

COAL MEN OUTPATRIOTISM ABOVE PROFIT

Declare \$2.50 Margin Retained by Lewis Is "Unjust Graft"

CUT IN BITUMINOUS \$6.65 a Ton Benefits Industries—Householders Not Aided by Reduction

Any hope of consumers that the \$2.50 net gross margin on coal prices would be reduced this year was virtually dashed by a letter of instruction sent to the 230 coal dealers in the city today by Francis A. Lewis, chairman of the Philadelphia county coal committee.

Not only are the dealers urged to hold on to their gross margin of profit on anthracite coal, but are requested to charge thirty cents extra for the ton of coal carried in the cars of the consumers. This means \$2.80 more for the dealer than he paid for the ton.

Several coal dealers who refused to accept the new terms of the coal committee registered surprise at Mr. Lewis' action and intimated that they might not be able to comply with the "unjust graft" that he has requested them to demand.

This \$2.50 gross margin for anthracite coal sent Lewis to the coal committee, which was urged by Mr. Lewis as an emergency measure and one which would be lowered as soon as conditions warranted it.

It is too bad that the public shall have labored under false hopes, was the way one dealer felt about the receipt of the letter from the fuel administrator.

Although the dealers are requested to retain their gross margin on anthracite coal, they are urged to keep a \$2 gross margin upon bituminous. This will lower the price of that coal to virtually \$6.65 from \$8, which some of the dealers are now charging.

It is said that the government is seeking to it that the dealers are paying \$1.15 for the coal at the mine and \$1.30 for freight charges. This and with the \$2 added for the margin brings the cost of the coal up to \$6.45. While the bituminous grade of coal is used extensively by the industrial and private consumers.

In the letter Mr. Lewis also makes it plain that he has no objection to a profit of \$1.75 on the steam grade of the anthracite coal. This grade is also used in industry and is of very little value to the householder and private consumer.

The general public, however, will derive very little good from the fact that Mr. Lewis has suggested and recommended a lowering in the gross margin for the bituminous and steam-grade of the anthracite coal, it was said. Both these grades affect the industries, which are the primary consumers of coal.

Under the present system of priority orders giving coal operators power to distribute their coal, the coal is being kept in keeping industry disintegrated and dislocated, according to State Fuel Administrator Potter today. He made a strong plea for the abolition of the present system.

"Under the present system of priority orders, the coal is being distributed in a way that is not only wasteful but also unfair to the consumer and the most important war industries."

"There must be an abolition of this system. There must be made a plan that will distribute equitably among all classes of consumers the coal that is available. This is the only way to win the war."

Simon Gratz, vice president of the Board of Education and leader of the "old guard," has declined the chairmanship of the special investigating committee recently created by the board to make a complete survey of the public schools. It was learned today, ES-Judge Dimmer Beber has been chosen by the seven members of the committee as their leader.

"I have good and sufficient reasons for refusing to act as chairman," Mr. Gratz said. "I have nothing to add to this statement."

Edwin Wolf, president of the board, expressed regret that Mr. Gratz could not undertake the work, but refused to make other comment.

Mr. Gratz did not come as a surprise to some members of the board. One of them pointed to Mr. Gratz's dislike of holding office. "Why, he can't have the chairmanship of the board for the last twenty or thirty years, if he had wanted the position," he said. "He prefers to be the power behind the throne. He has more influence without holding important offices than he would have otherwise."

Judge Beber today announced that the first meeting of the committee will be held in the near future. The exact date has not been set. The judge is said to be with President Wolf in his fight for economy through efficiency and the conservation of the "old fund."

A fight to prevent the coming meeting until next fall is said in some quarters.

To Pick Landing Site Here

Site upon which airplane carrying mail will land here will be decided today. Work is to begin immediately along the Northeast Philadelphia road.

S. P. C. A. REAL FRIEND TO DOBBINS AND COWS

Month's Record Shows 2113 Horses and Other Animals Saved From Cruelty

In these times of conservation the horse has not been overlooked. The S. P. C. A., his official conservator, ally, protector, mentor and friend, is still on the job.

Twenty-one hundred and thirteen cases of cruelty were remedied in Philadelphia last month by agents of the Pennsylvania Society. One hundred and twenty-nine animals were humanely killed, of which twenty-nine were horses.

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SOCIETY WOMEN SORT GIFTS OF CLOTHING

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MRS. HASTINGS FREED IN SUIT FOR DAMAGES

Jury Dismisses Claim Against Ardmore Woman in Auto Smash-Up Case

Mrs. Theodore Mitchell Hastings, a prominent society and clubwoman of Ardmore, was exonerated by a jury in the Civil Court at Norristown today, when the verdict in a damage suit brought against her by Llewellyn Jones, of Lower Merion, was returned in her favor.

Jones asked heavy damages, charging that due to the carelessness of Mrs. Hastings when she was driving a motor car, in January of this year, he was permanently injured. He also charged that Mrs. Hastings was running the car under an improper license.

Mrs. Hastings' defense was that Jones had taken up more than his part of the road and that she, being an experienced driver, had been forced to maneuver with the milk wagon had been where it should have been. She is widely known as an autoist and before her marriage was Miss Carolyn Baily.

Mrs. Hastings' defense was that Jones had taken up more than his part of the road and that she, being an experienced driver, had been forced to maneuver with the milk wagon had been where it should have been. She is widely known as an autoist and before her marriage was Miss Carolyn Baily.

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"IGNORANT" ROBBERS CONTINUE ROBBING

Don't Know Crime's "Abolished." "Shoot Up" Store Near Director Wilson's Home

Thieves have little respect for the statements of Director of Public Safety Wilson that the new detective "zoning system" has virtually abolished crime in the city in the past of these statements two daring robberies were attempted—one of them near the Director's home.

A few minutes after midnight a masked band "shoot up" the Keenan Pharmacy, southeast corner of Seventeenth and Shunk streets, which is within four squares of the home of Director Wilson at 2301 South Twentieth street.

A clerk was offered to hand over the contents of a cash register. For reply he hurled several bottles at the intruders who retreated. The bottles would have broken had the clerk not been so quick to retreat. Several bottles were broken and damaged the interior of the store. He then fled.

The other attempt was made in the second ward of the city. A man wearing a heavy burglar alarm, on patrolman appeared until an hour after the robber had disappeared.

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COURT WON'T AID IN WAR ON FLASKS

Federal Attorney Hints He Will Ask President to Declare City "Dry"

JUDGE OPPOSES MOVE

The federal court today refused the request of United States District Attorney Kane that it regulate the sale of bottled goods by saloonkeepers as an effective method of wiping out "bootlegging" through the sale of booze to soldiers and sailors in this city.

Judge Wessel, speaking for the court, emphasized that it could not impose any such restrictions on the liquor dealers, since such action would be illegal. He suggested that if the United States Government decided to take a hand in the matter and would issue an order declaring a dry zone system in force here, the court could then see to it that the order was enforced.

It was hinted during the hearing today that Government authorities may be called upon to issue such an order. Judge Wessel referred to such a move as "the worst thing the Government could do."

President May Act

The Government action may soon be taken has been hinted for several days by District Attorney Kane, who has insisted that Washington authorities—especially Wilson himself—had been acquainted with the situation of "bootlegging" in this city and had expressed their determination to wipe it out, even if a dry Philadelphia shall follow.

The request of Mr. Kane was made in an effort to further control the sale of liquor to soldiers and sailors. The Government officials, however, explained that saloonkeepers in quantities of a half-gallon or more are being supplied with liquor by "bootleggers," who buy from saloonkeepers in quantities of a half-gallon or more and then sell it to sailors or soldiers. If the court made a recommendation, Mr. Kane urged, that retailers should not sell liquor to anyone who is not a bona fide customer, his determination to wipe it out, even if a dry Philadelphia shall follow.

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