

PROBE OF COAL PRICES CERTAIN

Inquiry to Cut Distribution Cost Plan of Governor

TALKS WITH OPERATORS Executive Department Has Power to Halt Boost, Anthracite Men Told

Investigation into the whole coal mining and transportation situation in Pennsylvania is certain as a result of the conference Governor Sproul held last night with representatives of independent operators.

Thirty per cent of independent mines of the anthracite regions were represented in the first conference to be held to prevent increased coal prices on May 1.

The conference last night is declared to have been mutually satisfactory by Governor Sproul, but problems of increased costs of mining and handling coal presented by the mining men were such as to warrant the Governor in announcing the need of a rigid inquiry into the whole anthracite situation.

He intimated that he did not expect a legislative inquiry would be necessary. "There might be an amicable investigation," he said, "and then there may not be. It seems to me that an investigation would be conducted by the executive department if necessary."

The conference lasted more than an hour in the Governor's office at Harrisburg. None of the big coal interests were represented at the conference, and intimation was given that until these other operators, headed by the Reading, are heard, no assurance can be given that the higher coal prices will be avoided.

High Handling Cost The Governor strongly intimated that an inquiry to be started would have to do with anthracite coal from the time it is mined until it reaches the collar of the consumer. The Chief Executive pointed out that a large percentage of the money paid for each ton of coal goes for transportation and for distribution.

The representatives of the Anthracite Coal Operators' Association, with whom the Governor conferred, control approximately 50 per cent of the hard coal industry of Pennsylvania. In the delegation were: W. L. Connel, of Scranton; James B. Neale, of Mifflin; A. B. Jessup, of Jeddo, and Sian C. Dodson, secretary, and W. J. Thompson, assistant secretary of the association.

In commenting on the conference the Governor said: "The conference was a very satisfactory one. The coal men showed a disposition not to be hasty and to wait until the whole situation is looked into."

"Does that mean that the proposed increase will not go into effect on May 1, as announced?" he was asked. "I cannot answer that question now," he said, "there are other people who have big interests in the anthracite coal business and we have not heard from them. After we have heard what these men have to say, some definite announcement might be made."

Has Plenty of Power The Governor plainly indicated that he intends to do everything in his power to prevent the coal price raise in May. He believes that he has plenty of power with which to order the industry and, unless he is deliberately balked in his attempt to solve the situation, it is not believed that any resolution authorizing an exhaustive investigation and acting with it an appropriation to meet expenses will be made.

"If this is not a matter for a legislative investigation, could not the mines department look into it?" asked the operators. "I think the executive department has the power to go ahead," he replied.

"The conference was satisfactory," he said, "and the independent operators seemed a great deal concerned regarding the ultimate condition of the industry. Until I see some of the operators I cannot make a definite statement. So far as the independent operators are concerned, they told me they desire to cooperate with me to bring about lower prices."

The Governor said the federal fuel administration had cut off a great section of the country during the war to the anthracite industry and had directed that soft coal be shipped in. The operators mentioned this condition as a contributing factor in the uncertainty of their present business. They told the Governor there had been 75 per cent increase in wages during the last three years, and the transportation costs had gone up from 25 to 60 per cent. On short hauls the costs were often higher, the increase having been 200 per cent from the mines to the breaker.

The operators also cited the extraordinary allowance made in handling coal in the cities where their cost was increased from \$1 to \$1.25 and as high as \$2 a ton, with an extra forty cents for carrying the coal into the cellars. The operators quoted these figures and said they must be taken in as a part of the total cost to the consumer.

LITTLE PLAYMATES SERVE AS PALLBEARERS



The body of six-year-old W. Edward Johnson was carried by four of his playmates yesterday afternoon when he was buried from his home at 3449 North Third street. The child, the son of Edward and Maggie Johnson, died of rheumatic fever. None of the pallbearers was older than eight years. They were Howard Booz, Alexander Thompson, William Haverkamp and George Kramer.

P. O. S. OF A. WATCHES VOTE ON BOLAND BILL

Fraternal Order Interested in Measure to Compel Legal Advertisement in English Papers

The vote on the Boland bill, requiring legal advertisements to be printed only in English-language publications, will be watched by the Patriotic Order Sons of America when the bill comes up for re-consideration in the House at Harrisburg next Monday.

The bill failed to pass final reading Tuesday when forty members of the House refused to vote. The result showed 100 members for the bill and sixty-seven against it. As 104 votes were needed to pass the measure it failed.

Charles Brumm Helm, state secretary of the P. O. S. of A., declares that every vote on the bill next Monday will be scrutinized. "The vote on the bill by names," he said, "will be sent to every member of the P. O. S. of A. in the state. The members of the House who dodged voting on the bill when it came up originally are more to be blamed for its failure to pass than those who fearlessly took a stand on the matter."

"Many Philadelphia members excused themselves with the statement that their districts are part foreign. This is an unwarranted evasion because we do not allow foreign born to vote until they have become citizens, and then they are Americans."

RENEW HONOR CODE PLAN Scheme Approved Before War Is Again Before U. of P.

The adoption of a code of honor is under consideration by the students of the University of Pennsylvania, after the lapse of a year since this important student matter was previously seriously considered.

Last year a code had been worked out for the University in general, based on a model which has been quite successful in the Wharton School for a number of years. When the scheme was on the point of adoption, after approval by the University authorities, the students' army training corps intervened.

The scheme was declared temporarily impermissible at that time by Major Charles T. Griffith, commandant, and was consequently dropped.

The matter has again become prominent because of a lack of spirit and numerous violations of rules by members of the undergraduates. The code now in operation at the Wharton School embodies a written statement by the student in which he "pledges his honor that he has neither given nor received information in the examination."

TALKS ON BRIDGE TERMINUS Washington Square Advocated as End to Real Estate Board

Merits of Washington Square as a logical place for the location of the Philadelphia end of the bridge connecting this city and Camden were advocated to members of the Philadelphia Real Estate Board last night by Dr. Warren P. Laird.

Dr. Laird was appointed by the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Bridge Commissions to study the situation and make a report on the best positions for the two ends of the proposed structure. Traffic conditions and other considerations point to Washington Square in this city, and the Court House Plaza in Camden as the logical places, he said.

MAYOR ABLE TO SIGN COUNCILMANIC BILLS

Roosevelt Boulevard Ordinance to Be Among First of New Measures Approved

Mayor Smith has recovered so far from his recent attack of rheumatism as to be able to give his attention today to the measures passed by both branches of Councils yesterday. One of the first bills that will receive his signature is the one changing the name of the North-east Boulevard to Roosevelt Boulevard.

For ten days following the last sessions of Councils the Mayor's illness prevented him from signing measures approved. He has regained the use of his hands, however, and the bills as certified by Councils' clerks will be taken to his Glenside home by Joseph C. Smith, his brother and secretary.

One of the most important measures he will be called to approve provides \$24,000 for old deficiency bills incurred during the years 1916, 1917 and 1918. These will be paid promptly following the affixing of the Mayor's signature to the bill.

Other measures that will be put up to the Mayor either today or tomorrow provide additional funds for the completion of the piers at the foot of Porter and Wolf streets; plotting streets in the southern section of the city between Seventh and Thirteenth and Johnson streets and Oregon avenue, where the Federal Housing Corporation is erecting 600 houses; \$100,000 loan funds for the Municipal Court building to be erected along the Parkway; petitioning the Orphans' Court to be allowed to sell the John G. Johnson residence at 510 South Broad street and paying a number of contracts on which money is now due.

DRIVE FOR NEW ERA MOVEMENT ON SUNDAY

Presbyterian Laymen Outline Plans for Opening of Campaign Here

Plans for the New Era Movement were outlined last night by seventy-five laymen, representing churches throughout the Philadelphia Presbytery at a supper conference in Bethany Church, Twenty-second and Bainbridge streets.

In a majority of the seventy-six churches of the Presbytery next Sunday afternoon canvassers will visit every man, woman and older child for the purpose of obtaining financial pledges and co-operation in other forms of Christian work.

The laymen were the guests of the elders of Bethany Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Dr. George F. Pentecost, greeted the visitors. Allan Sutherland, an elder of Tioga Presbyterian Church, presided at the conference. Edgar Frutchey, of Tioga church, told of the success that attended an every-member canvass made by that congregation. As a result, the contributions for benevolence were increased from \$1500 to \$7500.

OPPOSES U. S. INTERFERENCE

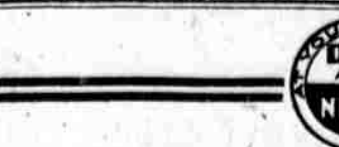
H. A. Mackey Thinks Every State Should Solve Compensation

Harry A. Mackey, chairman of the Pennsylvania State Workmen's Compensation Board, expressed his belief that each state should work out its problems for the rehabilitation of its industrial cripples, and objected to the federal government extending financial aid upon the condition of the assumption of all authority.

This objection was made by Mr. Mackey in the course of an address delivered in New York at the international conference for the rehabilitation of the disabled.

"I do not believe in the multiplication of commissions," said Mr. Mackey. "I am opposed to overlapping authorities. Waste time and lost motion in the administration of remedial legislation are unpardonable. Each individual sovereignty has its own problems, its own social conditions, its own peculiar industries, and, being in close touch with its own people, can more intelligently adopt means appropriate to its own conditions than could a commission born of the federal government."

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Misses' Department—Fourth Floor

An Assemblage of New Spring Fashions in Misses' Tailored Suits

The grace, the buoyancy and the inexhaustible charm of youth are given full expression in these tailored suits for misses and small women. Poiret Twill, Cheruit Twill, Tricotine, Serge, Velour checks and Jersey.

29.50—39.50 to 98.50

Misses' Coats and Wraps

The fascination of these wraps lies in their flowing lines and graceful silhouette, as well as in their use of soft fabrics and rich linings. Many models are one of a kind and all are extremely distinguished.

25.00 to 125.00

Misses' Spring Frocks

Exclusive and charming designs for street, afternoon or evening wear include frocks of tricotine, serge, moire taffeta, printed chiffon and other favorites of the present mode.

25.00 to 98.50

The Fur Department is now located on the Fourth Floor

Special for Saturday Women's Wraps

Capes, coats and wrap-like Coats of velour and tricotine, cut on graceful lines and featuring new Spring shades. 38.00

Dolmans, Capes and Coats of Poiret Twill, tricotine, serge, silver-tone, Bolivia and fine velours. 55.00

Distinctive models in fine tricotine, Evora, velours, poulette and satin. Many copies of importations. 68.00

Blouses

Exquisite creations in Georgette, net and lace, as well as smart voile and organdie Blouses, trimmed with frills and tucks. Many slip-over styles. 5.00 to 79.50

Special for Saturday Women's Suits

Tailleur models in braid-bound serge, featuring pin-tucking and novel belts and straight-line effects. 29.50

Smart simplicity marks these Suits of tricotine, fine gabardine and Poiret Twill, many of which show elaborate braid binding. 50.00

Unusual models in tricotine, velour checks and pin-striped velours, cut on distinguished lines and exquisitely tailored. 65.00

Skirts

Fan-ta-si, crepe de Chine, tricotelette, embroidered crepe, organdie and faille silk Skirts in light shades; as well as smart plaids for Sports wear. 10.75 to 39.75

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