## EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER-PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1919

# **READERS' VIEWPOINT**

## Letters to the Editor on **Current** Topics

For acceptance and publication in this column letters must be written on one side of the paper, deal with topics of general current interest and signed with the name and address of the writer. Names will be withheld on request and confidence respected. No manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage and a special request to this effect. Publication involves no indorsement by this newspaper of the sentiment expressed. No copy-right matter will be included nor will eligious discussions be permitted.

### The Operators' Side

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir-The mining of bituminous coal being a question of such vital impor-

Are a question of such as a question of the miners in local time of the miners and the miners are the difference of the miners in local time of the miners in local time of the miners in local time of the miners and the miners are the difference of the miners in local time of the miners and the miners are the difference of the miners in the difference of the miners are the difference of the miners are the difference of the miners in the difference of the miners are the difference of the miners ar forced at once, under penalty. The health, as well as safety, of the miner is, therefore, guarded while he is at work. On coming out of the mine, he has a sanitary bathhouse, supplied with hold and cald there has a hot and cold shower, lavatory and dry-ing-room, heated by steam, at his dis-posal, and where his working clothes. posal, and where his working clothes, if wet, are dried, ready for next day. He is then hauled to his home, one-half or two miles distant in a motor vehicle, without charge, and called for in like manner the following morning. A miner dislikes outside work as the temperature in a mine remains virtually without without and uniform, winter and summer, about 70

rees. Inder these conditions it is unfortunate that miners who are happy and contented, well paid at present scale and comfortably housed in their own homes largely, cannot resume work without sacrificing their membership in

As to the wages which an indus-trious miner, inexperienced, can earn, let me illustrate. A farmer's son, just let me inustrate. A farmer's son, just past sixteen years of oge, was given a room from which to load coal, on Oc-tober 16. He worked ninety eight hours in fourteen days, an average of geven hours daily, and his pay envelope. October 31, contained over \$94. An old miner, working the same hours, re-ceived \$134. These are not exceptional. It all depends on the man. This applies to what is familiarly called the miner, but who, in reality, is a loader, his but who, in reality, is a loader, his work being to break up and load the but who, work heing to break up and load the coal in mine run form, into mine cars placed beside him after the coal has-been undercut by electrical machines. thus doing away with the old method of picking. The car, when loaded, is im-mediately removed by locomotive or other motive power, and an empty car substituted without work or effort on the part of the loader. All other work-men "in and about the mine" receive a minimum of \$5 per day for eight hours' work. This includes outside workmen as well. It is extremely unfortunate that the

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Continued From Page One

U. S. to Seize Mines

toward the situation that he had dem-onstrated during the weeks of discus-

or electric power in their operation in Indiana is daily becoming more grave and further reduction of the strike of coal production in Indiana is daily becoming more grave and further reduction of the strike of t and the army of strikers resume work, and failure of the negotiations hus turned what was little more than indif-

Reports from the various coal-pro-ducing centers are that production was slowly but surely taking an upward curve, until today it stands close to 60 per cent of normal, if anthracite is in-cluded.

cluded.
Pittsburgh, Nov. 28.—(By A. P.)— "The Pittsburgh Coal Co. is willing and ready to co-operate with the govern- ment in its plan to increase the pro- duction of coal and our mines are open and ready for operation as soon as the W. K. First.
cluded.
b insist that proper warrants could not be paid when millions in city funds lay ille in the banks. In this connection, to section six of article seventeen of the porary advances."
 Bays. Section Could be weeks.

the 14 per cenf wage increase set by the government for the miners, according to

government for the miners, according to operators in this city. The opinion was expressed in com-menting on the official statement from Washington that the government would seize all mines where the operators re-fused to grant the increase and refused to co-operate with the Washington au-thorities in relieving the fuel situation. Mine operators in western Pennsyl-vania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois prob-ably will concede the, increase, it was said, without adding to the selling price of coal. The government's decision stipulated that no increase in selling

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price follow the wage boost. It is in the soft-coal fields of Ind-iana, Kansas and Oklahoma, it was explained, that the operators may find it impossible to grant higher wages to be men. The view was expressed that the

The view was expressed that the operators are entirely willing to co-operate with Dr. Harry A. Garfield. It was believed that Doctor Garfield', decision, calling for a 14 per cent in ase, was based on a careful study of the facts and figures in the situation and that his decision was fair to the miners and operators.

to Speed Output Nonessential Industries Remain

CHARGES THE MAYOR

in Transit Hold-Up Mayor Smith deliberately "passed the buck" in the matter of preparing

"PASSED THE BUCK"

hell of the new city charter's require. ends today. The workers are trying to This charge is made in "Citizens' \$1,500,000, before the neonday lunch-

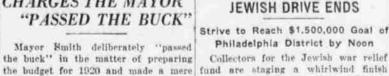
Business." a statement just issued by con at the Bellevue Stratford. Contributions during the past fortyeight hours have been unusually heavy statement reads. Mayor Smith missed an opportunity such as accorded no pre-vious Mayor to rehabilitate his admin-iscration in the public eye. "It is unfortunate that this oppor-funity was not more fully utilized." in

to personal calls upon "prospects," and the results were all that could be ex-

pected.











The weather-wise Mr. Muskrat is building a warmer house than ever, this fall.

house perfectly warm on the coldest days last year you'll need to BETTER YOUR HEATING system



will save coal.

new furnace at minimum cost.



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