

FAST UNDEVELOPED FIELDS OF COAL

West Virginia Will Soon Lead All in Coal Production.

IT NOW LEADS IN OIL AND TIMBER

Enormous Tracts of Coal Territory That Have Never Been Touched by the Miner's Pick--Over 16,000,000 Acres of Virgin Forest--Agricultural Capabilities Commensurate With Its Other Natural Wealth--A Wide Field for the Safe Investment of Capital and the Establishment of Industrial Interests.

From the Pittsburgh News.

West Virginia is the coming state of the union in the coal and oil and timber, particularly in the former. The adoption of by-product coke ovens as the method of that process of coke manufacture, becoming a reality, will give the state a vast field for the safe investment of capital and the establishment of industrial interests.

Governor W. A. MacCorkle, of West Virginia, who last night addressed the Pittsburgh chamber of commerce, is the standard bearer of his commonwealth's great industrial advantages. No other man is better posted on its natural wealth and mineral resources, which it has made of late years in the mining of coal, manufacture of coke, production of oil and the development of timber lands.

Governor MacCorkle figures that West Virginia has 3,100 more square miles of coal area than England, 8,000 square miles more than Pennsylvania, and 7,000 square miles more than Ohio.

The coal districts and seams of West Virginia are as varied as the state's resources. South of the Kanawha and Ohio rivers are the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad is the famous Flat Top field, with an area of 4,425 square miles.

One of the strange characteristics of this section of West Virginia is the great number of valuable veins that lie above the New River, all thick enough to be mined. In some localities, however, the surface is not sufficient to the successful mining of all the seams.

In the Kanawha district a great deposit of coal in the two-mile valley and extensive beds of cannel and splint coals are to be found. In the Kanawha valley, the coal is of the best quality for domestic use and of all sizes, including Buckwheat and nut sizes, in any part of the city at the lowest price.

Though the Appalachian coal system is strongly developed in Pennsylvania west of the Allegheny mountains it is said to have greater extent in West Virginia, yet mining operations are limited to four districts, the Flat Top, New River, Central West Virginia and Upper Monongahela.

Governor MacCorkle believes that the older iron producing states are about out of ore. Pennsylvania and Ohio are practically exhausted of iron ore, and have their own coal and no ore of any consequence. The governor's prediction is that in twenty years the Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee will be the cheapest iron producing sections in the country. He speculates largely on the adaptability of the West Virginia ores to cheap mining and the proximity of fuel.

If there is one thing West Virginia can boast of it is her timber. It stands alone both in quality and abundance. There are sixteen varieties of oak, 900 square miles of spruce, 1,500,000 feet of the finest poplar in the world, enormous forests of cherry, white pine, hard and soft maple, black walnut, gum, red beach, yellow birch, chestnut, yellow pine, ash, hickory, hemlock and forty species of the smaller woods, comparatively unbroken.

MINE FLOODED AT ABERNANT

A Terrible Inrush of Water in One of the Largest Coalpits in Wales.

PERILOUS POSITION OF 120 MEN

Shortly After Four O'clock of the 10th Instant News was Received of an Inrush of Water at an Aberdare Colliery in South Wales.

This is the latest possible news received from the River Level Pit, Aberdare, where 120 men are entombed and all liable to lose their lives in what seldom happens nowadays in the mines of Wales or any other country. Mr. Richard Howell, manager of the company, happened to be on top of the pit at the time, and at once descended, immediately afterwards sending men through the return airway to warn the men to work their way outward. This proved to be very efficacious, and resulted in nearly 120 workers being promptly released from the mines. The manager and some helpers then proceeded in the direction from which the water emanated, and found it rushing from old workings that had not been used since 1872.

The current number of Anecdote announces that three of the editor's prizes for the best original story were given to the following: "The Garden of Romance," by Mrs. R. A. Richards; "The Garden of Romance," by Mrs. R. A. Richards; "The Garden of Romance," by Mrs. R. A. Richards.

EXPLORING THE MINE

The exploring party, comprising Messrs. Adams (inspector of mines), Gregory, W. Howell, Phillips, Talbot, Williams, had difficult work in getting at the source of the influx. They were continually in a rushing stream, and had to pass over a barrier of coal, etc. No level of drift was submerged, and about eighty or ninety yards from the place where the imprisoned men were working.

Recently the goods and chattels of the renowned anti-tithe and Welsh patron, Mr. John Parry, Llanmorris, were sold for the debt due to the parish. Mr. Parry was one of the first to refuse paying tithe, and he has probably delivered the most eloquent speech ever occupied on this question that any living Welshman has known.

The death of the venerable principal of the Brecon Memorial college, the Rev. Dr. Morris, which took place on the 5th of this month, has produced a keen and widespread regret in Wales, for, owing to his retiring disposition, he never occupied that prominent place in the public life of Wales which he might otherwise have attained.

Arrangements have been made, through Mr. Evan Owen, secretary of the Miners' Provident Fund, to obtain the services of two expert divers from Cardiff who are expected to arrive on the scene at an early day.

The River Level Pit, where the disaster occurred, is the oldest in the Aberdare Valley, having been opened in the twenties. Close by stand the remains of the once flourishing Abernant ironworks, and the coal raised from this colliery was principally used for the furnaces there.

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