



OPERATORS CHARGE EXCESS PRICES FOR COAL, IT IS SAID

Bills Rendered Show Higher Rates Than Those Set by Government When Recent Strike Began

RESTRICTIONS MODIFIED AND TRAINS TO BE RESTORED

By Associated Press

Washington, Dec. 13.—Prices charged by coal operators since government control was restored because of the strike are being scrutinized closely by officials of the railroad administration and probably will be submitted to the Department of Justice.

Bills being rendered by the operators are said by officials to specify prices higher in many instances than set by the government and investigation will be made to determine whether the increased prices are justified by existing contracts in all cases.

Discrepancies in prices have been one cause, according to officials, of the financial embarrassment of which the operators have been complaining. Reconsignment of coal, especially when shipped from the east to the west, causing a delay in payment, also has been a factor. Director General Hines has changed the method of payment for railroad coal from a monthly to a weekly basis to assist the operators in this respect.

A delegation of operators conferred to-day with officials of the War Finance Corporation regarding possible financial advances by the government. After the meeting it was said there probably would be no necessity for any such action, as other ways of meeting the situation had been pointed out.

May Raise Some Prices
F. E. Harkness, counsel for the fuel administration, announced during the day that prices of coal contracted for by purchasers prior to the resumption of government price fixing could be legally raised to absorb the cost of the 14 per cent. increase in miners' wages granted under the strike settlement. Coal mined on contract, it was said, in most cases bore a price below the government maximum of \$2.35 per ton mine-run, and contracts ordinarily carried a clause binding the purchasers to pay additions in labor costs incurred after their making.

The government itself, through the railroad administration, which consumes normally 31 per cent. of the coal mined, will pay the largest amounts under the ruling, it was pointed out. The War Department contracts were said to give power to the Secretary of War to make adjustments as the situation demanded the support of the administration. Much of the Navy Department's coal is being commandeered and some of the supply is mined in the Pocahontas field which is nonunion. Private and industrial consumers, supplied under contract, will in most cases pay the increased price. The amount of high class coal, under the ruling, it was explained would be sold for a higher price than the government maximum.

J. A. Affleck, Critically Ill, Undergoes Serious Operation in Hospital
John A. Affleck, 32 North Sixteenth street, president of the Harrisburg Shoe Manufacturing Company, and connected with a number of other financial institutions, is in a critical condition at the Harrisburg Hospital, following an operation for intestinal trouble.

Mr. Affleck played an important part in the development of the Allison Hill district. For many years he was head of the city water department, and has been a prominent factor in Republican city politics. He is owner of the Harrisburg Shoe Manufacturing Co., of which he is now president.

NORTHWEST RELEASED
Chicago, Dec. 13.—Orders removing all restrictions on the use of light, heat and power from bituminous coal in the entire northwest region were issued this morning by T. W. Proctor and G. W. Reed, of the regional coal committee. The orders will take effect at 12 o'clock Monday morning. The orders were sent to all public utilities and railroads in the region.

THE WEATHER
Harrisburg and Vicinity: Rain this afternoon, fair and much colder to-night and Sunday. Lowest temperature to-night about 25 degrees.

MANY MINERS IN CENTRAL PA. RETURN

Attoona, Pa., Dec. 13.—Reports indicate fifty per cent. of the coal miners at Broad Top, Punxsutawney, South Fork, Allegheny River, Galitzin, Bakerton, Spangler and Wilmore, are at work. In Barnesboro district, the strike will start on Monday. Plenty of cars are available at all the mines and the operators are trying to hurry production.

ENABLE PLANTS TO RESUME FULL TIME ON MONDAY

All Industries May Be Supplied With Coal as Far as It Is Available

By Associated Press

Washington, Dec. 13.—All industries may be supplied with coal for their emergency needs as far as coal is available in any section for that purpose, under orders issued to-day by the central coal committee. This order removed the restrictions which have denied coal to all industries except those in the five preferred classes.

Complete Resumption
The committee announced that companies must continue to make application to the roads which have been supplying them with fuel. It is expected that the new order will result in almost complete resumption of manufacturing next week.

Lifting Restrictions
Information received to-day by the railroad administration indicated that restrictions on the use of light, heat and power would be removed and normal train service resumed in all districts by 1 a. m. Monday. Regional directors were given discretion to lift the restrictions last night to lift the restrictions when the fuel situation warranted.

To Lift Restrictions
Removal of all restrictions in the use of fuel for light and heat was authorized by Director General of the Railroads Walker D. Hines, to go into effect in the various parts of the country as the situation warranted at the discretion of the several regional directors.

Telegraphic instructions have been sent to the regional directors from the Railroad Administration to this effect.

One result regarded likely is an immediate resumption of the restrictive regulations in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Washington and other cities of the East, where coal stocks are comparatively plentiful. In many instances the local authorities are expected to give their order tonight.

In parts of the West where the shortage has been most pronounced the return to normal will be accomplished by the use of bituminous coal in the eastern region comprising all of the mine in this state and north of the Ohio river, were removed today by A. T. Hardin, regional fuel and railroad director.

Hard at Work
Indianapolis, Dec. 13.—With mines in Indiana hoisting coal at a rate fast approaching normal, retail stores in Indianapolis to-day were permitted to resume their regular hours and, on authority of the Regional Fuel Director for the Allegheny region, withdrawal of all restrictions on light, heat and power was expected in the State by Monday. Production of coal in Indiana yesterday was fifty per cent. of normal and the mines had not yet completed preparations for hoisting.

FEW AT MINES IN OHIO
Columbus, O., Dec. 13.—Few miners returned to work in Ohio soft coal mines to-day, but union officials predicted that practically all of the mines in this state would be running full blast Monday despite the action of several hundred miners in Eastern Ohio in voting to remain on strike.

HICKSON TO ARRIVE IN CITY SUNDAY
James Moore Hickson, prayer-healer, who is to be at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church next Sunday, is expected to arrive in time to speak at the Sunday evening service. A telegram to this effect has just been received by Rev. Rollin A. Sawyer, rector of the church.

Another Case of "Personal Liberty" or Prohibition



ALLIES WILL ACCEPT SOME RESERVATIONS

Willing to Do Everything in Order America May Take Part in Sessions

By Associated Press

Paris, Dec. 13.—As a result of the conference being held at London by Premiers Lloyd George and Clemenceau, the American government will be notified that, in order to facilitate a compromise between adverse parties in the American Senate, the Allies are willing to accept to as great an extent as possible some of the reservations to the Versailles Treaty made by the foreign relations committee, according to the Matin.

Will Do Everything
It is said the Allies will "do everything in order that America may participate in future conferences."

Important problems, the newspaper says, shall henceforth be settled by a council of the premiers of France, England and Italy. This council will meet some times in Paris, and sometimes in London, and will examine principally Russian and Turkish problems.

The spirit which prevails at the London conference, the Matin says, is good and the necessity for close co-operation by the Allies is recognized.

Hope to Collect All Accumulated Ashes by Maintaining New Schedule

Ashes which have accumulated in backyards during the last few weeks will be collected and regular schedules will be maintained after that H. F. Sheesley, superintendent of the bureau of ash and garbage inspection, said to-day, with the announcement also that new equipment was sent out yesterday.

Five new wagons each with contents of five cubic yards recently purchased by the city were used for the first time yesterday. The present collection equipment includes nine five cubic yard wagons; nine three cubic yard wagons and three two cubic yard carts. With these wagons about 400 cubic yards of ashes can be removed daily it is estimated by Mr. Sheesley.

NO CALENDARS

Attention of the Telegraph has been called to the fact that Telegraph subscribers are being approached by boys, who are not employed by this newspaper, with the request that the subscribers purchase a calendar which the boy is said to explain is the Christmas greeting from the Telegraph carrier.

Subscribers are requested to refrain from purchasing any calendars and to at once inform the Telegraph of the circumstances along with the boy's name if possible.

Telegraph carriers are suitably rewarded by the Telegraph each year at Christmas for good service and the old practice of the boys selling calendars was discontinued by the Telegraph two years ago, when the present substitution plan of distribution was established.

INVALID LEFT 3 DAYS BY WOMAN WHO KILLED SELF

Brother Who Could Not Leave Bed Knows Nothing of Her Death

An invalid brother lay unharmed for three days while his sister, Mrs. J. M. Bitner, 48 years old, of 1431 North Second street, was dead in her bed with a bullet in her brain. The woman was found by her husband when he returned home last night from a two weeks' hunting trip. A revolver, tightly clasped in one hand, together with a note, furnished evidence of suicide.

The invalid brother was found in a bed in an adjoining bedroom, in a helpless condition. He had not heard the shot, and knew nothing of the affair. He is unable to speak clearly and can throw little light on the entire matter.

May Be Dead Four Days
Just how long the woman has been dead has not been definitely determined. City police are of the opinion that the deed must have been committed three or four days prior to the finding of the body, while Coroner Eckinger maintains that the woman had not been dead more than thirty-six hours.

No motive has been assigned for the deed. She was in the best of spirits when her husband left for his hunting trip, he said to-day. Coroner Eckinger expresses the opinion that she committed the deed while in a fit of melancholy. She does not have the appearance of a woman in the best of health and this may have prompted the deed, the Coroner says.

WORKING COLLIERIES
By Associated Press
Springfield, Ill., Dec. 13.—Miners throughout Illinois reported at the shafts to-day and continued the work begun yesterday of producing coal.

EUCLID LODGE OF MASONS TO BE CHARTERED

Thirty-four Charter Members Enrolled in the New Organization

Officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Pennsylvania will constitute a new lodge in this city, which will be known as Euclid Lodge, No. 698, next Tuesday at noon. A large number of Masons will be in attendance. There will be an unusual number of grand lodge officers present. The stations and places will be filled as follows: James B. Krause, grand master; John S. Sell, deputy grand master; Abraham M. Butler, senior grand warden; Samuel M. Goodyear, junior grand warden; Thomas R. Patton, grand treasurer; John A. Perry, grand secretary; the Rev. Thomas Keisch, grand chaplain; William S. Snyder, senior grand deacon; Richard E. Cochran, junior grand deacon; Thaddeus G. Helm, grand steward; J. Simpson Kline, grand stewards; George B. Wells, grand marshal; Frederic A. Godecharles, grand sword-bearer; Dietrich Lamade, grand pursuivant; William B. Joslyn, grand Tyler.

The new lodge starts off with thirty-four charter members, and the officers already selected are as follows: George Ross Hull, worshipful master; John H. Nixon, senior warden; John A. F. Hall, junior warden; Frank N. Matter, secretary; Ralph W. Dowdell, treasurer. The music for the occasion will be furnished by a Masonic double quartet, under the leadership of C. Linford Scott, the members of the quartet being John P. Gibson, Augustus G. Shantz, Walter E. Dietrich, Fred F. Lutz, Claude R. Engle, John N. Kinnard and Samuel S. Packler, and Frederick J. Kramer, organist.

The membership of the new lodge is made up of Masons who have withdrawn from the other Masonic lodges in the city of Harrisburg and various lodges in Pennsylvania outside of Harrisburg, as well as from lodges in other states.

Woman Dead Three Days When Husband Returns From a Hunting Trip

A bullet wound through her right temple, the body of Mrs. Mary Bitner, 47 years old, 1431 North Second street, was found in bed last night by her husband, J. M. Bitner, on his return from a two-weeks' hunting trip. She had been dead from 36 hours to three days it is believed.

TWO AMERICANS AMONG CAPTIVES HELD BY VILLA

With an Englishman and Eight Mexicans; Must Pay \$10,000 Each

TAKEN IN MUSQUIZ RAID

Eagle Pass Resident and a Ranch Foreman Are Latest Victims of Bandits

By Associated Press

Eagle Pass, Texas, Dec. 13.—Two Americans and an Englishman are reported among the men taken by Villistas in the raid last Tuesday on Musquiz, state of Coahuila, and who are now held for ransom.

The Americans reported held by the bandits were R. B. Ransom, representing the Eagle Pass Lumber Company, and Fred G. Hugo, manager of the J. M. Bobies ranch. One unconfirmed report said the Englishman, whose name was not given, had been released.

Eight Mexicans held here to-day said eight Mexicans also were held for ransom. Ten thousand dollars each, it was reported, was demanded for release of the Americans and the Englishman, and five thousand dollars each for the Mexicans.

No official report as to casualties and prisoners in the fighting between the bandits and the troops of the United States. Villistas had been received in Piedras Negras last night, and details of the engagement were meager.

Consul Seguin's statement that Francisco Villa commanded the troops operating around Musquiz was the first in purchasing the bandit chieftain was in that section. Previous reports said Hipolito Villa commanded these forces.

The Villistas who captured Musquiz, Coahuila, Tuesday were direct out of the town yesterday, and have fled to the mountains.

British Steamer Is Sinking in Atlantic; Another Runs Aground

By Associated Press

Boston, Dec. 13.—A radio message received here to-day said the British steamer Messina was sinking in the North Atlantic and would require boats. The message said it would be impossible to save her.

New York, Dec. 13.—The British steamer Messina to-day sent out an S. O. S. call which was picked up here. The steamship Mapleleaf answered, saying she was making three knots an hour and would reach her in 20 hours. The Messina gave her position as latitude 42.22 north and longitude 42.22 west.

This position is approximately 430 miles off the New England coast. The Messina, a 4,271 tons steamer, left St. John, N. B., on December 5 for Antwerp. She is owned by the Gull Line, Limited.

New York, Dec. 13.—The British steamship Grange Park to-day ran ashore on Long Island seven miles east of Ambrose Channel light. The ship sent out calls for assistance, but stated that she was in no immediate danger. The Grange Park is a vessel of 3,172 net tons and was last reported at Barry on November 11.

A later report from the Grange Park, was that her position was "dangerous" and that tugs were needed. Captain Byron L. Reed, commandant of the coast guard service, dispatched a cutter to the scene.

The rising tide had driven the vessel further upon the beach at 11 o'clock and she was sending out distress signals. She had been driven to have lost her bearings in the heavy fog last night.

The Grange Park is ashore on the east side of Jones' Inlet, near Point Lookout, long a graveyard for coastwise ships. She is believed to have lost her bearings in the heavy fog last night.

Woman Beaten and Robbed; Son Kidnaped by Men in Uniform
Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 13.—Mrs. James Blake, of this city, was attacked and robbed of a handbag last night by two colored men in soldiers' uniforms, and her five-year-old son, who was with her, was kidnapped. The police have been called to the scene.

The rising tide had driven the vessel further upon the beach at 11 o'clock and she was sending out distress signals. She had been driven to have lost her bearings in the heavy fog last night.

The other man took her child and when Mrs. Blake regained consciousness the negroes and the boy had disappeared.

Would Abolish Colored Lights as Signals on Railways of the State

Abolition of the familiar red, blue, green and yellow lights as signals on the railways in Pennsylvania to-day was recommended to the Public Service Commission by John P. Doherty, chief of the bureau of accidents.

Substitution of lighted signal arms are suggested as the best means of directing trains. The colored lamps on misty nights are often indistinguishable, Mr. Doherty reports, and are responsible for a number of rear-end collisions.

Fair and Cold

Washington, Dec. 13.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday issue through the Weather Bureau to-day are: North and Middle Atlantic States: Cold and generally fair.

COMMUTERS ARE BRUISED WHEN TRAINS CRASH

Lykens Accommodation Collides With Engine in Passenger Station

Scores of passengers aboard Lykens Valley accommodation were slightly cut and bruised this morning shortly after 9 o'clock when the train and a "light" engine crashed in a head-on collision at the entrance to the train shed at Union Station.

Rolling in Aisles
The accommodation was slowly steaming into the shed and the passengers were crowded into the aisles and vestibules preparatory to alighting. The shock of the collision rolled and tossed them through the aisles. None was seriously injured.

No Evidence of Panic
Neither engine was badly damaged and both were able to move to the enginehouse under their own power.

The accommodation was filled with upper-end commuters and shoppers, and according to passengers, no evidence of panic or hysteria was shown at any time.

Official reports of this accident give no explanation as to the cause. At the local office of the Superintendent of the Philadelphia division, it was said that Train No. 8510, known as Lykens accommodation, east-bound with engine No. 1966, W. Y. Jones, engineer, was signalled to enter the station over No. 4 track. Through some unknown cause the train was run on No. 6 track, on which was an empty engine, No. 3247.

There was a head-on collision, due to the fact that the passenger train was running very slowly, as Engineer Jones was handicapped by a heavy fog and steam from other engines. Only the engine pilots were damaged. Engineer Jones had his train almost stopped when the collision occurred.

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LODGE WANTS WILSON TO SUGGEST COMPROMISE PROPOSALS TO SENATE

Washington.—Charging that President Wilson was "perfectly immovable," in urging unreserved ratification of the Treaty of Versailles, Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, the Republican leader, told the Senate to-day the President should present proposals for a compromise. He promised that the Republicans would give them careful consideration.

PREMIERS SUMMON U. S. AMBASSADOR

London—John W. Davis, the American ambassador, late to-day visited Downing street where Premiers Lloyd George and Clemenceau and their advisers were in conference. It was reported that Ambassador Davis' presence was connected with proposals submitted from the conference to President Wilson yesterday, which were said to render the Peace Treaty acceptable to general public opinion in the United States.

WILSON ABLE TO WALK WITH AID OF CANE

Washington.—President Wilson, is now permitted to walk about his room and along the adjoining hall for a short time each day, Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, his physician, announced to-day. The President, the doctor said, dresses himself and with the aid of a cane walks unattended.

DENY INTENT TO END STEEL STRIKE

Washington.—Denial that the meeting here to-day of the steel workers' strike committee was called for the purpose of ending the steel strike was made to-day by John Fitzpatrick, chairman, after the committee had met. He said the strike had been discussed but not disclose what line the discussion had taken.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Maurice Hoyer and Ruth Paine, Harrisburg; Roy F. Hammer, Steelton, and Anna E. McMahon, Enniscorthy; Earl McK. Schuch, Harrisburg, and Alta M. Routsch, Gardners; David A. Young, Marion, and Minnie Greiner, Muncaster; Samuel L. Books, and Anna Kugler, Royton.