

SECTION ONE

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Recognized and Endorsed by Upwards of more than Fifty Local Unions and Central Bodies Over the Area.

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WATCHFUL EYES SCAN LEGISLATION NON-WORKERS HAVE MORE CHANCE

LABOR LOBBIES ORGANIZED FOR NEXT SESSION

Two Big Union Bodies in State to Present Top Strength in Coming Legislature.

Labor, facing a test of its political power during the coming Republican controlled state administration will bring new and extensive organizations to bear in behalf of their legislative programs.

Both the State Federation of Labor, AFL, and the State Industrial Union Council, CIO, are new this year and both are organized to represent labor on a larger scale than ever before.

Both groups supported the Democratic candidates in the November election and now must look to the victorious Republicans to protect the gains won for labor in the two previous legislatures and principally in the Democratic controlled 1937 legislature.

The split in the ranks of labor that replaced the former State Federation with two new groups representing the AFL and CIO, brought on a wave of labor organization that resulted in the state organization of hundreds of unions never previously affiliated with a state-wide federation.

The New Federation started out with unions representing some 300,000 to 400,000 AFL members and has added scores of new unions during and since the election campaign.

The CIO Industrial Union Council working hard at the task of organization, reports affiliation of 1,200 local unions with a total membership of 500,000 and counts on a potential CIO strength in Pennsylvania of 800,000.

Both groups have affiliated organizations to represent them politically, and since the CIO first organized its Labor's Non-Partisan League in 1936, the political action committees and leagues have been organized on a scale that reaches into every voting district of the most populous centers of the state.

Labor's Non-Partisan league functioned in 1936 and again in 1937, when it supported Lieutenant Governor Thomas Kennedy's campaign for the Democratic governorship nomination, and, in the general election, the Democratic nominees.

The AFL non-partisan committee functioned in this year's primaries against Mr. Kennedy and the CIO, and were on the same side as the CIO in the general election.

Although they fought a losing battle in the election these political action agencies are counted as among labor's best assets now, as they provide an already organized means of bringing pressure on legislators from their home districts.

HISTORICAL GROUP HAS A MEETING

Attorney Peter J. Little president of the Cambria County Historical Society delivered an address at a meeting of the organization held in the courthouse at Ebensburg on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Little spoke on "The Kittanning Path and Hart's Sleeping Place," which was located a quarter of a mile north of Sunset Park, near St. Joseph's church, on the Carrolltown and Hastings road. The society has erected a sandstone marker weighing two tons at the site of Hart's Sleeping Place, which will be dedicated next spring. The land was donated to the society by Nicholas Galluchick, on whose farm in West Carroll township the marker is located.

CHANGES MADE IN DATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT SERVICE SCHEDULES—NOW

The State Unemployment office at Johnstown has advised the Press-Courier that a change in the itinerant service of the office has been necessitated in several of the towns over the county. The change will be effective next Monday, January 9th, and the new schedule will be as follows:

Monday—Spangler, Municipal building form 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Tuesday—None.

Wednesday—Nanty-Glo, Municipal building, 8:30 to 11:30 a. m.; Patton, at Fire Hall, 1 p. m. to 4:30 p. m.

Thursday—Gallitzin, Municipal building, 8:30 to 11:30 a. m.; Frugality, Williams' Store 1 to 2:30 p. m.; Blandburg, Community hall, 3 to 4:30 p. m.

Friday—Portage, Municipal building 8:30 to 11:30 a. m.; Dunlo, Miners' hall from 1:30 to 4:30 p. m.

MINERS ASK LAW FOR ELIMINATION OF CAR PUSHING

Larger Operators Favor Such Action, Smaller Ones Oppose, Senator Haluska Says.

Methods to eliminate mine car pushing in the bituminous mines of Pennsylvania were discussed at a meeting held in the court house at Ebensburg last Thursday afternoon by Senator John J. Haluska of Patton at which present means of moving coal cars in mines by manpower was denounced as one of the principal evils in the industry. Senator Haluska is chairman of the committee which for more than 18 months has been investigating the situation. More than fifty representatives of locals of the United Mine Workers of America were in attendance at last Thursday's meeting.

The committee, headed by Senator Haluska will hold a final public hearing in the state senate chamber late in January or early in February, the Senator declared, at which time the subject will be further discussed before the committee makes final recommendations for legislation to abate mine car pushing. Representatives Blake Shugarts of Clearfield county and Joseph Baine of Allegheny county, also attended last Thursday's session.

Many operators of small mines declare that if they are compelled to install storage batteries or use other mechanical motor power to move the cars they will be forced to shut down their operations, while operators of large mines would be glad if legislation should be enacted compelling the abandonment of mine car pushing, the Senator said.

Mine car pushing was declared by Harry Smull of Beaverdale to be the second highest cause of mine accidents—the first being rock fall. He declared that the process shortened the lives of miners and that in many instances it led to physical conditions such as ruptures and hernias which are not covered in the compensation laws. The same thought was expressed also by others at the meeting.

Answering the contention that some operators might have to shut down if they are compelled to install mechanical devices for car pushing, Thomas W. Morris, of Beaverdale, declared that "any mine which cannot be operated with safety to the men should be shut down."

"Human welfare should be placed above profits," he asserted, John Sloan of Ehrenfeld also declared that mines which could not afford to install mechanical aides should be shut down. Earning power of the miners are reduced through time lost in car pushing, W. W. Snedden of Nanty-Glo, pointed out. He also asserted that the operation saps the physical strength of the miners and renders them more likely to breakdown.

Representative Baine declared that most of the larger mines in Allegheny county are equipped with devices to move the cars without manual aid.

Senator Glen R. Law, of Mercer county, a member of the committee, in a letter to Senator Haluska suggested that a law might be enacted which would give the state mine inspectors "power" to act in cases where there is a serious evil existent. The miners present, however, opposed the idea. Several insisted that the inspectors have too many duties at present.

COUNTY DPA STAFF CERTAIN OF JOBS; NO ONE DISMISSED

Cambria County Department of Public Assistance staff members will enter this new year sure of their jobs and free from political interference, it is believed, following the last meeting in 1938, of the county DPA board. By its failure to displace any members of the staff, the board allows to become permanent the probational appointment of approximately 150 persons with civil service ratings under Department of Public Assistance legislation. At its own discretion the board could have made personnel changes any time prior to the end of the year.

Three visitors (investigators) will be named by the board as soon as a list of names of persons eligible for appointment is received from Harrisburg. The three visitors resigned to accept higher salaried jobs.

MINER AT SPANGLER INJURED BY BLAST

Andrew Wilgus, 62, of Spangler, suffered severe lacerations of the left hand on Saturday night when he was caught by the premature explosion of a cap. Wilgus was said to be preparing to celebrate the advent of the New Year at the time of the accident. He was removed to the Spangler hospital where it is feared amputation of several fingers may be necessary.

CIO Demands New Congress Vote Additional WPA Funds

Washington.—A demand by President John L. Lewis of the CIO that Congress appropriate at least a billion dollars for WPA led off organized labor's protest against the announced closing of all WPA projects by February 7th.

Meanwhile CIO unions in every community in the nation were preparing to register a mighty call upon their representatives and senators to insure allotment of new funds to WPA in order that intense distress and widespread starvation may be averted during the winter months.

CIO national officers recently sent urgent calls to all union affiliates, urging that they act rapidly to bring about speedy action on the bill.

President Lewis's statement was issued less than five hours after WPA Deputy administrator Aubrey Williams confessed to a group of Pennsylvania unionists led by John Edelman, CIO director in Philadelphia, that a lack of funds will force WPA to start eliminating projects on January 26.

Lewis said: "The announcement that the WPA will close down all its projects begin-

ning January 26th reveals the seriousness of the emergency which is now facing the unemployed in America.

"In the face of this emergency the CIO is asking that the congress immediately upon convening appropriate not less than one billion dollars for the continuation of WPA up to June 30th, 1939.

"This appropriation will do no more than continue the WPA at the current rate of jobs. The CIO is convinced that this is the most immediate duty which faces the Congress. Unless action is taken within the first weeks of January, 3,200,000 American workers and at least ten million human beings who are dependent upon them will face disaster.

"The CIO calls upon its affiliates immediately to mobilize their forces to bring to the attention of each senator and congressman the facts of the plight of the American unemployed.

"We believe that Congress when it knows the facts will appropriate the funds necessary to carry on the activities of WPA.

"It is the first duty of every CIO member and American citizen to insure the continuation of WPA."

EXPECT DPA LOAD TO GROW HEAVIER AS WPA SLACKENS

Effect of Retrenchment Is Not Computed But Relief Costs Are Mounting Higher.

Cambria county's direct relief load which has increased steadily since the Works Progress Administration began its much publicized retrenchment program, is expected to continue in a post holiday climb, according to the local and state Department of Public Assistance reports.

For the third consecutive week an increase was reported in unemployment relief rolls. During the third week in December 15,000 persons were added to the state bringing the total as of December 17th to 647,268.

In this county, consecutive weekly increases have been noted for a longer period, with new applications surpassing the number of closed cases as long as six or seven weeks ago.

Only 551 cases were closed during the third week of December because of new WPA projects, a state statistical report said. This was the lowest number closed for this reason since the Federal Works program was started.

Cases opened because of loss of the WPA employment in the state during the same period left 7,623 more persons dependent upon relief. The exact extent to which this affected Cambria county has not yet been computed.

Expenditures for direct relief in Cambria county are running about \$27,000 a week, not including administrative payrolls. The relief bill in the state is almost \$1,500,000 a week at current levels.

REPUBLICANS ASSUME LEADERSHIP OF BOTH HOUSES IN THE STATE

Harrisburg.—Republicans, after fighting for hours, elected the president pro tempore of the state senate on Tuesday night, thus assuming leadership in both houses of the 1939 General assembly. Democrats salvaged the senate patronage.

Frederick T. Gelder, silver haired veteran from Susquehanna county was chosen to head the senate. The result was 22 to 23, with republicans aided by the vote of William J. Eroe, Lawrence county Democrat.

Eroe switched back to the Democratic side later and supported them down the line in the selection of a chief clerk, secretary, librarian, and 70 other odd senate jobs.

It was a bitter, quarrelsome session that kept the senate in the spotlight, while the House elected Republican Ellwood J. Turner speaker and otherwise proceeded in a normal way for the first day of the 133rd legislative session.

After saving the jobs in the senate, the Democrats shoved through a change in the rules requiring a two-thirds vote of the 0 member body to out the job holders. The Republicans have a numerical strength of 25.

Do You Know?

In no group of independent individuals in our modern civilization is the profit motive less prominent and the need of socialization less urgent than it is in the medical profession—and at the same time in no form of service is political control less likely to achieve success.

CLERKS TO MEET FRIDAY EVENING AT BARNESBORO

Organizer Elmer Barger Asks Presence of Chain Store Employees of North Cambria.

International Vice President Elmer Barger of the Wholesale and Retail Employees of America, a CIO affiliate, advises the Press-Courier that a meeting of the store clerks of the A & P and the American Stores has been called for the Moose Hall at Barnesboro on Friday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock, to discuss the contracts now pending with each of the two organizations. Mr. Barger is especially anxious to have the clerks from these two organizations attend from the following towns: Ebensburg, Nanty-Glo, Patton, Spangler, Barnesboro and Hastings.

It is the aim of the CIO representative to bring the stores of this section of the state into the CIO organization under approximately the same contract and terms as was signed by the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company stores at their establishments in Curwensville and Clearfield recently.

AUTO LICENSE DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO FIFTEENTH OF JANUARY

Pennsylvania motorists have received official approval to use their 1938 automobile license plates until January 15th. Secretary J. Griffith Boardman of the Revenue department, in announcing the extension, said he will recommend to the 1939 legislature a change of the licensing period until early spring, possibly April 1st.

He said he was convinced by the slowness of the motorists in obtaining 1939 licenses that they desired a licensing period other than the Christmas holiday season.

Without Boardman's action, under authority of an act of the 1937 legislature, 1938 license plates would have been illegal after last Saturday midnight.

Boardman said: "I am granting the utmost leniency to Pennsylvania motorists by extending the time limit as far as the law allows.

"I am of the opinion, after careful and searching investigation, that the majority of motorists want the licensing period fixed at a time later than January 1st.

"I am personally convinced that the most people need all the money they can command during the holiday season for purposes other than license plates.

"It is my intention to advocate at the forthcoming session of the Legislature that the relicensing date be fixed during the early spring, possibly April 1st.

Found Dead in Bed.

James Shaw, aged 69, familiarly known through Cambria County as "Jim Crow" was found dead in bed on Thursday morning last at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gearhart in Nanty-Glo. Mr. Shaw's death was attributed to complications superinduced by injuries sustained Christmas day in a fall at the Gearhart home. Shaw, who had been unemployed for the last ten years, had resided at the Gearhart home for the last three years. He was born in Wilkes-Barre in 1869. There are no surviving relatives.

STATE PURCHASES NORTH COUNTY'S FOREST SECTIONS

4,200 Acres Are Bought in Dean White, Chest and Clearfield Townships; Other Options.

For the first time the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters is purchasing forest lands in the Gallitzin district of the department. The district includes Cambria and Indiana counties and parts of Blair and Clearfield counties.

The department already has purchased 4,200 acres of land of mostly scrub timber, in White, Dean, Chest and Clearfield townships.

District Forester Thomas M. Gray admitted that the department is seeking to purchase additional land in the district and is particularly anxious to obtain forest lands along Chest Creek and the upper Susquehanna river.

It was learned from landowners in the Northern Cambria County and in Southern Clearfield County that appraisers from the department already have contacted scores of owners of large tracts of land in that vicinity.

It was understood the state is paying about \$2.50 per acre for some lands and has offered as high as \$3 for other lands, depending on the location and the timber. Forestry officials refuse to divulge the exact amount of land the department hopes to purchase but it is understood it is well above 100,000 acres.

Department officials already have taken options on some 50,000 acres of additional farm and scrub timber lands in the northern section of the county. Majority of land is located along Chest Creek and the Susquehanna river.

It was generally understood that the state is purchasing the land as part of the mammoth flood control project. It was believed that the now barren lands and the slightly forested areas will be reforested as fast as possible. Evergreens probably will be planted within the next year on the recently acquired tract in the northern section of the county.

Forestry officials also are seeking to purchase several thousand acres of land of both farming and timber lands along Yellow Creek in Indiana county. Several farmers have signed options and others are being contacted by department appraisers and land acquisition agents.

The Indiana County farming lands are bringing a slightly higher price than the forest lands of northern Cambria county, it was learned. The department has offered as much as \$7 per acre for some of the choice lands along Upper Yellow Creek. Purchase of the land also is believed to be part of the flood control program.

Majority of the land already purchased by the department and that now under option is accessible by fairly good dirt roads it was revealed. Department officials revealed that there is a possibility that several state parks will be constructed in the northern section of the county.

State parks in the Forbes district, which joins the Gallitzin district on the South, have been received very favorably by sportsmen and recreationists. The parks offer excellent facilities for campers, hikers and hunters.

The state has constructed log cabins in parks in the Forbes district and annually thousands of persons take advantage of the cabins during the summer and fall. The cabins are rented by the week at nominal fees.

Local forestry officials and outdoor enthusiasts are hopeful that the department will be able to purchase additional lands in the county and establish a CCC camp for the purpose of constructing camps.

Forester Gray declined to reveal the owners of several large tracts of land in the county which are being sought by the state. However, it was learned that the land adjoins the McFarland-Rother tract in White and Dean townships, which was recently acquired by the department.

In the event the department is successful in acquiring all lands now under option in Cambria county it will own approximately 80,000 in one block. The land is of very little value from the standpoint of timber, but the potentialities for producing excellent growths of large timber are good, Forester Gray revealed.

COUNTY GETS SHARE OF STATE FUEL TAXES

Cambria county's treasury was enriched \$59,035.10 last week when payment was made by the state of the county's share of the state gasoline tax fund. Payment also went to fifteen other counties. Payments may be used by the counties for payment of interest on road and bridge bonds and in settling damages in new road construction work.

JOBLESS BENEFITS TO BE AVAILABLE ON LARGER SCALE

Three Months Added to Qualifying Period Thomas V. Hayes Declares.

Men and women who lost their jobs during the year just closed became familiar with a new state agency, the Division of Unemployment Compensation, which has entered the new year by making benefits available to a greater number of people.

The program, which was inaugurated under state legislation just a year ago will continue as it had done in the past but more persons will be eligible to file claims as it becomes easier to qualify for weekly jobless insurance payments.

Thomas V. Hayes, manager of the State Unemployment Office, headquarters for the Division of Unemployment Compensation, said the qualifying rules are difficult to outline because benefits to which each jobless person is entitled must be determined according to the merits of individual cases.

One thousand of persons who filed claims at the beginning of 1938 will be eligible, if they are unemployed, to file new claims on January 24th, Mr. Hayes declared. He explained a hypothetical case.

"Suppose you filed a claim on the first day of 1938. That was January 3, the first day the office was ready to receive them. The law required a waiting period of three weeks, during which period you had to report at this office each week. Then, if you found no job, you began receiving unemployment compensation checks as of January 24th. "Each case is handled on a yearly basis. By that I mean that a man who became a receiver of benefits as of January 24, 1938, was entitled to receive compensation payments for a maximum of 13 weeks, based on part of the previous year's earnings. If, during the year, he exhausted his share of the fund, he is not eligible to receive any more until 52 weeks from the date he became eligible. If he was one of the first to file claims he will again be eligible on January 24, 1939.

Weekly benefits in 1939 will be based on wages earned during the last three months of 1937, and the first 9 months of 1938, Mr. Hayes pointed out. That would be from October, 1937, to October, 1938.

Hayes declared no person can qualify for jobless insurance benefits twice on the same wages covering the same period of time. "There's a mistaken impression among unemployed that benefits are available every year on the basis of wages earned when they first became eligible," Hayes said.

Anyone who becomes unemployed in 1939 is eligible to receive half of his average weekly income as long as the weekly benefits are not less than \$7.50 nor more than \$15. To qualify, a person must have earned at least 13 times his weekly grant during the period between October, 1937, and October, 1938, it was pointed out.

When benefits became available last January, the base year—the period during which qualifying wages were earned—consisted of a nine month period. Beginning next year, which should have an additional number eligible, Hays said.

While totals have not been computed, the Johnstown office disbursed more than \$1,500,000 to jobless in Cambria county during 1938.

PATTON FIREMEN TO HOLD BINGO PARTIES EVERY WEDNESDAY

The members of the Patton Volunteer Fire Company, No. 1, have completed arrangements for the holding of a bingo party in the Fire Hall every Wednesday night, beginning next Wednesday, January 11th, and starting at 8 p. m. The committee in charge promise to make the evenings interesting. Thirty five games will be played for 25 cents admission, and a \$1.00 cash prize will be given each game. The general public is welcome. Plan to attend the series.

NORTHERN COUNTY BARN IS LEVELED

Fire of an undetermined origin on Saturday night destroyed a large frame barn on the Stephen Gray farm in Susquehanna township, between Barnesboro and Hastings. Damage estimated was \$5,000.

A large quantity of grain and potatoes was stored in the barn. Some valuable farm machinery also was destroyed. Hastings and Barnesboro volunteer firemen responded to alarms but the fire had gained too much headway before the firemen arrived on the scene.