

# How Pennsylvania Coal Miners Work and Live.

MOST people going for the first time into the region of the great anthracite mines would at once put the mine workers and their families in a class apart from the ordinary human beings, writes Paul Latske, in the Detroit Free Press. The newspaper accounts have paved the way for this, and the appearance of the men and boys in their working outfit clinches the impression. No other body of laborers in the world carry such strong external evidences of their vocation. From the top of their heads, where their mining lamps flare from the peaks of their queer shaped caps, to their feet, shod with great, grimy, thick-soled, clumping boots, the mine-workers bear the obtrusive stamp of their trade. They look uncleanly, fierce. Take the most mild mannered and inoffensive little man that lives, clothe him in the miners' regalia, let him hammer for eight or ten hours underground, and he will come up a fearsome object. The most courageous woman from the outside world would run from such a man at the least demonstration. Should she unexpectedly meet him at dark on a lonely road, having never seen a miner before, she would probably have an attack of hysteria.

The faces of the men are hard and seamed and sallow, and thick with coal dust, they are almost less than human to the unaccustomed gaze. Their eyes are outlined with crows' feet, no matter how young they may be, and they have a peculiar squinting look, due to their constant working in the half gloom of the coal tunnels. It is recorded of some of the mules that pull coal cars in the mines, that, having worked for years underground without once coming up, they have gone instantly blind, on being exposed to the daylight. In a measure it is so with the men and boys who spend their working hours day after day underground. The daylight gives them an uncomfortable sensation, and they acquire the habit of screwing up their eyes that finally affects all the muscles of the face.

It is owing to these strongly marked peculiarities that the mine workers are put down at first by newspaper correspondents and writers in the district as something apart. Even the trained observer requires some time to accustom himself to their striking appearance and to realize that after all these men are like other men, and that their women, though they have absorbed many of the characteristics of the men, are like other women. It is not until he has spent a little time among the miners that he comes to regard them as ordinary workmen. On a Sunday or holiday with the grime washed off their faces, their mining lamps hung away, their working clothes removed, the men look an entirely different lot of human beings. Then it is only by their crows' feet



ONE OF THE COMPANY STORES.

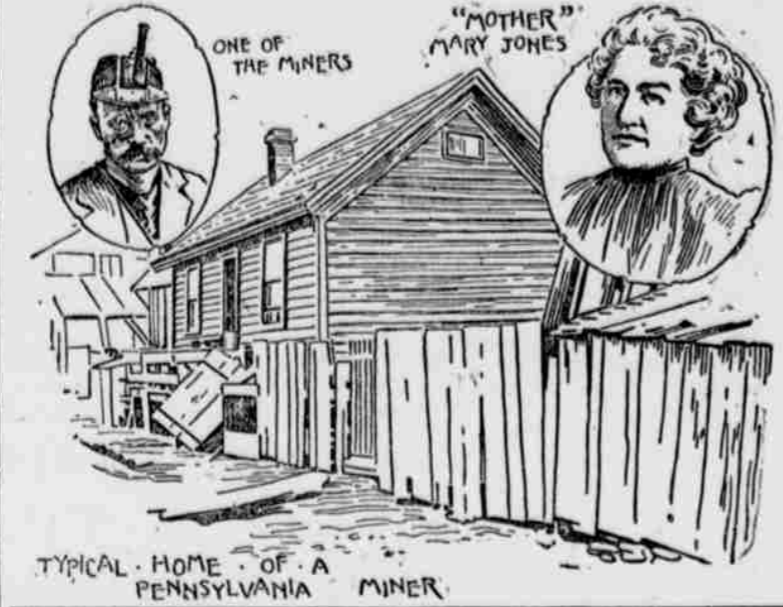
and the paleness of their skins, due to their underground life, that they are to be recognized. The first time I ever saw a considerable body of the miners together was a Sunday mass meeting before the big strike was called. I was amazed at the unlikeness to their pictured appearance. For all that any one could have told the mass meeting might have been at Cooper Union in New York. The only difference was that most of the men—and women, too, for there were lots of women in the crowd—were much better dressed than the crowd that



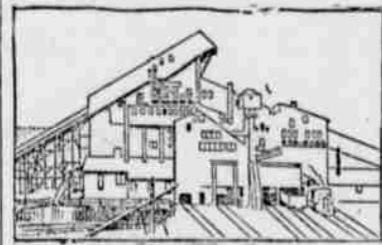
BOYS AT THE MOUTH OF A COLLIERY INCLINE.

mass meeting. The miners were ordinary characters, but the appearance of putting

them down as being underpaid as a class. Compared with other forms of work, mining, even in its highest form, is little more than unskilled labor, and the scale of prices may seem high. But in determining the earnings of miners as compared with the earnings of other laborers, a number of things are to be taken into consideration. The character of their work is extra hazardous. Every time a man goes down the shaft he puts himself at the mercy of all sorts of dangers over which he has no control. Gas explosions, a "squeeze," the falling of a mass of coal, and a dozen other things menace his life every mo-



ment that he is underground. And so shrewdly have the operators managed that the financial penalty for an accident never falls on them. In almost any other pursuit in which an employe is killed his family has a chance of claiming damages. In the coal mines no one ever dreams of putting in such a claim as a legal right. Many diligent inquiries I made to find a case where a coal operator had been indicted in damages, for injury and loss of life, but none could be found.



A TYPICAL BREAKER IN THE COAL MINING REGIONS.

There was a hazy story that an unknown operator had once paid the family of an unknown driver boy, who was killed, \$75. But this case could not be traced within the time at the ordinary man's disposal. Most of the operators make some sort of reparation by furnishing special employment about the works to the men crippled in their employ, and where the father is killed a place is generally found for the boys if there are any in the family. But such a thing as a cash settlement is never dreamed of.

The little chance that the miners had in this direction was skillfully taken from them by a piece of legislation that was passed, "in the interest of miners" and that was hailed with joy by the men at that time. This was the creation of county examining boards, to insure miners' licenses. Without such license no man can mine coal. The men foolishly thought that this would protect them from unskilled competition, and especially from the competition of the foreigners that were pouring into the region. They soon found, however, that the protection didn't protect. The county boards are paid a fee for each

generated into a farce, in so far as it serves as a protection against competition, and danger from the presence of poor workmen. But for the operating companies the measure has proved a great thing. By employing only "licensed" miners they are released legally from all responsibility for accidents. If a miner is killed under tons of coal and rock when he is at work, the fault is his own. If the laborer working at his side is also killed, the laborer's relatives may look to the family of the "licensed" miner for damages, but not to the operator. If there is an explosion of gas, the miner in whose chamber it occurs is the responsible party.

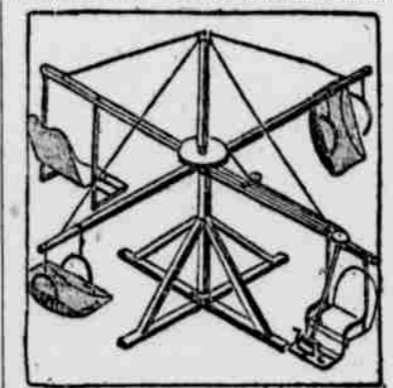
The operator hired him on the strength of his license, the possession of which presupposes that the man knows all about gas, and how to get away from the chambers where it lies before it accumulates in dangerous quantities.

The "fire boss" who inspects the mine every morning for gas on behalf of

the operator warns the miners as they go in when gas may be expected and it is up to the miners to avoid explosions. This is what the "license" has done for the men.

"Mother" Mary Jones, "queen of the mines" and the idol of the miners, occupies a unique place in the world of labor. This kind-hearted, philanthropic woman is so loved by the rough delvers of the coal mines in the anthracite regions that with them her word is tantamount to law. Mrs. Jones is fifty-six years old, silver-haired and beautiful. Her voice has been sweetly eloquent in behalf of the workers whose cause she has adopted, and her appeals have won unstinted sympathy for her simple, hard laboring friends. She lives at Wilkesbarre.

**New Nursery Carousal.**  
If the invention shown in this illustration does not serve to give the children many hours of thorough enjoyment then we miss our guess. Almost every child is ready to ride on a merry-go-round as often as invited, and with this machine set up in the nursery the invitation can be given many times a day without squandering a nickel. The inventor's intention is to have one of the older children propel the carousal by means of pedals located as shown. The seats are adjustable, in order that children of different ages may be accommodated.



"DOMESTIC" MERRY-GO-ROUND.

and the baskets were for the babies. The vertical post is pivoted in standards secured to the ceiling and floor, and the horizontal arms are rigidly attached to this central post. The pedal shaft is connected to a shaft parallel to the supporting arm by a chain or cord running over the pulleys, and power is thus transmitted from the pedals to the inner end of the shaft, where a gear wheel meshes with a toothed disk attached to the standard, the revolution of the shaft driving the machine around.

**High Lights.**  
Weak coffee often nerves a man sufficiently not to tip the waiter.

Other people's blunders either educate us or make us more conceited.

Good luck is simply having the ability to get on a car that is going your way.

The cheerful life is like all other entertainments; we have to seek it out and pay to get in.

We like the people who don't put on too much style and the people who don't put on too little.

When we try to blame other people for our mistakes we usually get hold of the wrong person.

Polite people are those who listen to us while we talk about something they have no earthly interest in.

It is well occasionally to put yourself in the other man's place, even if you feel yourself too big to be a good fit.—Chicago Record.

In the private schools of China a teacher is paid about one-half penny a day for each pupil.

## FARM TOPICS

**Dry Roup Cure.**  
Take equal parts of alum, sulphur and magnesia, mix thoroughly and blow into the throats of the afflicted fowls with a small bellows. When croup becomes epidemic in a flock, put a little carbolic acid in the drinking water and burn sulphur in the coops to thoroughly disinfect them.

**Increase the Profits of the Dairy.**  
The dairyman who can sell his cream or butter and keep his skim milk for his young stock will get a larger profit, and his farm will never become poorer, as the substance in butter is not taken from the soil, but from the air. Milk is more suitable for young pigs than any other food, and when bran is purchased and fed in connection with the milk there is brought on the farm a large proportion of mineral matter which enriches the manure.

**Winter Shelter for Live Stock.**  
All animals prefer the open air to being confined in a building, and will endure severe cold rather than darkness and foul air. At the same time all kinds of live stock should be kept warm and comfortable. Open sheds, facing the south, will serve as shelter from rains and winds. If the animals are protected from the winds they will be satisfied, but all animals should be in a warm barn at night. Hogs are very sensitive to cold weather, and if many are together they will be injured by crowding. Warm bedding retains warmth and prevents cold draughts along the floor.

**How Weeds Are Propagated.**  
Many weeds appear suddenly, and it is usually a problem to know from whence they came. When hay or other materials are bought and brought on the farm the seeds of weeds may also come. The grain thrasher and separator also sometimes carries weed seeds, hence it should be thoroughly cleaned before carried from one farm to another. The majority of seeds of weeds are scattered in manure that has not been decomposed.

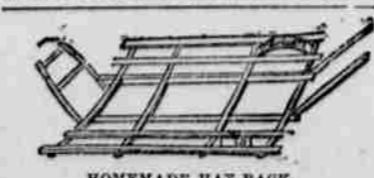
**Good Paint for Farm Buildings.**  
One of the cheapest and best paints (or washes) for farm buildings is to mix skim milk and cement to the consistency of cream and apply to either wood or brick. It must be mixed a little at a time, but when applied in two coats will last as long as the wood, though one coat will make a durable covering. If freshly-slaked lime and skim milk are used as whitewash it will be found much more durable than lime and water. The lime and casein of the milk form an insoluble compound. The cement and milk give a yellow stone color, but any of the usual earthy pigments may be used to form a desired color. Bullock's blood and milk also make a durable wash. Skim milk should be preferred to whole milk.

**A Special Use for Milk Strippings.**  
The last quart of the milking, or the "strippings," taken immediately after milking, before it has parted with any of the animal heat, is the most valuable thing known to build up a person who is thin and emaciated from any disease.

I direct my patients to begin with one-half pint and gradually increase the quantity until at the end of a week they are taking a quart at a time, or as much as they can possibly drink without causing too much discomfort. This should be followed up regularly twice a day. In consumption, it is no uncommon thing for my patients, who have followed my instructions, to gain five pounds a week in weight. No other plan I have heard of has proved so successful.

It should be remembered that it is very important to select a cow that is healthy, and one that gives very rich milk. Then it is also of very great importance that the very last of the milking, or "strippings," should be taken, and of equal importance that this should be taken immediately after milking while it contains all the animal heat. No other food is so natural and none has ever proved so successful.—Dr. B. J. Kendall, in New England Homestead.

**A Simple Hay Rack.**  
The hayrack illustrated herewith is for use on a common high farm wagon. Side sills are two pieces two by four inches by fourteen feet; for a low wagon two by six inches is better. To these attach four strips one and a half by three inches on bottom edge by means of half-inch bolts running through the semi-circular arms two and a half by three inches. Two pieces of one by four are laid on both ends of arms and bolted on so that the hind wheels can operate between and up through them. To make an arch (a or b) over hind wheels, three pieces



HOMEMADE HAY RACK.

of wood or iron bent in form of a half circle, or two strips cut with an elongated circle and bolted to the one by four-inch strips and covered with short pieces of thin boards, keep hay or grain from coming in contact with wheels. The front guard or standard should be fastened to side sills by means of a full length rod and just back of front arm and attached so as to be raised up or down. The stakes at rear end fastened in same manner. This renders it more convenient to store away under some low shed when not in use.—R. Logan, in Farm and Home.

## THE EDICTS OF FASHION.

New York City.—Whether a girl plays golf or does not, the golf cape makes a most desirable wrap for school and general wear, as well as



MISSIE'S GOLF CAPE.

for traveling and to slip on over the pretty gown she wears to the informal evenings that all young people enjoy. As a rule, the material chosen is double-faced cloth, plain outside, plaid within, and the cape is unlined, but very pretty evening wraps in the same simple model can be made of lighter cloth, drap d'ete or even cashmere lined throughout with soft silk and interlined with wool wadding, if a seam be made at the back. To cut without a seam fifty-eight-inch goods will be required.

The smart May Manton model illustrated is cut without a seam, and is finished with simple machine stitching, the fronts being underfaced with the cloth, all outer edges turned under. The hood is the latest style, and hangs gracefully over the shoulders, at the same time that it is entirely practicable and can be drawn up over the head when required. The high collar is cut in sections that are curved to fit the throat and that flare becomingly when

black satin ribbon, this completed by a tiny bolero of tinted guipure, cut in a small square, back and front, and supplied with long, close-fitting sleeves to the elbow, where they meet sleevelets of plisse mouseline de soie. And for wear around the throat was provided a high collar of white chiffon passed through diamond slides, the whole affair asserting itself as in the best sense recherche.

**Black and White Striped Velvet.**  
Word comes back from Paris that the fair Parisienne has taken a great fancy to a new weave of velvet made in narrow pin stripes in black and white. The effect is quite attractively silvery and is seen in boleros, sleeves, vests and even whole costumes. The wide stripes of an eighth to a quarter inch, advanced as a trimming, is too striking and has not had nearly so warm a welcome.

**The Princess Effect.**  
A princess effect is given to some gowns by carrying the pleats which finish the back of the waist down the skirt. These may be in box or side pleats. One frock of this kind, which has a broad, loose corsage belt, has the belt begin under the two sides of the pleats in the back, whence it comes around to the front, which is finished with an Eton jacket effect.

**Girls' Long Box Coat.**  
Box coats are almost uniformly becoming to little girls. The loose fit means comfort and ease in slipping on and off, and the lines are such as to suggest without concealing the figure. The long one, designed by May Manton, here shown has the added merit of giving a tall, slender appearance and of entirely covering the gown. Covert cloth, chevrot and beaver are all correct in black, blue, tan and mixed tan and brown, but the covert cloth is especially smart, and is far less difficult to handle than the beaver. As it



DOUBLE-BREASTED JACKET.

turned up against the head. Straps are attached to the shoulders that cross over in front and, closing in back, support the weight. At the front are three pointed straps, held in place by buttons and buttonholes, by means of which the cape is closed.

To cut this cape for a girl of fourteen years of age two yards of material forty-four inches wide, or one and a half yard fifty-eight inches wide, will be required.

**Useful, All-Round Jacket.**  
The useful, all-round jacket which no woman is without takes many forms, but is never more serviceable than when made after the May Manton model illustrated in the large engraving with a fitted back and half blouse fronts. Favorite materials are beaver cloth and heavy chevrot in black dark blue and Oxford gray and the darker shades of covert cloth. When additional warmth is required the revers can be faced with fur, which, besides meaning comfort, adds to the style, but as illustrated the jacket is of heavy black chevrot, with revers and collar faced with peau de soie machine stitched. The fronts are fitted with single darts. The back includes a centre seam and side backs, and is joined to the fronts by under-arm gores. When the revers are rolled back to the waist line the jacket is closed invisibly with large hooks and eyes. When the shorter revers are used it is lapped over in double-breasted style, and closed with buttons and buttonholes. The high flaring collar is cut in sections and fits the throat snugly. The sleeves are two-seamed and flare over the hands, where they are attached to simulate cuffs. Pockets, with laps, are inserted back of each dart, the laps being machine stitched round three sides.

To make this jacket for a woman of medium size four and three-quarter yards of material twenty inches wide, two yards forty-four inches wide, or one and five-eighths yards fifty inches wide, with three-quarter yard of silk for collar and revers, will be required.

**Black Satin Empire Gown.**  
A pretty black satin empire gown had the fulness at the back laid in a shapely wattleau pleat, held in the centre of the figure by a wide bow of yards of material fifty inches wide, two and three-quarter yards forty-four inches wide, with three-quarter yard of velvet for collar, cuffs and shield, will be required.

illustrated, the material is covert cloth in a tan shade, with collar, shield and cuffs of velvet in the same shade, machine stitched; the lining, taffeta in flowered stripes.

The back is seamless, shaped only by under-arm seams. The fronts are cut simply, and hang straight from the shoulders. They are lapped one over the other, and are closed by means of handsome buttons and buttonholes. The sailor collar is stitched to the neck and rolls over; the shield is attached to the right side and hooked over to the left beneath the collar, but can be omitted as shown in the small cut. The under-arm seams are left open for a short distance from the lower edge to give ample freedom, and the edges of the coat are finished with applied bands of the cloth. The sleeves are two-seamed, with roll-over flare cuffs.

To cut this coat for a girl of eight years of age one and three-quarter



GIRLS' LONG BOX COAT.