EVENING LEDGER-PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1917

HARD COAL PRICES

A CLASS IN CLIDING

Certain Small Operators to Go, but Industry Is Behind New Move

GARFIELD NOW DICTATOR

Large Part of Country's Production Already Under Contract Not to Be Affected

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22. The President is preparing to fix hard coal prices, just as he set figures for the soft coal output, and may have the coal dictator to take charge of both situations. it was said.

usands of so-called "wagon loaders -coal operators on a small scale but pro ducing many thousand carloads per month in the aggregate—will be wiped out by President Wilson's maximum prices, ac-cording to Chairman Peabody, of the de-

fense council's coal committee today. The industry, however, will be solidly be-hind the President in his efforts to reduce prices to the average consumer, he said. A large part of the country's coal pro-duction already under contract will not be affected by the President's prices.

Tentative prices, averaging about \$2.25 ton for home sizes fixed by President
Wilson for coal at the mouth of every bituious mine, went into effect. Prices to retailers and consumers will follow shortly

H. A. Garfield president of Williams Col lege, and now chairman of the wheat price-fixing board, has accepted the post of fuel dictator. His installation will follow com-pletion of his present wheat task .

The rates of profit to be fixed by the President are expected to be twenty cents a ton for wholesalers and fifty cents for retailers. This, added to the President's prices at the mouth of the mine in the twenty-nine bituminous coal districts of the country, together with railroad freight and expense of local delivery, will afford every city a working basis for figuring the coal cost to the American home. Costs for the average house should be figured on prepared sizes, which are twenty-five cents higher

than the "run-of-mine" coal. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT The President's announcement was as

The Fresident's announcement was as follows: The following scale of prices is pre-in the several coal-producing districts. It is provisional only. It is subject to reconsideration when the whole method of administering the fuel supplies of the country shall have been satisfactorily organized and put into operation. Subse-quent measures will have as their object a fair and equitable control of the distri-bution of the supply and of the prices, not only at the mines, but also in the hands of the middlemen ano the retailers. The prices provisionally fixed here are fixed and muticity under the provi-sions of the recent act of Congress re-garding administration of the food sup-ply of the country, which also conferred upon the executive control of the fuel supply. They are based upon the actual cost of production and are deemed to be not only fair and just but liberal as well. Under them the industry should nowhere lack stimulation. WOODROW WILSON.

SCHEDULE OF PRICES

Prices are on f. o. b. mine basis for tons of 2000 pounds

Pennaylvania ritin Maryland 200 Weat Virginia 200 Weat Virginia 200 Virginia 200 Ohio (thick vein) 200 Alabama (big seam) 1.50 West Virginia Ohio (thick vein). Ohio (thin vein) Kentucky (Jellico Kentucky (Jellico Kentucky (Jellico). Alabama (big seam). Alabama (Pratt. Jaeger and Corona). Alabama (Cahaba and Black Creek). Tennessee (Jellico). 2.15 2.40 diana (third vein) 2 90 2 95 2 95 2 95 8 30 2 95 8 30 2 95 8 30 2 90 Oklaho Texas 2.75 2.85 8.50 2.35 2.60 8.25



the car situation and see what it is. We lose two days a week through the railroads failure to provide cars. We could load from 25 to 40 per cent more cars than are obtainable. The steel companies have ad-vanced their price for steel rails from \$18 a \$50 a ton and get the cars. We have to supply the mills with coal, but we can't ge the cars.

President Wilson's announcement, which, dollars and cents, means that the coal | found one German officer and one private producers of Pennsylvania stand to obtain some \$200.000,000 less for their coal this year than if the present prices were continued, was naturally received locally with grave concern. It was pointed out that 169,123,514 tons of bituminous coal were record since that of 1915, and which ex-ceeded that of 1915 by 11,703.746 tons. An even larger output for this year has been expected. If efforts are made by the oper-

ators of this State to reduce the wages paid to miners, upward of 174,000 operatives will be affected, it was said. The \$2 rate fixed for run-of-mine soft

oal will fall most heavily on the smalle operators, it was said, of whom there are nearly 300. Virtually 100,000,000 tons out of the 159,000,000 tons taken out of the mines in 1916 was produced by thirty-on cerns, each of which mined more than .000.000 tons. Many concerns sought a ray of comfort

in the reflection that the bulk of their out-put has already been sold under contract, and they refused to believe that a repudiation of these contracts would be ordered by the Government.

the Government. The situation in this State is like in Illinois, where, according to E. M. Irwin, of the O'Gara Coal Company, Chicago, 75 per cent of the coal output is under con-tract and will not be affected by the new price. Levi Mayer, of the illinois State Council of Defense, estimated, however, that the Government schedule would mean a saving of \$79,000.000 annually in that State.

"It costs some operators close to \$2.50 ; ton to get their coal out of the mines," said Joseph M. O'Erlen, misistant sales manager of the Keytone Coal & Coke Company, "but others, big operators like ourselves, can, I think, meet the \$2 schedule all right.

"We will have a margin which will hold us all right, I think. But I suppose that there will be many smaller concerns which will be closed out. If they should be, that will not curtail the State's production, how ever. It may even help it. Their miner must continue to be worked by others, who will be able to keep the production cost

LABOR THE BIG PROBLEM

"The big problem is, of course, the labo problem, ranking second only to the car problem. The miners are certainly "get-ting theirs." They have domanded their share when higher prices prevailed, and I don't believe they will agree to a reduction of wages even if the prices are cut. One operator tells me that it costs him close to \$1.50 a ton merely for the labor, and not including overhead expenses. Our labor 1.90 cost is probably-although this is only a guess on my part-not more than \$1.25

"The new governmental schedules will probably hit very heavily at the numerous small coal brokerage offices that have come up like mushrooms recently in order to grab 111111111 the spot coal business. They are the deal-ers who have caused much of the trouble at Washington. "But it is a little early to giv

Company, which, like the Keystons Coal and Coke Company, mined upward of 3,500,000 tons last year, did not agree that coal could he sold for \$2. "The price fixed for West Virginia coal is below the cost of production." said he. "It simply can't be done."

This official estimated the item of lab at \$0 per cent of the cost of production and declared that the new schedule could not he accepted unless the labor cost were cur-tailed. He asserted that most of the larger concerns had sold on contracts and would not be affected by the new order. The little operators, who had rushed into the export coal market when the Government put no

coal market when the Government put no regulation on export business, he said, would be most affected. "The experis sent to this State by the Federal Trade Commission to inquire into the cost of production seemed to overlook everything except the cost at the mines," said another official. "They forgot the overhead, deterioration charges and so on. wouldn't ask a cigar manufacturer ell cigars at \$2 whose tobacco cost him \$2 Yet that's what the Government is trying to with the soft coal dealers."

German Lines at Lens Yield in Great Drive

ontinued from Page One concrete cellar transformed into a bomb-

proof. More came up like ants from neary mine shafts, scurrying exactly like those insects do when their ant hills are shaken. "In one dug-out nearby the Canadians soldler who had been held prisoners there for several days. Neither man had been able to leave through the tornado-like barrage fire which the British guns poured round about

GERMANS CONCENTRATED

"At times during the fighting the Ger-mans had portions of six different divisions fighting the Canadian advance simultane ously. Such a concentration of troops shows clearly the importance which the German high command attaches to Lens.

"After one counter-attack southwest of he city a hundred German corpses were unted on one tiny patch of ground. The terny's casualties have been very heavy." While the British are gaining on their sections of the front, the French appeared to have made the more rapid strides forward in the most sanguinary fighting. The German horde that once clutched Verdun almost to the point of suffocation has been driven still further back. The bloody slope Cote l'Oie, the villages of Regnethe ville and Samogneux, with intervening fortifications, have been swept clean of the enemy. Counter-attacks last night, made with a desperation born of the German war chiefs' knowledge that the French of-

fensive was only beginning, brought the enemy nothing but heavy losses. "Along the Alsne," the statement said. "the Germans bombarded our first lines and launched strong attacks at Mennejean-forem, east of Braye, south of Labovelle and between Allles, Hurtebise and the Cali fornie plateau. The French maintained possession of all gains intact and took a

number of prisoners, "On the left bank of the Meuse the French last evening threw back a violent attack between Hill 304 and Dead Man's Hill. Enemy detachments penetrated a ront-line trench, but were thrown out by FFill.

brilliant French attack "On the right bank the French repeatedly

farm and Hill 344. Our fire broke up the OF MEUSE POSI advancing waves. At no point were the Germans successful and everywhere they lost heavily.

"North of Courieres Wood German at tacks by liquid fire were broken down.

"Unwounded German prisoners taken since August 20 and counted so far total \$116, plus 174 officers. The French yesterday captured many more in shelters, which have not yet been counted. Six hundred wounded Germans have also been taken, together with important booty.

"Especially valuable was the booty taken in three tunnels on Dead Man's Hill, where a complete electrical plant and first-aid stations were found intact, together with many regimental stores.

"A corps commander was captured

CADORNA CAPTURES 13,000; TAKES FIVE MORE TOWNS

ROME, Aug. 22. Prisoners in General Cadorna's offensive reached a total of more than 13,000 men and 311 officers this afternoon. The War Office announced thirty guns and a great quantity of booty had likewise been taken Austria's terrible toll of casualties in the ontinuing Italian advance today reached 35,000 in dead and wounded, according to

readquarters' estimates. Italian troops have swept the energy from the villages of Descla, Britof, Canale, Bomrez and Roga. All were found smoking

heaps of ruins, burned by the Austrians and shattered by artillery fire. The Italian poet and dramatist, Gabriel d'Annunzio, was among a hundred or more Italian aviators who co-operated with the land troops in Italy's greatest offensive. Crossing of the isonzo was simplified for the Italians by a sudden fog. The impen-etrable curtain shut down during the night, and the rays of Austrian searchlights vainly sought to pierce it. Italian engineers threw bridges across in many places, and over these attacking forces poured.

VIENNA, Aug. 22. Fifty-six hundred Italian prisoners and fifty machine guns were captured by the Austro-Hungarians in forty-eight hours' fighting on the Italian front, the War Office ananounced today in an official statement dated Tuesday.

OF MEUSE POSITIONS BERLIN, Aug. 22. French troops gained a footing on the

outheastern portion of Avocourt wood, on the east bank of the Meuse near Verdun, today's official report admitted. Around Samogneux, in the same sector, they forced themselves into the southern part of the

city. "Otherwise," the report added, "the dense masses thrown forward in the of-fensive were sanguinarily repulsed. The French losses were heavy."

RESTIVE POILUS ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE ASSAULTS

By HENRY WOOD

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES AT VER-DUN, Aug. 22. Fired with a zeal that made their charges utterly irresistible, French soldiers, victors in France's greatest blow out of Verdun, petitioned their commanders today for permission not to be limited to specified objectives in their advances.

The pollus want to keep on going. They fretted yesterday at stern orders limiting them to certain trenches over which they swarmed in unbeatable waves when there were more German lines just ahead that they felt could just as well have been captured. In some places the troops could not restrain themselves from exceeding the

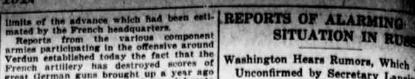


I. B. SEELEY, 1027 Walnut St.

French artillery has destroyed scores of great German guns brought up a year ago by infinite labor and fixed in elaborate emplacements for what was to be Ger-many's victorious assault on Verdun. Dead Man's Hill, blackened by the blood of thousands on both sides, its slopes a gaunt specter of naked ground, was entirely in French hands today. The myriad de-

gaunt specter of naked ground, was entirely in French hands today. The myriad de-fenses on which the Crown Frince spent months were leveled into mere crumbles of earth. The hill itself must remain a gigantic monument to lost hopes. It took the Germans months to capture it, more months to fortify it and still more months to hold it. The French took it in the first morn-ing's advance.

Cyrus Smith, of Berwick, Dead ERWICK Aug. 22.—Cyrus Smith, one of Berwick's best-known cilizens, former manager of the Berwick Opera House, prom-inent Mason and for forty-seven years em-ployed by the American Car and Foundry Company, died Monday night. Heart dis-ease and dropsy were the causes.

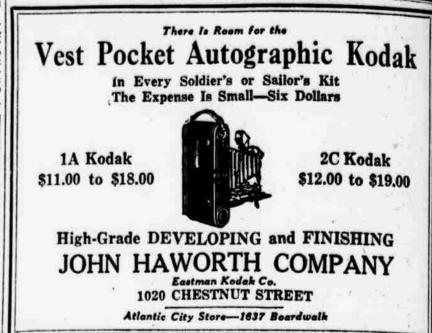


Washington Hears Rumors, Which An Unconfirmed by Secretary Lansing and Russian Embassy

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22. — Decidedly alarming reports concerning conditions in Russia were widely circulated in Washing-ton today. They ranged from stories that the Kerensky government was about to be overthrown to others that very serious rist-ing had broken out in many of the larger Russian cities.

ing had broken out in hindy of the larger Russian cities. Secretary of State Lansing refused to discuss these reports. He said the State Department had no information concerning them. No reports have reached here from Ambassador Francis at Petrograd dealing

with the subject. Officials at the Russian embassy, in the absence of the Ambassador, said they had no news. They said that all of their late cables indicated that the Austro-German offensive had been checked and that the situation was "well in hand."





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handling.

The President's order fixes the price at approximately \$1 a ton below the schedule agreed upon at a recent conference of the coal operators with the Coal Production Committee of the Council of National Defense.

The President's order did not state definitely whether the price scale was meant to affect existing contracts, and representa-tives of the coal operators here were at a loss to interpret it in that connection. The loss to interpret it in that contracts majority are of the opinion that contracts will not be permitted to stand if the Presi-dent feels that the best interests of the country would be served by making them Void.

OPERATORS CONCERNED OVER PRICE-FIXING

Flatly contradictory opinions as to the effect of the coft coal schedules as fixed by President Wilson were expressed today by large operators here. Some held to the view that it would be perfectly possible for Pennsylvania's large coal operators, at least, to sell coal at \$2 a ton, no matter what the effect of the new ruling might have on the smaller operators. Others, referring particularly to the price set on West Virginia

ticularly to the price set on West Virginia bituminous coal, asserted with emphasis, "It simply can't be done !!" Of special significance was the intimation on the part of more than one official that trouble with the miners was certain to be precipitated by the President's achedule. There was a strong hint that if the new prices, which the President points out are to be merely provisional at first, should become permanent, an effort would unme permanent, an effort would undoubtedly be made by the operators to con-vince the miners that the present scales of

"We can scarcely look to the miners to consent to a reduction, no matter what the operator's losses may be," was their atti-tude, "and it looks as though trouble were brewing "

brewing." "The new soft coal schedule, with all its unfairness, is nothing more or less than a muddle accomplished by Secretary Baker and Secretary Daniels in their role of try-ing to run the country," said one big soft coal operator. "If they keep on, they won't run the country," they'll ruin it. They'll keep on until the country loses its patience and throws them out."

GARFIELD NOT KNOWN

News of the appointment of Harry A. Garfield, president of Williams College, as "coal dictator" failed to arouse any en-thusiasm among local bituminous coal operators, who said that they knew nothing

operators, who said that they knew nothing either for or against Doctor Garfield. "The appointment called for a man of the biggest caliber," said one man, "and for one who was intimately acquainted with the bituminous coal situation. I have never heard that Doctor Garfield was an author it on coal. It seems to me that there are

ity on coal. It seems to me that there are already too many college presidents at Washington." A number of smaller operators, who re-fused to permit the use of their names, were united in declaring that the new schedules meant that meet of the operators would be forced out of business. "If anforded it would mean the

out of business. enforced it would mean the cancel-or repudiation of the contracts y held," they said in effect. "It was bugh to cause the reduction of the to sell at \$3.65 to \$3, it seems as we ought to be left alone for a The Government carbit of the terms.

definite definite opinion on the new schedule. It is not known whether the new rates are to go into effect at once or at some future date. And the President says that they are provisional. One operator here believes that the order was issued simply as a "feeler." I do not. But I don't regard it as exactly fair, in that it does not make any discrimination as to the quality of coal discrimination as to the quality of coal That is a point that must be threshed out.

"Some coal is being sold which might be swept up off the street. It isn't worth fifty cents a ton. Other coal is well worth \$2.

"But the new order will not be worth much unless it can be enforced. The agree-ment entered into by operators to sell at \$3 hasn't been kept by many. You couldn't have bought twenty carloads of coal at \$3 since it went into effect." An official of the Berwind-White Coal

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