

U. S. COAL CONTROL URGED BY CALDER

States Can Do Much in Correcting Abuses, but Problem is National, Says Senator

PUBLICITY SEEN AS CURE

Washington, Dec. 21.—Senator William M. Calder, of New York, chairman of the Senate subcommittee which has been investigating fuel and housing problems, displayed great interest today in the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER's suggestion that some of the abuses found by the committee to exist in the anthracite industry could be corrected by state supervision and control. He expressed doubt whether the state could go farther than supervise the production and distribution of coal mined and sold within its own borders.

"It is an interesting suggestion and a valuable one," Senator Calder said.

"A similar plan for state control of the industry was proposed in Alabama, with the result that the state authorities and operators entered into a mutual arrangement governing the industry, which seems to be working out very satisfactorily. I have no doubt that the state of Pennsylvania could do a great deal toward correcting abuses which now exist in the hard coal region.

"Indiana is also attempting state regulation of coal mining. A coal commission has been created there, with authority under legislative enactment to fix prices and control distribution. The district courts have ruled that this form of control is constitutional, so far as it affects coal mined and sold within the state. The decision has been appealed by the operators, and the contest is now before the Circuit Court of Appeals.

It is an interesting experiment and worth studying. In my own judgment, the best and only cure-all for the evils in industry is the widest possible publicity. I believe that if we get these things out in the open and get them discussed, the remedies will present themselves and be applied to specific problems. We began curing the evils of the life insurance business as it was formerly conducted when Governor Hughes brought the gentlemen who controlled the companies out into the open. He showed us these men were and what their methods were. That laid the foundation for the reforms that transformed life insurance into a business which now has the entire confidence of policyholders and the public.

"The problem of correcting the abuses in the coal mining industry, however, is essentially a national problem. The states can be of material assistance, but can only regulate prices and distribution within their own borders. I question whether any state can constitutionally attempt to regulate prices and distribution of any commodity in interstate commerce, or the bulk of which is shipped beyond the state borders. That is where Congress must step in, unless the industry sets up reforms voluntarily and take steps to protect the public against extortion and faulty methods of marketing. There must be some sort of national supervision, in my opinion, to supplement the regulatory programs of the states.

"The EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER is performing a public service in calling attention to the need for regulation and in giving the widest discussion to the problems and possible remedies. Out of such discussions the remedy will come, and the public will be protected."

JOB FOR RETIRING SENATOR
Smith, of Arizona, Selected for International Commission

Washington, Dec. 21.—(By A. P.)—Senator Marcus A. Smith, of Arizona, is understood to have been selected by President Wilson as a member of the international joint commission, which deals with certain questions arising between the United States and Canada, such as fisheries and the like.

Senator Smith's term of office as senator will expire next March 3 and he is expected to enter upon his new duties immediately afterward. His appointment has not yet been made, but it will be to fill a vacancy on the high commission, of which Obadiah Gardner, of Rockland, Me., is chairman.

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Pastor Called to Lancaster
Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 21.—The congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, has extended a call to the Rev. Dr. Aden H. MacIntosh, president of the Norristown conference of the Lutheran ministry of Pennsylvania.

Lehigh Valley's Petition Refused
Washington, Dec. 21.—The Supreme Court has refused a petition of the Lehigh Valley Railroad asking the court to reconsider its decision requiring separation of the Lehigh and the Delaware, Susquehanna and Schuylkill Railroad.

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