a
little milk for it. Otherwise the chil-
dren never taste milk.

One relief kitchen has been dynam-
ited; two men in charge of another
were murdered in cold blood, and the
murderers go unpunished.

"A miner gets only 28 cents for
digging a ton of coal, and we have to
pay \$16 for it," remarked an indignant
citizen after the close of the meeting.

This meeting was arranged by the
Boston branch of the "Committee to
Aid Striking Miners Fighting Starva-
tion." Its treasurer is Mrs Jessica
Henderson, Room 331, 11 Beacon
street.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL.
Boston, December 21, 1931.

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