

COAL MEN SADDLE ROYALTY ON PUBLIC

Girard Estate Collections Go to City as Share in High Costs

ASSESSMENTS KEPT LOW

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN
When an anthracite operator who is working his mine on a royalty basis prepares his annual report for submission to the Federal or State Government, he charges his payments on account of royalties to the City of Philadelphia.
That is, provided his operation is situated on lands owned by the Stephen Girard estate.
"Why do you charge it against the City of Philadelphia?" I asked one of the big operators. "Why not credit the cash payments for royalties to the Girard estate?"
"Because," he laughed as he replied, "the city of Philadelphia, in managing the Girard estate, receives all benefits accruing from these mining royalties and the public, which is always so ready and eager to acclaim us as profiteers and pirates, is entitled to know that the goodly City of Philadelphia has a direct interest in this so-called profiteering."
"In other words, Philadelphia is particeps criminis. The more we get for our coal, the higher price we charge, the more money or the greater the take-off for Philadelphia," he said with a wave of the hand, as if dismissing the subject.
"But it's the Girard Estate. Why not put it that way in your books and reports instead of the City of Philadelphia?" I continued.
"The Girard Estate is Philadelphia."

Let her take her share of the blame for high prices," was his conclusion.
In the above, I have merely reflected the feeling and expression of an operator who has been paying royalties, as he puts it, to the city of Philadelphia for years. He asserts that the present royalties are excessive, but it is Philadelphia consumers who, largely, must foot the bill in the end.
I am able here to present, from testimony under oath, some idea of the city's prospective income, for many years, from the Girard Estate royalties.
The name of the concern is, for the present, withheld, though it can be forthcoming at any time where occasion demands.
This tract of coal, operated on a royalty basis, comprises 300 acres of land. It is a part of the original 30,000 acres of anthracite lands, approximately, purchased by Stephen Girard.
It is estimated by the persons taking out the anthracite on the tract that by the time all the veins, or seams, are exhausted the city of Philadelphia, as the operators designate the Girard Estate, managed by the Board of City Trusts, will have collected something like \$9,365,000 in royalties.
At the same time the operators will, according to their engineer's estimates, have cleaned up many millions as their share of the transaction.
The operators in question estimate that they have sixty-three feet of coal in all the veins.
To understand this, it must be remembered that anthracite lies in veins of varying thickness. Those nearest the surface are usually thickest. Sixty-three feet of coal means that if all the veins were placed together they would measure sixty-three feet in thickness.
"To make perfectly sure of being conservative," said an official, "I'll give them forty feet of solid coal and at low twenty-three feet for rock and waste."
Can Get 1800 Tons Yearly
"A universal estimate based on experience is that an acre of anthracite one foot in thickness will yield 1800 tons of the finished product."
"The rest of it is merely a matter of arithmetic. Forty feet of coal at 1800 tons to the foot would be 72,000 tons. The operators in question gave it as their judgment that they would make from \$1.10 to \$1.15 a ton.
"To be safely conservative, let their returns be placed at \$1 a ton. The in-

LAYS BRIDAL GOWN ASIDE TO NURSE STRICKEN FIANCE

Miss Helen Byrnes, Bridgeport, Pa., Sits at Bedside of Intended Husband, Aiding Him in Fight Against Death

There is a white bridal gown in Bridgeport, Pa., that remained in its box today when it was to have graced a wedding.
The pretty dress should have been decking the petite form of Miss Helen C. Byrnes.
But instead—
In a modest gingham gown, Miss Byrnes stood on the porch of her vine-clad home at 705 De Kalb street and said, "Sh-h-h-h." On the door of the house was a yellow sign. It read, "Scarlet Fever."
Sunday morning William Otley, Brookline, Miss. Byrnes's fiance, was stricken with scarlet fever and today he is lying critically ill at the home of his fiancee.
Otley, who was a first lieutenant, Battery C, 108th Artillery, was spending the week-end at the Byrnes home, when he was stricken. Without thought of contagion the girl who was shortly to be his bride, volunteered to nurse him. Until Monday she spent every minute at his bedside, but Monday night it was decided that it was imperative to put the case in the charge of trained nurses.
Cool and collected, but showing the strain of worry in her pretty dark eyes, the little bride who was to have been today, discussed the case from the seclusion of quarantine and the porch.
"I can only talk to him now through the door," she explained. "They won't let me see him at all. But I am a great deal relieved. For two days he was so critically ill we were very much worried. He was delirious. But now the doctors say he is a little better and that he will get well. I have been scoured a great deal. Today is the first day he has known people."
"Of course it is an extreme disappointment to every one—the postponement of the wedding. The plans were simple and not too elaborate, but, of course, it was to have been a real wedding. The invitations had to be recalled. Just as soon, of course, as Mr.

action that has interested financial and business circles for the last two years. The last formality took place today with the actual transfer of the property.
By this purchase the Hercules Co. acquires plants at or near Birmingham, Ala.; Emporium, Pa.; Sinsamaboning, Pa.; Ishpeming, Mich.; Fayville, Ill.; Goes Station, O.; Port Ewen, N. Y., and at Prescott, Ontario, Canada.
Government Wants Mrs. R. C. Smith
Information pertaining to the whereabouts of Elizabeth Smith, wife of Robert Cleaver Smith, is desired by the United States Treasury Department, Bureau of War Risk Insurance. Information should be sent by letter, requesting an appointment, to M. H. Cole, field examiner, 140 North Broad street, Philadelphia.

Hercules Powder Co. Purchases Its Eight Plants
New York, June 8.—Rumors of the proposed purchase of the Aetna Explosives Co., Inc., by the Hercules Powder Co., were confirmed when the Aetna stockholders sanctioned the sale of its properties, assets and business. This marks the culmination of a trans-

Plays at St. Mary Academy
Students at St. Mary Academy presented two plays on the school campus, York road and Somerville avenue, this afternoon as part of the commencement exercises. The younger students took part in "A Garden Cinderella" and the older children presented "The Heart of France." Another feature included a countless dance, in which ten students participated.

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