

**SOFT COAL GOUGE  
HIT ICE MAKERS**

Ice Industry in New Jersey  
Multiplied of \$15,201,000,  
Hoboken Producer Says

**PAID HIGH AS \$21 A TON**

Atlantic City, Nov. 12.—Before the Western Ice Manufacturers' Association, in convention here yesterday, Anthony J. Volk, of Hoboken, head of one of the largest ice producing enterprises in Hudson county, injected the charge of graft into the bituminous coal controversy.

"We had to submit to sandbagging and pay the profiteers whatever they chose to demand, or shut up shop," he said. "We concluded to pay any price to get fuel rather than let the people suffer for lack of ice. They made us pay as high as \$21 a ton for some of our fuel."

To summarize the situation in this state, we compiled with every order issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission and with all of the investigations of the railroad companies, and the net result has been an overcharge, to ice producers alone, of \$15,201,000.

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201,000." Mr. Volk's program subject was "Graft in Coal."

**Passing Phase of Readjustment**  
"Conditions in the bituminous coal industry, which have caused consumers trouble in obtaining supplies and given opportunity for speculative prices in this commodity, are but a passing phase of war readjustment," asserted J. D. A. Morrow, vice president of the National Coal Association. He insisted no emergency exists in the bituminous industry to call for federal control of mines.

"We all understand perfectly well that lack of transportation is the basic cause of the trouble," the operators' spokesman continued. "The remedy for that difficulty is not regulation of coal but improvement of transportation facilities. The railroads are making vigorous efforts to bring that about."

"If the railroads are given an opportunity to recover from the ill effects they suffered during the war there is no doubt whatever they will furnish all the transportation this country needs. When that is done people need have no fear as to future sufficiency of their coal supply or the reasonableness of prices."

"There are 10,000 bituminous coal mines open throughout the country. There is plenty of coal land available along the railways in which 10,000 more mines could be opened if they were

needed to supply this country, but they are not needed."

**Transportation Only Need**  
The mines now open, equipped as they are with machinery and manned with the men who are there, can produce 100,000,000 tons more coal every year than this country can use and export. We need to have sufficient transportation devoted to the movement of the output of these mines, and that is all that is necessary to relieve conditions such as those of the last six months.

"We need patience and hard common sense in the existing condition and not theoretical socialistic governmental regulation," Mr. Morrow maintained. "If business men are given an opportunity to work out these problems they will emerge successfully from the economic chaos war brought upon the country."

He added, with some bitterness, that every now and then some "intellectual giant" discovers the United States has produced about 50,000,000 more tons of coal this year up to date than last year, whereas we are now 7,000,000 tons behind production for the equal period of 1917 and 42,000,000 tons behind 1918. Last year's production fell 40,000,000 tons short of requirements. It is estimated the country will require from 550,000,000 to 565,000,000 tons of soft coal this year.

**NEW CLASHES NEAR URGA**  
Chinese Fighting Russians, Mongols and Japanese; Americans Protected

Peking, Nov. 12.—Chinese troops have been engaged in new skirmishes with forces of Russians, Mongols and Japanese near Urga, northern Mongolia, according to despatches from that city. Re-enforcements rushed southward from Khabhta, near the Siberian frontier, turned the tide of battle and drove the enemy back toward the northeast. This fight occurred November 4, and the Chinese commander at Urga has, since that time, received information that enemy re-enforcements of 2000 men, principally Japanese, had arrived in the district and were preparing to renew the attack.

The hostile movement is claimed to be a Mongol attempt to restore autonomy in that region.

Apprehension concerning a few Americans in Urga has been allayed by the Chinese commander's assurance of their safety under the protection of special-detailed troops.

"Morality Inspector" Killed in Raid  
Winnipeg, Man., Nov. 12.—Alex Meier, provincial "morality inspector," is dead and two other Manitoba policemen wounded as the result of a liquor raid on a hotel in St. Boniface early yesterday. The men who fired the shots

of the magazine then were printed with the two pages blank, and it was voted by the board of managers yesterday to print the full circulation of 60,000 in this way, with an explanation later of the cause.

**HEADS AUSTRIAN ASSEMBLY**  
Vienna, Nov. 12.—Dr. Richard Weiskirchner, many years mayor of Vienna, has been elected first president of the Austrian National Assembly, succeeding Dr. Karl Seitz. Herr Eldersch, Social Democrat, was elected second president and Dr. F. Dinghofer, of the Greater German party, third president. For the first time since pre-war monarchical days high mass at the votive church preceded the opening of the session.

**PAGES BLANKED BY STRIKE**  
Grange Magazine Goes to Press Without Type for Two Forms

Boston, Nov. 12.—The appearance at the annual sessions of the National Grange yesterday of its monthly magazine with two pages blank was explained at a meeting of the board of managers by the editor, Charles M. Gardner, former master of the Massachusetts grade, as due to a strike of printers for more pay. The editor said the type for these two pages had been set but not locked before the strike started, and that when he and his foreman locked up the pages the stereotypers refused to handle them because of his own non-union labor. Several hundred copies

of the magazine then were printed with the two pages blank, and it was voted by the board of managers yesterday to print the full circulation of 60,000 in this way, with an explanation later of the cause.

**DEFENSE AGAINST HUNGARY**  
Serbia and Czechoslovakia Pledge Mutual Aid, Published Pact Shows

Belgrade, Jugo-Slavia, Nov. 12.—The text of the defensive convention concluded between Serbia (Jugo-Slavia) and Czechoslovakia, on August 14, has been made public. It provides that in the event of an unprovoked attack by Hungary on either party to the convention the other shall come to its aid. The convention is for two years, when it may be denounced by either party, but it will remain in force for six months after its denunciation. Neither party can conclude an alliance with a third power without notification to the other.

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