

### CHARGE OPERATORS MADE BIG PROFITS

Some Earned Over 1000 Per Cent in 1917, Miners Allege

### GIVES LIVING COST DATA

By the Associated Press  
Washington, Jan. 28.—Miners' representatives completed their presentation of wage and coal mining cost statistics to the President's commission to settle the coal strike today and, at the request of the operators, President Robinson adjourned the hearings until Monday when the operators will present statistical data. Robinson also gave notice that, beginning February 4, the commission would hear representatives of the coal fields outside the central territory.

**Huge Coal Profits**  
Van H. Bittner, statistician for the miners' union, continued his analysis of cost of living statistics fixing the advance in them since 1913 at 85 per cent. As to the ability of the mine owners to pay advances he cited their profits. His figures showed that the Pittsburgh Coal Co. made a net profit of approximately \$3,000,000 for the two-year period of 1914-1915, while for the two-year period including 1917-1918 the net profit was more than \$22,000,000. The profit of \$14,476,822 in 1917, he said, represented 20.6 per cent on the capital stock and \$600 on each employee.

**Labor Receives Less**  
Further Bittner cited statistics which he said were obtained from the treasury department and financial reports showing that 935 mining companies in 1917 made 15 per cent on their capital stock; 311 made 20 per cent; 295 made 25 per cent; 270 made 30 per cent; 232 made 40 per cent or more; 197, 50 per cent or more; 102, 100 per cent or more and eight companies made over 1000 per cent. Regardless of all increases, he said, mine labor was receiving fewer cents out of every dollar paid to operators for coal than they got in 1913 and 1914.

### HOOVER NOT MENTIONED AT COL. HOUSE'S LUNCHEON

Affair Was Simply Social Event in Honor of Viscount Grey Before His Departure—Political "Sensation" Proves a Fizzle

The following editorial is reprinted from today's PUBLIC LEDGER:

### A Political "Dud"

The Philadelphia North American last week published an article under the headline setting forth in great detail its "discovery" that the presidential boom for H. C. Hoover had been launched at a "dinner" given by Colonel E. M. House on December 5. This "dinner," it declared, was attended by Ralph Pulitzer, publisher of the New York World; Frank Cobb, editor of the New York World; Cleveland H. Dodge, "a very rich man, hitherto a friend of the President"; Colonel House, and Cyrus H. K. Curtis, publisher of the PUBLIC LEDGER.

Following this "dinner," the North American pointed out, the New York World printed a long story to the effect that the President and Colonel House were "on the outs" and that therefore Colonel House was seeking another candidate than Wilson for the Presidency. The North American next made the astounding discovery that "about the middle of December the PUBLIC LEDGER devoted nearly two columns of space to exalting Mr. Hoover without declaring for him for President."

Having got this far with its masterly deduction, the North American discovered that its story was a "dud." It didn't explode, it created no sensation. So in its dilemma it applied to Mr. Hearst's New York American. This newspaper very quickly showed how to revitalize the "dud." It must not only be Colonel House who wanted Hoover for President, but it must also be England! To transform the "dud" into a real explosive, Hoover must be a candidate "made in England." Therefore the New York American made the further damning "discovery" that in addition to the gentlemen previously named as having been present at the "dinner," which was really not a dinner at all but a luncheon, Viscount Edward Grey, British ambassador to the United States, and the British-union candidate himself, Herbert C. Hoover, were also present.

Announcing this discovery in heavy black type, the New York American pointed out that "it is rather unusual to have a British ambassador present at an occasion at which the boom for

an American President is launched; but Mr. Hoover is understood to be the candidate of the Democratic administration pledged to perpetuate Mr. Wilson's policies. And, naturally, the British ambassador is anxious to see advantageous to England."

With these headlines the North American published simultaneously with the New York American these newest discoveries. Its "dud" was now a real eighteen-inch shell warranted to explode.

And now what are the facts? They are contained in a news dispatch printed on another page of the PUBLIC LEDGER, in the form of a telegram from Colonel House, who says: "Herbert Hoover was not present at the luncheon which I gave to Lord Grey. It was given largely for the purpose of having Lord Grey meet Mr. Curtis. Mr. Hoover's name was not mentioned and there was no political discussion of any kind whatsoever."

Mr. Pulitzer has said the same thing in his newspapers. The North American could have had the same information from Mr. Curtis had it taken the trouble to ask for it. But that would have spoiled its story. There would have been no "dud"—merely the truth.

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### ASSERT VIBRATIONS MADE MAINS BREAK

Witnesses in Probe of Fatal Accidents Tell Coroner Vehicles Disturbed Ground

### CLOSE INSPECTION NEEDED

Vibration from heavy vehicles passing over frozen ground, causing street mains to leak, was blamed today by witnesses as the cause of six deaths from illuminating gas in recent accidents.

Chief Deputy Coroner Sellers and a

jury heard testimony into the deaths of John J. Kelly and four other members of his household at 641 West Allegheny avenue, who were asphyxiated on January 19, and of William Reed, 2852 Gaul street, who died January 6 in the Northwestern General Hospital. Verdicts of accidental suffocation from illuminating gas escaping from broken mains in the street were returned in both cases.

Reed was overcome in the Stevens Beneficial Club, Gaul and Ann streets, dying a few hours after reaching the hospital. The Kelly family were found dead by neighbors.

Ronald B. Duncan, superintendent of the Spring Garden district, and Walton Forstall, Rosemont, an engineer for the U. G. I. Co., testified that the street mains lay three feet under the street surface. In cold weather, he said, the ground freezes to a depth of more than two feet. Pressure of heavy vehicles on this frozen surface, he continued, pushes the dirt against the pipes causing cracks through which the gas leaks into the houses by way of crevices in foundation walls.

In the Kelly case a manhole recently placed in the street near the Seventh street side of the house. Later a depression or settling of the surface was noticed by Ernest Kley, a butcher, 701 Allegheny avenue, who said he had talked with Kelly over the fact and a resulting shaking of the houses whenever a heavy truck passed by.

### KILL ANTI-SMOKING BILL

South Carolina House Refuses to Accept Senate Measure

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 28.—(By A. P.)—The bill prohibiting smoking in public eating places in South Carolina, passed by the state Senate last week, was killed in the House today without a dissenting vote. The House adopted an unfavorable report from the judiciary committee on the bill.

### SHIPYARD CHURCH NEARLY YEAR OLD

Pastor of Mount Calvary Praises Congregation of Hog Island Workers

### UPHELD MEN IN DISPUTE

Mount Calvary Presbyterian Church, Seventy-seventh street and Lyons avenue, which will soon celebrate its first anniversary, is one of the outgrowths of the Hog Island shipyard.

tion of the Rev. Frank Werner, it was organized as a church last spring, and is now a handsome stone edifice, completely paid for. Virtually all of its 200 members are connected in some way with the Hog Island shipyard.

With the exception of a few months during the war, when he worked with the Y. M. C. A. at Camp Dix, at the height of the influenza epidemic, Mr. Werner has been the leader and the inspiration in the work in the Mount Calvary church community.

"I have been closely in touch with the Hog Island workers," said the minister today, "and I have found them free hearted, good natured, moral and religious men. I always upheld the southwestern section of the city and its citizens. They are of many creeds, right, religious people."

The minister upheld the Hog Island men in a controversy which occurred at the Presbyterian ministerial meeting Monday, when George Muller, minister of the shipyard workers, and the Mount Calvary Church will be one year old April 17, 1920.

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