

MINE FIRE RAGES FOR SIXTY YEARS.

Hundreds of Dollars Spent and Many Schemes Tried, But All Fail.

Just think that while there is a coal miners' strike on, and a shortage of coal is developing, there is a fire in one of the largest mines of this continent, consuming coal by the million tons.

Occasionally some one with a vivid imagination has tried to picture what a fire in a great coal mine would be like, with immense heat and fumes being generated through crater mouths, but the nearest he usually came is a reproduction of a volcano effect.

However, hot as may be the bowels of the earth in this particular coal mine, the fire is not all spectacular in results. It has plodded its weary way for nearly sixty years, and is going strongly yet like a lusty infant. This burning coal mine is between Summit Hill, one of the oldest towns of Carbon county, Pennsylvania, and Coaldale, 129 miles from New York.

Engineers have fought the fire in vain for years, and it seems as if it will go on and on until one of the richest coal deposits in the world is turned to dead cinders.

Nothing in the wrecking and devastating of the surface of northern France could surpass the great desolation being caused by this fire.

The fire started on a February morning, in 1859. A miner entering slope number one of the Lehigh Coal company's mine stopped to warm his chilled fingers at a fire burning in a heap of rubbish. That fire ignited the coal, and before it was discovered had made great headway. This pit was in the first coal mine to be opened, and the first pit to be dug. The slope was sunk in 1847, on the side of the mammoth vein, which was fifty feet thick and dipping at an angle of twenty-five degrees.

Officials of the mine insist that the fire was of incendiary origin, but whatever the cause, they have been unremitting in their efforts to stop the fire. The latest scheme is that of building a great tunnel ahead of where it is progressing, thus cutting off the connection. The same idea is followed in limiting the area of a forest fire.

In 1860, the year after the fire started, it was decided to make a cut at a point 3500 feet, or half a mile, from the place where the fire was, but this did not stop it. In 1861 the company strove to drive an open cut into the blazing main. Eight thousand dollars were spent. Next year \$13,000 were spent, the following year \$18,000, and similar sums in other years.

In 1865 the fight was abandoned. The fire seemed to be making no progress in 1866 and in 1867 seemed to be dying out.

In 1883 what is known as the Davies slope was sunk by a man named Davies. In 1895 the eastern gangway of this cut was extended to a point where it broke into a fire that had been smouldering all these years. The opening gave a vent, and allowed a draught to the fire, and it blazed up rapidly. The shaft and headings were sealed, water was pumped from a mile distant in 10 and 12 inch pipes, holes were drilled directly over the fire, and the water poured in. But the pump could not be used much for months, owing to a drought, and culm was shipped in and flushed into the burning area through these holes.

In 1895 a plan was adopted to fill the holes entirely with culm, to shut off the air and smother the fire. Culm is used generally to fill up the slopes of anthracite mines, replacing the millions of tons taken out. But in 1909 the company found the fire still making headway and spreading rapidly to the west. Pumps of larger capacity were provided, and another lake or two was poured in.

But it was then winter, and the culm froze in the transit of the cars on which it was loaded, and two plants had to be erected to provide hot water to thaw the culm. In 1901 fifty-seven 6-inch holes were drilled a combined length of 6414 feet and 91,000 tons of culm were flushed into the old workings. The following year twenty-two holes were drilled and in 1903 fifty-eight 6-inch holes. In this year 28,000 tons of culm were flushed into the burning area. Drilling and flushing continued until 1908, when 708 holes had been drilled.

But the filling up of the open spaces did not stop the fire. It had advanced to within 100 feet of number two slope, the main outlet, and was moving at an alarming rate. Millions of tons were being consumed, and the Lansford basin, another great body of coal, was being approached. At the eastrop the sandstone above the vein was red hot for a distance of thirty feet from the vein, which was a seething mass. More big schemes to get water, and cut off the fire by new tunnels were developed, and by December, 1909, \$470,000 had been spent. But as the fire still spread a railroad was constructed to the outcrop, and the vein was flushed full of culm to block it entirely at this point.

Between 1912 and 1915, another great open cut was made, six feet wide, through the whole great mass of coal, and this was filled with clay and water. Immense steam shovels were at work, and millions of tons were taken out. In August, 1915, steam was discovered coming out of the far side of the clay and water barrier, and the company drilled there. The temperature ranged from 60 to 240 degrees. Water was put into the drill holes at a rate of 160 gallons a minute, and thirty-nine days were occupied with flooding operations. Altogether, about 150,000,000 gallons of water have been pumped into the mine. So far, the fire seemingly has not broken through the great clay barrier, and it is planned to build a brick screen in it, if necessary to allow of removing the coal on the off side. But the fire is still there, and the officials wonder if their grandchildren will still be fighting it. —Toronto Mail and Empire.

SELECTING AN INCUBATOR. TYPES FOUND ON THE MARKET.

When only a small number of hens are kept it is doubtful whether an incubator is a profitable investment, but if two or three small poultry flocks owners living near each other buy and use one co-operatively, it doubtless would be. Especially is this true if the hens kept are of a non-sitting breed like the White Leghorn. Even hens that come from a type supposed to be good sitters, may prove notorious about it some years. Being feminine, they doubtless have a right to be temperamental, but the exercise of that right is likely to upset the plans of their owners, and an incubator at such times comes in very handy.

It often pays with hens that brood late to use a machine for incubation and then turn the chicks over to a broody hen. Hens that have been broody for four or five days are usually willing to mother incubator chicks especially if two or three eggs are placed under her and allowed to hatch there, and the poultryman is spared the trouble of owning or operating a brooder.

There are many different types of incubators on the market, but they may all be roughly classified as: Hot-air, hot-water, or very large machines. Both "moisture" (those providing means of adding moisture to the air of the machine) and "non-moisture" incubators (those which it is claimed require no added moisture) are made in the different styles of hot-air and hot-water machines. Most of the small machines are heated by burning kerosene oil or gas, while the majority of the very large machines use a coal stove for supplying heat. Electricity is also used for heating both in the small and very large machines.

Both the hot-air and the hot-water type of incubator have been used successfully throughout the country. The large machines are used both in the day-old chick business and in custom hatching. Their capacity varies from 1,500 to 10,000 or more eggs. The machines are built in sections of about 2,000 eggs each, the size varying in different makes.

There are a large number of reliable makes manufactured in this country. Some kinds have become popular in certain sections because they have been advertised extensively in that locality rather than on account of adaptation to climatic considerations. Cheap machines are less reliable, require more attention, and wear out much quicker than higher priced incubators. As the value of the machines is small compared with the value of the eggs used during the normal life of an incubator, it is poor economy to purchase a machine which is not reliable. Whenever possible it is well to select an incubator which is giving good satisfaction in your neighborhood, so that you may have the benefit of the experience of the other operators in your section.

Circumstances must govern to a large extent the size of a machine to buy. It takes about as much time to care for a 60 as it does a 360 egg machine, so that it is advisable to get one of at least 150-egg capacity, although special conditions often exist which make the small machine valuable. A small machine is often used in connection with a larger one, placing all the eggs in the large machine after the first or second test. Incubators of 300 to 400 egg capacity are commonly used on those large farms which use individual lamp incubators. When an incubating capacity of less than 3,000 to 4,000 eggs is desired, individual incubators of the 50 to 400 size are generally used.

Many poultrymen believe that it pays to have an incubator capacity large enough to hatch the bulk of their stock in two or three batches, so that much time is saved in tending to the incubators and brooders, while the chickens are more even in size than those that are hatched when the incubating period extends over a longer time.

A fair estimate of incubator capacity for a poultry farm is an incubator space of one egg per hen, provided that about one-half of the flock is to be renewed yearly and no outside hatching is carried on. That is, if the flock numbers 200, a 200-egg incubator is about the right size. The larger machines cost less in proportion to their capacity than the smaller ones.

The Power of Sociability.

An Irish political candidate who felt sure that a certain elector was against him was surprised to have that elector call and announce that he would support him to the limit. "Whin the other day ye called at my place and stood by the pigsty and talked for half an hour, ye didn't budge me an inch," said his visitor. "But after ye had gone away, I got to thinkin' how ye reached yer hand over the rail and scratched the pig's back till he lay down wid the pleasure of it, I made up my mind that whin a man was so sociable as that wid a poor fellow creature, I wasn't the bhoys to vote agin him."

HUBLERSBURG.

Received too late for publication last week.

John McAuley, who spent the weekend with his mother at this place, has returned to Reading, where he is holding down a very good job.

Snow, Snow! Some real winter weather with the thermometer hovering around zero most of the time. Nice weather for the ice man.

Services are being held in the Reformed church every evening during the week, at 7:30 o'clock. Preparatory services Saturday afternoon, and Communion services Sunday morning at 1:30.

Last week the pupils in the grammar school got busy and solicited money to buy an organ for their room, and succeeded very nicely. They purchased the organ from Mrs. Sharp and on Monday noon Mr. Kerns hauled it to the school building, and now they can have plenty of music, with a piano in the High school room and an organ in the grammar room.

Don't forget the date, January 23rd, when the Woman's Missionary society of the Reformed church will hold a poverty social, at the Hubler hotel. An admission fee of ten cents will be asked and that entitles every one to a free lunch, consisting of hot coffee, sandwiches, etc. There will also be a short program consisting of comic recitations, dialogues and music. Everybody must be dressed in ragged clothing, and any one dressed in good clothing must pay a fine of 10 cents. A premium will be given to the one making the most poverty-stricken appearance. Everybody welcome.

CENTRE HALL.

Received too late for publication last week. Ralph Henney went to Erie last week, where he secured a position.

Mrs. Ellen Stuart, of State College, visited her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Jacobs, several days this week.

John Ruble, who has been in a sanatorium at Hamburg, for the past month, died at that place on Tuesday.

The local High school has been closed for over a week, owing to the fact that Prof. Barges and family have been quarantined for diphtheria. Mrs. Barges, who had a very slight attack of the disease, has recovered sufficiently to be around.

AARONSBURG.

W. A. Guisewite is suffering with lumbago. However, it is hoped he may speedily recover.

Miss Ethel Frank, of Centre Hall, was the guest of Miss Irene Musser from Thursday until Friday.

Harry Walter, of Millmont, spent Sunday with his wife at the home of

her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Stover.

Mrs. John Goodman and little daughter have gone to Akron, Ohio, where they expect to remain for a short time.

Mrs. B. F. Stover has been ill the past week and is under the efficient care of Dr. C. S. Musser. It is hoped she may soon recover.

Charles Summers, of Williamsport, spent from Saturday until Tuesday with his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. John Wolfe.

Mrs. A. M. Bower and her daughters have gone to Youngstown, Ohio, for an indefinite stay with Mrs. Bower's other daughter, Mrs. Horace Stover.

Dried Fruits Enter List of Scarce Commodities.

There is a marked scarcity of dried fruits. The scarcity of raisins has been particularly acute, and prices have strengthened materially, nearly every grade having advanced.

The present scarcity of spot supplies is attributed by trade interests to heavy shipments made early in the season. Through the clearing up of the old crop last summer the 1919 crop came on a bare market. In normal years it has been customary for the Associated Raisin Co. to ship several thousand tons of raisins during August and September to take care of the fall business in the east. This year, however, there were no stocks left and, consequently, shipments had to be rushed East as soon as packing of the new crop began.

Best grades of apricots have also been closely sold up and stocks remaining in the local market are said to be insufficient to take care of the business offered by distributors. Quantities of the fruit have been taken for export.

Prunes share in the general firmness of the market and also are scarce. The larger sizes have been well cleared from first hands, the crop this season having consisted mainly of small sizes.

His Trouble.

"Jones married a widow with a ten-year old boy."
"I understand the marriage is not a happy one."
"No; it's a case of incompatibility between him and the boy."

Tit for Tat.

Mabel—Here comes Charlie Dubb up the walk. That boy gives me the shivers.
Marie—Why don't you give him the shake?

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that you buy your next Spring or Winter Suit and Overcoat

Now

It will mean a Big Saving

Fauble's

Every Empty GRO-ALL Sack in Your Barn Means Dollars in Your Pocket.

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Make your farming operations more efficient with GRO-ALL Fertilizers. Every atom of plant food becomes available under natural soil conditions. There is no waste. GRO-ALL Fertilizers are always in good mechanical condition—never hard or lumpy. This means labor saved for the farmer, and labor saved is money earned. Feed your land with liberal applications of GRO-ALL each year and harvest larger yields of improved quality.

Attention!

Every sack of GRO-ALL bears our trade mark—the Seal of Character. Look for it when you buy fertilizer.

Thirty-four years of continuous yearly growth is indicative of the high quality product and excellent service rendered

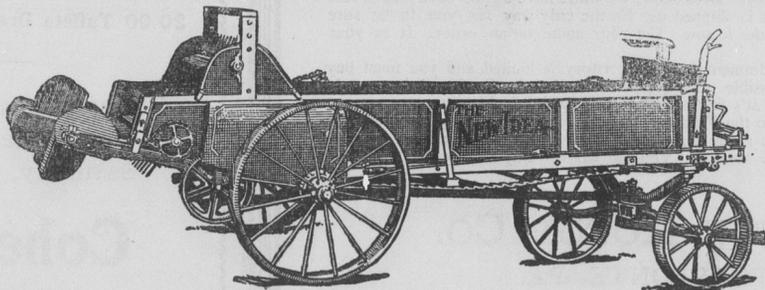


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BUILT like a wagon. Solid bottom bed with heavy cross pieces, and supported by full width of sides. Front and rear wheels track. Axles coupled together with angle steel reach; coupled short, dividing load between front and rear axle. Wide-tired wheels. No moving parts on rear axle. Axle not used as a bearing for gears to run on. Chain-Driven Exclusively. Positively not a worm or cog gear on the machine. No clutch. Operated by only two levers. The lightest, easiest running and most practical Spreader.

Just received a carload of Conklin Wagons. All sizes and for all purposes. 62-47 **Dubb's Implement and Seed Store.**

Do You Have a Bank Account?

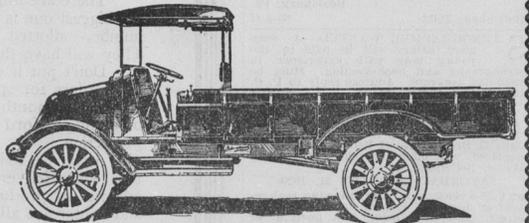
If you don't you are depriving yourself of the advantages that the splendid banking institutions of Centre County offer you.

Any one of them will open an account with you for what might appear to you as only a trifling deposit, because bankers know that small deposits often grow to become large ones, as people discover what saving means to them. There is a lot in that old song about a little bit added to what you've got makes a little bit more. And when you put a little bit in the bank invariably you commence to get interested in seeing it grow.

The Centre County Bank

at Bellefonte will be glad to open an account with you to prove how easy and beneficial to you it is to save.

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WILL DO ALL YOUR HAULING

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Big Truck for Heavy Loads

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