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climates. In there they have started various plantations, cotton, tea, rice, etc.--all new undertakings.

There are salt mines. There is one of the principal governments incomes. The government has a monopoly on that. With these miners, and with the miners of the copper mines we had some valuable contacts when I left.

Question: How many employed in the copper mines?

Answer: No one knows except the goddam company. Someone told me they have about 4,000. It is totally in the wilderness--there is no road, only the mountain road. You can either travel across the mountain by this, or by the river in a motor boat, which they use only for the officials. For instance, I could not venture in that territory. You have to have special permit from the company. It must be one that is workman who travels across the mountains, under pretense that he is going to work. Thus some of the workers who work there occasionally come down to Ruzo Ventura where we have a little group.

Then there are the salt mines. This is a monopoly of the government, and from this they get their principal income. Salt is very high priced in Colombia. With the salt miners we have ~~many~~ some very good contacts. When I left we were making an effort to organize the salt miners, we had them organized in one place. We had 150 in a salt miners union.

Most of these workers are new proletarians. Not all, but most of them,--they come and go, because this work is very hard. The salt miners have a terrible work because there is absolutely no protection at all. Every week a couple dozen fall into the goddam place and they are boiled to death. They melt the salt by heat and in the work work they have to run upon the sliding salt and very often they just fall in, and it is finished,--even their bones get melted away. Wages are miserable and very low. Hours are very long and of course there are many accidents at the end of these long hours of work. This is the kind of work where one can keep control of himself for no longer than six hours. These workers of course receive our organizers very well, and there was a spontaneous strike. I don't know what came out of that strike.

Amongst the miners there are old proletarians, although the majority are types that come and go from the plantations all of these workers have peasant psychology.

Then you have the light industry. Columbia is one of the most backward countries in light industry. There is very little light industry. What I mentioned before,--bananas, copper, mining and of course oil. This is all controlled by foreign companies, and many of the most profitable coffee plantations as well. Later on you will see more to what extent Columbia is really controlled by foreign capital. In light industry - there is hardly any textile, a few plants, but most of the light industry is cigarettes and cigars. Also in agricultural laborers and ardentieries.

To go back to light industry. There are very small plants,-- that is another characteristic. There is not one plant in the whole goddam country which has more than 500 workers. Most of them employ between 50 to 100 or 150 and sometimes up to 300 workers. They are all small factories, and the concentration of the proletariat is very feeble. In all the cities there predominates the petty bourgeoisie and artisans and the workers are relatively few and not concentrated in big places. On the other hand the workers concentrated on big places like the United Fruit Co. that takes in a territory like Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island all together --in such places work 7 to 8 thousand people, but in a territory like that it is not so easy to organize.

Then there is transportation. Columbia is very badly provided with transportation, either with railroads or with roads/ There is just a system of railways most of which are separate