THE COLUMBIAN, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THE BIG COAL COMBINE.

How it Grinds at Both Ends and in the Middle.

industry is thus portrayed by the Minersville Free Press :

the anthracite industry, prepare only is at present. such reports as may be satisfactory to mine owners to reap a fair margin of cite coal mining trust. profit over and above wages and operating expenses.

Now, as a matter of general know ledge it would be interesting to know whether advances in the wholesale price of coal are followed by a proportionate advance in the wages of the mine employes. During the past summer about 50,000 miners and la borers throughout the anthracite region were restricted to less that half time work at the collieries. Under the low rate of wages they did not earn sufficient to provide their families with enough food-to say nothing about clothing and the other necessities of life.

The introduction and employment of the hordes of cheap laborers to replace intelligent labor in the collieries has from the first been part of a systematic plan carried into practical effect by the mine owners and railroad corporations to get coal produced at the very lowest possible cost. It is enough to assert the simple truth, viz : They have ground wages down to the starvation point, at the same time limited the output of coal to keep up the price to consumers. In this way we find that the present demoralization of the trade is not due to the excessive production, as metropolitan newspaper tell us, but to the fact that the policy of the anthracite combine and its purpose is to let mil lions of consumers freeze or burn cord wood, if they are unable to pay from \$7 to \$8 per ton for anthracite coal at retail, while the miners must be content to work half time and get out coal for 19 cents a ton, as they are doing in some of the mines at present.

It requires no argument to prove that restricting the output and exacting high prices from consumers is not for the purpose of paying high wages to mine workers. As a matter of fact, the mining and transportation companies have during the past few years imposed a most unnecessary and extortionate tariff on anthracite, in order to reap extravagant profits.

For instance, it is the tariff of from \$1.25 to \$2.10 which the railroads charge to carry a ton from the mines to Philadelphia that is the prime cause of limited consumption. Then there is another tariff of from 10 to 25 cents a ton which goes to the army of sales agents. Add to this the tariff of from 25 to 35 cents per ton royalty that the land owners are paid for every ton that is mined. In many cases the railroad companies are the land owners and mine owners, but all the same they pocket the royalty to swell the general dividends earned over and above operating expenses. Now, in all fairness, is it right that miners must risk life and limb and starve themselves and families while working half time to produce coal for 19 cents a ton, while at the same time the railroad companies who own and operate the mines are permitted to extort \$1.25 or \$2.00 to haul that same ton of coal to market less than 100 miles from the mines? Let our great metropolitan newspapers try to answer this question when they discuss causes that tend to demoralize the coal business.

salaries of \$30,000 a year to railroad presidents and from \$15.000 to \$25,000 to the army of vice presidents and general managers should be cut on the same proportion as the The true status of this protected wages of railroad and mine employes

Then if we had free competition between railroads at fair rates of It is generally known that the trade transportation, coal could be produc journals and special writers who furn ed and sold in far greater quantities, ish public information in regard to and sold at much lower prices than it

If such conditions prevailed the big mine owners, railroad companies and corporations could not afford to pay sales agents. As a consequence the millions of dollars of interest on mortpublic is continually mislead by these gages on coal lands that are lying idle untruthful statements showing that and undeveloped simply to strengthen the coal trade " is utterly demoraliz the monopoly of the coal trade. A ed owing to excessive production," careful study of this proplem of every and that it is necessary to keep up the fair-minded citizen will result in stirsystem of limiting shipments from the ring up widespread public censure mines in order to maintain prices that and condemnation of that dangerous will enable railroad companies and giant monopoly known as the anthra-

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WEATHER PROPHECY.

Whether this weather for January is profitably prophecied depends some what upon the spare time of the read- abolition ideas did not suit them, and er, as well as upon his knowledge of for this reason they always opposed the dominating stars and satellites me. Do you wonder that I turned above and below. The atmospheric against them? conditions of the first few days of the new month of the new year, 1895, will me and had been away for nearly five be marked with threatening storm, years, on the advice of my brother even assuming a cyclonic or blizzardy Brutus I filed a suit for divorce. Mrs. aspect. This will be occasioned not Clay threatened to file a counter petiso much because of the position of tion, accusing me of all sorts of im-Mercury, Mars or Jupiter in the moralities, but she was persuaded to heavens above as from the peculiarly allow me a divorce on the grounds of pent up condition of earthly bodies abandonment after the expiration of coming into collision with New Year five years. resolutions. Until these resolutions are dispersed and their effervescence I have divided my estate among them. established, the battle against the They fear I will have another heir to elements will be very apt to wax and the estate, which will make another wane, and heavy clouds will partially division necessary. There is nothing eclipse the sunshine which may be seen through the beer glass darkly. At the end of about ten days nor-

mal conditions are apt to prevail on earth, even though Mercury freeze up run the risk of being hanged or killed. in the thermometers. As for Jupiter They have made a wild beast out of me. take hold just about where they grasp-

ed the atmosphere, &c., last year this time. They will do so from force of This time I have taken a wife from habit and in obedience to inexorable the peasantry, and I believe she will laws of nature and without intent to deceive weather prophets. heavenly bodies are so governed, while believe in Tolstoi's theory. I do not earthly bodies are permitted to go it believe the people from various walks alone; and hence the necessity for of life can be equallized. That is an forming new resolutions at the end of impossibility. But I do believe that each year. About the middle of the month well regulated barometers will furnish all the evidence needed of wind, weather and reactionary movements among earthly bodies, and the falling weather that then sets in will indicate the heartfelt sympathy of Mars. Should a warm wave strike the cold and hit it pretty hard about the 20th it will be well to keep on your overcoat and put the responsibility on the inhabitants of Jupiter, who may have made things hot in their effort to show the Mars folks that they too are there and are determined to crowd their world c oser to ours, be cause they have an idea that we are fit subjects to become acquainted with in their ignorance of our high protective policy. But whatever disturbances the jealousy of Mars and Jupiter may raise above they will be largely palliated below with good sleighing for the rest of the month. Notwithstanding the freeze-up of Mercury and the fall of 4 or 8 feet of snow in California this prophecy is proven by the fact that the snow re ferred to is now on the ground there-60 per cent. yet this luminary will assume the 15 per cent. ascendency and be the brightest and 10 per cent. the one altogether lovely among the 10 per cent. planets affecting the earth's resolutions and revolutions We can prove this by Hicks and Vennor. Though rather winter-like weather will prevail in January yet there will be frequent occasions throughout the new month of the new year when the cold will seem to get colder, the warm warmer, and when even the moon will get full. These conditions are, it is true, apt to be of spasmodic occur rence ; but they need not necessarily break thermometers, or take the frost all out of things or fool the spring time blue birds so that they get here in advance of time. Not at all.

MARRIAGE UNDER DIFFICULTIES IN KENTUCKY.

The aged and affluent Cassius M. Clay, who recently matried an adopted child, thus tells his difficulties to the world.

"I have received letters of congratulation from nearly every State in he Union where I am known," said Gen. Clay. "One gentleman, who wrote his letter the day I was married, sympathized with me and my intended wife because we could not get married. His letter was dated Quincy, Ill. He told me to send her by Adams Express Company to that place and come up and claim her."

"A young lady wrote me a letter from a certain place, proposing that if Dora did not marry me she would. She gave me her age and said she was considered a good looking woman, and that she would marry me and make a good wife if I would take her. I was a good deal amused, and very politely declined her offer."

"Would you care to relate the facts regarding your divorce, General ?"

"Yes. When I was a schoolboy at Yale I fell in love during one of my vacations with Mary Jane Warfield, daughter of Dr. Elisha Warfield, who owned the famous farm called the Meadows, adjoining Lexington. He was an aristocrat. There was an understanding between us that I was a suitor for Miss Warfield's hand, and I went back to Yale and stayed there a year and a half before I came back to Kentucky and renewed the courtship. She accepted me, and in due time we were married.

"When Dr. Warfield divided his estate I expected, of course, an equal distribution, but I did not get one dollar from him. Dr. Warfield and his wife both made their wills so that I could not get any of their estates, thus pursuing me, even after death. They were large slave owners, and my

"Well, atter my wife had deserted

"Now they are not satisfied, though in the world at the bottom of their opposition but that.

"I do not fear any further trouble, unless they commit open murder, and

" My first marriage was unhappy. I chose a wife from the aristocracy. afford me more real happiness and will not be ungrateful. No, I do not from the lower walks of life often come some of the greatest geniuses. A person of humble life whose parents have good characters is far superior to one of aristocratic lineage whose ancestry is steeped in vice." "Does a man feel any remorse when he kills a man in self defense, Gen. Clay ?" " In the case of Turner. I have felt no remorse, and had I killed Brown it would have been the same way. Brown had a pistol in his hand and he cried out for the people to make way, for he wanted to kill 'the d-d abolitionist.' The people fell back, making a lane between Brown and myself. He levelled his pistol on me when I was ten steps away, but for some reason he did not fire until I was so close upon him that the powder burned my face and clothes. "I advanced upon him without trepidation; I thought my time had come and I determined to sell my life as dearly as possible. His bullet, as it was learned later, when I was taken in the house, struck the scabbard of my bowie knife, but I thought when he fired that I had received a mortal wound, and with the desperation of a dying man, I cleaved him in the head with my knife, the blade penetrating the brain. This seemed to daze him, and while he made some feeble attempt to ward off my blows by waving his pistol around in the air, he seemed to be unable to move and stayed comparatively still while I split his nose wide open, cut his left eye out and cut his face into slices. " The crowd rushed in on me, some one grabing me from behind around the arm, but I continued to hack him with the knife, using the forearm movement until his friends grabbed him and threw him over the fence, out of my reach I thought I had killed him, but I felt no remorse, as I thought he had killed me also. I will say this, that Brown was the gamest man I ever saw, and I was always sorry that Wickliffe picked him out as the man to assassinate me."

Novelties in Evening Toilettes.

Now that the season of social gatherings, balls and theatre parties has fairly set in, every woman's interest is once more centered on the appropriate evening toilettes. The bodice is a mass of some filmy fabric, the ultrafashionable ones-irrespective of skirt made of another material-being invariably of crepon or embroidered mousline de soie, made over a foundation of silk which, in color, matches the skirt. Rosettes of lace usually finish the bodice. Jewelled corselets are very popular. They have a silk foundation and are frequently set with real gems. The crepes afford an op

portunity for producing, at a moderate price, very artistic effects. They come in all tints. The ribboned crepe is a very dainty novelty. Sleeves remain as wonderful as ever in size. They are of the same fabric as the skirt. As for the latter, it is conspicuous for its plainness and its pronounced flare. A great variety of models are to be found in the McDowell Fashion Magazines. These unequalled periodicals offer an inducement in the way of special coupon patterns which always follow the latest, the most fashionable and the most practical styles. Both

"La Mode de Paris" and "Paris Album of Fashion," cost \$3.50 per year, or 35 cents a copy; "The French Dressmaker" is \$3.00 per annum, or 30 cts. a copy. As for "La Mode," it costs only \$1.50 a year, or 15 cents a copy. If you are unable to procure either of these journals from your newsdealer do not take any substitute from him. but apply by mail directly to Messrs.

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Pennsylvania Railroad.

Time Table in effect Nov. 25, '94.

Patiston (5 2 E) v

The following tabulated figures will enable all who can read to understand how, under the railroad combine rates, the percentage of profits in the trade are divided between the various interests involved.

When coal sells at \$3.50 per ton in New York City the total may be apportioned as follows :

The railroads get	
The operator gets	
The landowner gets	
The sales agent gets	
The miners get	

5 per cent. [And the consumer, in order to avoid freezing, gets what coal he can at high protective rates.]

It is easy to see that the managers of the great railroad and mining corporations are simply pursuing a selfish policy of monopolistic greed in limit. ing the production. It can be sold at lower rates than herein quoted to millions of, consumers who cannot, under present conditions, pay from \$7 to \$8 a ton which is the retail price in New York, Boston, Chicago and other great centres of population. The tariff charged by railroads for coal transportation should be reduced to 25 cents a ton to all tidewater markets. Royalties and commissions to greedy landowners and sales agents should be reduced one-half. Princely

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