SHORTAGE OF SOFT COAL THREATENS CITY INDUSTRIIS

Bituminous Supply Greatly Diminished and Consumers Anxious

WAR INCREASES PRICES

Soft Coal Prices Soar to Abnormal Height

HOW bituminous coal prices quoted spot market f. o. b. at mines today, compare with the normal prices:

Bituminous coal, the soft variety, threatens to rival in price and exceed in scarcity the supply of anthracite.

Philadelphia, with its numerous big manufacturing plants, is one of the largest consumers of bituminous coal in the country, and its proximity to the vast mining centers of Pennsylvania and West Virginia has hitherto made it more nearly immune from coal famines in times of stress than ether and less-favored parts of the Union. Today many Philadelphia manufacturers are giancing anxiously at their diminishing stocks of fuel, the while they note reports from the coal fields that the spot prices are three to four times greater than the normal prices of a year ago. In addition the shortage of transportation facilities complicates the situation, even when these higher costs of purchase are met.

Envied by his fellow users of bituminous coal is he who exercised a business foreaght and early in the season, before the situation assumed an acute stage, bought sufficient coal to last until the year's end, even though obliged thereby to incur additional expense for storage.

Many of the city's largest consumers of seff coal are declared to have insured them.

Many of the city's largest consumers of soft coal are declared to have insured themselves against the very condition now confronting the country and to be "stocked up" several months ahead. The Bureau of Water, the greatest consumer of coal to be municipal category has under contract the state of the st in the municipal category, has under con-tract enough coal to last until the end of the year. Regarding next year's supply, Chief Davis, of the bureau, believes that whatever contingency may arise the coal companies and the railroads may be re-lied upon to take care of the city so that the Hed upon to take care of the city so that the water works, pumping stations and filtration plants will not have to close down. "I believe the railroads would divert shipments from individual consumers in such a case rather than have the entire community suffer." was Mr. Davis's comment. The United Gas Improvement Company, the Philadelphia Rapid Transft Company and Philadelphia Electric Company are said to have an adequate reserve supply.

CAR SHORTAGE BLAMED

CAR SHORTAGE BLAMED

Car shortage, which prevents relief, is the explanation given by the mine owners and coal handlers. The same conditions are held to affect the anthracite shipments, but the visible supply of hard coal is believed to be more satisfactory than that of the bituminous branch of the trade.

Barley, rice and buckwheat, the smallest sizes, are most seriously in demand and hardest to get, it is said. These are used to a great extent in the furnaces of manufacturing concerns. Many of these factories, especially in the iron and steel industries and in fields identified with the making of war supplies, have been working as never before during the past spring and summer, and their contracts are such that the furnaces are rearing day and night to keep up with orders. with orders.

The result has been, say the coal dealers,

a demand for fuel that is virtually unpre-cedented. In order to get the coal without delay these manufacturers, reaping big bo-nuses from foreign contracts, were willing to pay, and did pay, higher prices for imme-diate delivery. The quantity of coal usually stored up for fall and winter trade has suf-fered accordingly white the disease. stored up for fall and winter trade has suf-fered accordingly, while the diversion of lo-comotives and cars to rush the manufac-tured product of war-choked-order factories and mills Europeward has decreased the available transportation facilities which oth-erwise might now be employed to haul the coal to its normal users.

INDUSTRY CREATING IDLENESS Unless there is some let-up in this situa-tion the anomaly of industry creating idle-ness is foreseen by men familiar with the soft coal trade.

soft coal trade.

Prices have advanced, in some cases, at the Prices have advanced, in some cases, at the rate of seventy-five cents a day, without diminishing the demands of the war-inflated industries, which pay no heed to the increasing rates so long as they can get the necessary fuel. The regular customers of the mining companies, who are not engaged in war contracts, feel the pinch of the scarcity

Mmerican Coal

The unusual conditions in the coal situation are being reported by the newspapers with more or less accuracy.

It is true that there is much uncertainty about future prices and deliveries.

This company is advising its customers to promptly fill their coal bins. At this moment we have coal in all sizes, and weather conditions are favorable to immediate delivery.

There is, however, no assurance as to the future. Filling your bins now is no more than a wise precaution, as no one can forecast future de-velopments, either as to delivery or prices.

Egg. \$7.50; Stove, \$7.75; Chestnut, \$8.00; Pen, \$5.75; shot in. Carried, 25c a ton extra.

RICAN ICE COMPANY

LEADERS OF TIOGA'S BIG JUBILEE



These men are responsible for this year's jubilee, an annual event in Tioga. Above, at the left, is Wilbur H. Zimmerman, chairman of the Jubilee Committee; in the center is Louis Gilbert, head of the big parade tonight; above, at the right, is Colonel Arthur Swayne, chief marshal of the parade. At the left, below, is Matthew J. Donohoe, secretary of the jubilee committee, and at the right, E. C. Snyder, Jr.,

and upward trend in cost, and some of them, in this city and elsewhere, report that unless conditions brighten and they are able to get the coal required to keep their fires burning they may be forced to suspend until the pressure is relieved.

Inquiry at the local headquarters of the largest coal handling companies today yielda almost unanimously the explanation summarized above. The demand is abnormal, say the agents. The diversion of cars to other uses prevents prompt delivery from mine to customer, and, like other crises, the blow falls heaviest upon the small consumer, who has neither the credit nor the storage facilities of his bigger competitor to anticipate such a shortage.

Denial that there is any manipulation at the mines or artificially created famine is universal among the sales agents and representatives of the coal concerns. They declare that such action would lay them open to Federal prosecution for conspiracy. If the railroads would provide cars, they say, relief would be speedy, not only in the bituminous end of the coal trade, but in the anthractic branch as well.

The Reading Coal and Iron Company, the largest shipper from the Schuyikill region to this city, is utilizing the Schuyikill region to this city is utilizing the Schuyikill region to this city, is utilizing the Schuyikill region to this city, is utilizing the Schuyikill region to this city.

shipments in an endeavor to overcome in part the transportation problem. The Belmont and Queen lane stations of the Bureau of Water, as well as many industries located along the river bank, are benefiting by this water delivery. Coal barges are also being employed to a greater extent for terminals on the Delaware River front and to tidewater, where railroads were previously used almost exclusively.

While the territory in the Philadelphia district is suffering to some extent by reason of the impaired transprotation, conditions in other sections are reported to be

tions in other sections are reported to be much worse. Interstate Commerce Com-missioner McChord has left Washington for Louisville, Ky., where tomorrow he will hold conferences with representatives of castern, southern and a few of the western railroads, together with State railroad commissions and shippers concerning the general car shortage, which is tying up traffic and affecting the prices of coal and other necessaries. Commissioner McChord, in saking the eastern truck lines to have representations. asking the eastern trunk lines to have rep-resentatives at the conference, pointed out that the shippers had charged that the carriers received cars for export without as-surance of water shipping facilities and permitted the use of cars for storage.

TRADE SHIPS FOR WAR

Plans Complete for Impressing All Merchant Vessels if They

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2. — The Govern-ment is now virtually ready to take over all merchant vessels desired for auxiliaries

Blank contracts are being drawn by the Navy Department, it was learned today. When completed they will lack only the prices to be paid for the vessels and the signatures of the owners. The prices will depend on trade conditions at the time of the possible selection.

Naval officers who will command the ships in case of war already have been selected. Plans of the Navy Department show the type of gun which could be mount-

The wassels would be used to carry troops, fuel and general supplies in most cases. They would not be armored and guns would be mounted only for self-protection.

In many cases builders of merchant ves-

sels are sending to the Navy Department to find what type of merchant vessel is best suited to service in case of war. Plans specifying composite merchant ships and navai auxiliaries are forwarded in each case. The Navy Department expects in this way to build up a great fleet of merchant vessels which in the event of war would need no changes in structure to be taken into the naval service. Ample funds are available to obtain equipment for these if it should be needed. Congress at its last session appropriated money for the purpose

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U. OF P. FACULTY DIVIDED ON ELECTION OUTCOME

Penniman and Lewis Expect Hughes to Win-Cheyney Sees Wilson Victory

Members of the faculty of the University Members of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania expressed a variety of opinions today concerning the outcome of the presidential election next Tuesday.

Vice Provost Penniman said he was sure that Hughes would be elected, while Prof. Raiph Cheyney, head of the history department, declared that Wilson would be elected.

"Hughes will win." eaid Mr. Penniman.
"because he has virtually the whole Republican party back of him. Wilson was
elected in 1912 by a split in the Republican
party, but now he has no chance of reelection because the Republican party has
been reunited."

been reunited."

"The American people," said Professor Cheyney, "are grateful because Wilson has kept them out of war. This is a campaignessue which is going to prove the undomer of the Republican party at the polis nex. Tuesday. The American people are pretty well satisfied with the record of Wilson, and few can see any necessity, of a change at this time. The Republicans are putting up some fine arguments at this time, but they cannot obscure one fact, and that is that the young men of this country are not fighting somebody else's battles in the trenches of Europe."

William Draper Lewis, of the Law School,

William Draper Lewis, of the Law School, says he is certain that Hughes will be elected.

"Hughes," he said, "will be elected because the American people have good horse sonse."

"Painter" Thief Busy in Tioga The "painter." who has been robbing houses in North Philadelphia and Tioga. continues his method of entering homes and taking jewelry and small sums of money. Two such robberies were reported to the police today. The homes of Mrs. Hazel Whelen, 2829 York road, and William Bosha. 2619 North Ninth street, were robbed of money and jewelry. mency and jewelry.

Peace League to Give Dinner NEW YORK, Nov. 2.—At a dinner to be given in this city on November 24 "to consider a program for a permanent league of nations to become effective at the close of the present war." an aggressive speaking campaign throughout the United States to explain the objects sought by the League to Enforce Peace will be opened.

Enjoy a Wonderful Surprise

Here's a new rye bread. Deliciously nutty in flavor, delicate yet firm in texture, with a golden brown crust, tender and "crunchy."



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