



Western Federation of Miners 1905 and Iron Range Strikes

Before 1907, Iron Range miners had struck often, but their strikes were small and spontaneous. Many Mesabi Range miners came from Finland, where socialist and labor movements were well established. Because of this, the Mesabi Range had more labor strife than any other area on the Iron Range.

In 1905, Finnish socialists on the Mesabi Range invited the Western Federation of Miners (WFM) to organize in Minnesota. The WFM had formed in 1893, in reaction to a violent strike in Idaho. More prominent unions such as the American Federation of Labor were not interested in organizing unskilled laborers like miners and lumberjacks. **

<http://www.nps.gov/kewe/historyculture/images/WFM-pinback.gif>

** <http://www.mnopedia.org/event/mesabi-range-strike-1907>

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