

COAL COMMISSION STARTS ITS WORK

Confers With Secretary Wilson and Tumulty Prior to Initial Sessions

OPERATORS MAY ASSIST

By the Associated Press Washington, Dec. 29.—Members of the commission named by President Wilson under the coal strike settlement agreement to investigate wages and prices in the bituminous coal industry conferred with Secretary Tumulty today at the White House.

Secretary of Labor Wilson later joined the conference. John G. Korman, attaché of the Department of Labor, who took part in the settlement with the miners, accompanied Mr. Wilson to the White House.

The commission is expected to lay out a program for its work at meetings during the day.

Members of the executive committee of the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association also were in the city today and it was expected that the operators finally would tender their assistance to the commission in its work, in spite of objections that have been made by the operators to the government's plan.

Under the strike settlement agreement with the miners, made by Attorney General Palmer with President Wilson's authorization, work has been resumed at the mines, a 14 per cent advance in wages has been given the miners and government fixed prices on coal of \$2.75 per ton mine run at the mine have been retained. The commission is empowered to grant further increases if found necessary and to increase the price of coal if that is necessary and has been requested to report a decision within sixty days.

The members of the commission are Henry M. Robinson, of Pasadena, Calif., chairman; Remondet, Peirce, representing the operators, and John P. White, representing the miners.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—(By A. P.)—Representatives of coal operators in the bituminous fields met here today to discuss the attitude to be adopted toward the findings of the commission appointed by President Wilson to adjust wages of miners after settlement of the recent nation-wide strike.

The operators assert that they have not committed themselves as to accepting or endorsing any decision the President's commission may reach.

Discuss Compensation at Y. M. C. A. The new workmen's compensation law, which goes into effect January 1, was discussed last night at the open forum in the Central Y. M. C. A. Francis J. Bohlen, counsel for the compensation board of Pennsylvania, said that the maximum awards under the law were suitable to meet conditions before 1915, but that they were not high enough to meet present high cost of living.

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DISCUSS SOCIAL PROBLEMS

American Economic Association and Allied Organizations Meet

Chicago, Dec. 29.—(By A. P.)—Legislation affecting labor, agriculture, taxation and social problems growing out of the wave of unrest were topics before the conventions of the American Economic Association and allied organizations which met here today.

The conventions of the American Association for Labor Legislation, the American Association for Agricultural Legislation, the American Sociological Association, the American Statistical Association and the American Association of University Instructors in Accounting were opened in connection with the meeting of the Economic Association.

Applications to the United States of the compulsory of the world labor conference held recently in Washington were one of the subjects to be considered at sessions of the labor legislative organization, according to John B. Andrews, a New York secretary of the association.

BITTER TOWARD SLAYER

Expect Difficulty Getting Jury in Case of Va. Prohibition Inspector

Manassas, Va., Dec. 29.—(By A. P.)—Difficulty in obtaining a satisfactory jury was expected to delay proceedings when William G. Hall, prohibition inspector accused of murder, went on trial here today, because of the general discussion of the case and widespread feeling against the defendant in this section.

Hall, who is accused of having killed Lawrence D. Hudson and Raymond Shaddock during a November duel between the two men and an automobile used of prohibition inspectors last March, will make self defense his plea. Hall was tried on the same charge last September, the jury being unable to reach a verdict.

Trial of three other prohibition officials—Donatus Harris P. Sweet, Sr., J. H. Sullivan and W. P. Dunbar—awaits the outcome of Hall's trial, it was said here today. They were members of Hall's party. The officers say the men killed were engaged in illicit whiskey traffic.

UNIONS WILL FIGHT RAIL LABOR TERMS

Brotherhood Chiefs Convene Today—Expected to Combat Anti-Strike Clauses

CONFEREES IN SESSION

By the Associated Press Washington, Dec. 29.—The joint congressional conference committee today discussed points of difference between the Cummins and Esch railroad reorganization bills in an effort to conciliate minor disagreements and pave the way for consideration of the important anti-strike provisions of the Cummins measure.

Simultaneously high railroad union officials gathered to attend a conference called by Samuel Gompers, to formulate a definite policy to be pursued with regard to the offensive labor clauses of the Senate bill. The chiefs of the four railroad brotherhoods and the rail workers' platform with regard to the anti-strike provisions.

Prior to the union conference officials of the several unions affiliated with the brotherhoods strongly indicated their conviction that the conference would adopt a declaration of principles similar to that of the railway mailmen's union, which voted to strike if the more drastic provisions of the Cummins bill should become law. Representatives of the railroad unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor who had planned to confer with Director General Hines today relative to wage increases, decided at the last moment not to see the director general today. No reason for the postponement was given nor did the union officials indicate when they would ask for a conference.

Americans in Tokio Hotel Fire

Tokio, Dec. 29.—Half the Imperial Hotel, housing forty American tourists, burned Saturday night. There were no casualties among the Americans, many of whom were prominent and several of whom were women or children.

Cable Briefs

Vienna, once the chief commercial city of Austria-Hungary, with its 2,500,000 people, is dying. The war has left the city starving, and there is every indication now that it will become a German city—the gateway of the German nation to the Far East. There are hints of a new Balkan problem, centered in Vienna, whereby this fair city will be the scene of intrigue of every powerful nation in Europe, particularly Germany, France and Italy.

M. Patek, the new Polish foreign minister, is in Paris to ask aid of the Allies in helping his country resist invasion by the Bolsheviks, which, he declares, is scheduled to take place the coming spring.

Bitterness is uppermost in the Christmas humor of the Berlin holidays. Even the daily press seems filled with morose resentment during the holiday season this year. Christmas shops are far from gay and the crowds have been thinning only the cheaper presents.

Richard Henry Little, the Chicago Tribune's special correspondent, has returned to Paris after eleven months in the Baltic states. His hair is completely white, and he is limping from injuries received in the Gatchina retreat.

"We fall, but we rise again," is the message to the world sent by the Ukrainian Government as it fled from Denikin's advancing forces. A revolt of peasants is being fomented, and is expected to make itself felt in the spring.

Tokio announces that before the Bol-

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shierists can win eastern Siberia, they will have to defeat several Japanese divisions, and possibly face Japan's full military power.

The British Government will give to relatives of British soldiers who died in the great war copper pinnacles on which are inscribed the hero's name and "He died for freedom and honor."

Rumors of a bank rate advance to 10 per cent are rife in London financial circles. It is believed this would halt speculation and help cut living costs.

Cardinal Mercier is backing up the Pope's appeal for collections on behalf of the suffering children of central Europe. In a letter to Brussels clergy, the cardinal explains "that even if we were the poorest, we should grow greater in a moral and Christian sense by doing charity to our neighbors without distinction of races or nationalities."

The peace negotiations between Esthonia and Soviet Russia, which were near signature, and were expected to be promulgated Christmas morning, were broken off suddenly when the Estonian delegates found that they would be prevented from fortifying the west bank of the Narova river, which is the

natural border line between the two countries.

Sarah Bernhardt and Leon Berard, minister of public instruction, presided at the forty-first anniversary meeting of the "Hedronaths" in Paris yesterday. It was the second twenty-year joint meeting of the two branches of the organization.

Women burglars are thriving in Germany. Two who have been specializing on the fashionable colonies of Grunewald, Wannsee, and Potsdam, have been captured, after many thefts, netting loot worth thousands. The Potsdam manseum, containing bodies of Prince Friedrich Karl and his wife and sister, Princess Louise, has been broken into.

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Table with columns for Muffs and Choker Scarfs. Lists various types of muffs and scarfs and their prices.

At the Crossroads of the World

unless Turkey's problem is solved. Today Turkey and her old subject peoples turn to America, begging us to bring order and construction out of chaos and decay. But in Constantinople seethes Imperial intrigue, and the Allied censors allow no American news to be published. Yours is the responsibility to decide. Shall America hold out her hand to the Turk and the Armenian, the Arab and the Jew, or shall America turn over these peoples once more to be the plaything of European diplomacy? There's oil, and coal, and the great highway of the world in Turkey. Italy, Greece, England and France all demand a slice. You can learn the reality—in the December

ASIA The American MAGAZINE on the Orient

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Table with columns for Contents for December. Lists various articles and their authors.

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Look through the current issue of ASIA and see for yourself how filled with new interest this magazine is. You will be traveling on a broad highway to a land of fascination. From no other magazine, book or newspaper can you get a cross section view of the new international order, the lives of Oriental people and our relation to them, as that which ASIA opens up. News stands have only a limited supply. ASIA is on sale only at the best stands; get your copy today; 35 cents; \$3.00 yearly.

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