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Union Press, Established May, 1935.

Patton Courier, Established Oct., 1893.

VOL. 46. NO. 16.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1939

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER YEAR

HARMONY LOOKED FOR IN LABOR BY NATIONAL BODY SCALE AGREEMENT TO BRING DISCUSSION

MINE WORKERS SAID SEEKING WAGE INCREASE

Twenty Per Cent Raise, Shorter Hours, and Guaranteed Wage With Vacation.

A flat 20 per cent wage increase, shorter hours and a guaranteed annual wage with vacations will be the United Mine Workers demands to be written into the new contract with the Appalachian Coal Association, it was indicated at Pittsburgh over the week end.

Biannual wage conferences with operators of the Appalachian group are scheduled in New York on March 14th in advance of the expiration of contracts April 1st. One Pittsburgh paper, announcing purported demands of the United Mine Workers, said operators were expected to oppose the demands which are virtually the same as made two years ago when a nation wide walk out was averted by granting a \$6.00-a-day base rate and the seven-hour day, 35 hour week.

The U. M. W. of A. is under convention mandate to bring about changes in district and local agreements, establish the six hour day and 30 hour week, abolish wage differentials between northern and southern producing fields, increase wages and reduce the problem of mechanization.

James Mark, president of District 2, explained that no policy has been adopted by the national scale committee as yet. He added that the committee will meet later in the month in Washington.

10 MILLION TON COAL CONTRACT THEFT ALLEGED

Supreme Court Gets Case Involving Barnes & Tucker and Bird Coal Company.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court at Philadelphia last week had under advisement a suit by a mining corporation involving the alleged theft of a ten million ton coal contract.

The Barnes and Tucker Company, operators of bituminous mines in Barnesboro sought an accounting from the estate and widow of the son of the founder of the firm.

Thomas Barnes, the founder, died on January 11, 1911, and in his will appointed his only son, John Barnes, his sole executor and trustee of his estate, directing that the son should take his place as president of the corporation and continue to conduct the business in the interest of himself and his four sisters, it was testified.

The will also directed that the son should become president of the Barnesboro Heat, Light and Power Company.

At the time of the elder Barnes' death it was contended, he held a contract with the Public Service Electric Company of Newark, N. J., for the delivery of 10,000,000 tons of coal at the rate of one million tons a year at \$2.85 a ton.

It was alleged that subsequently the son organized the Bird Coal Company, and after a strike had relieved the Barnes and Tucker Company of the liability to deliver coal to the Newark utility concern, John Barnes continued with the deliveries through the Bird Coal Company.

The purported irregularity was discovered after John Barnes' death in 1930.

The original company seeks to recover an estimated \$900,000 with interest and an additional 15 per cent commission on several million tons of coal allegedly sold by the son's company over a period of nearly 4 years.

Defendants in the suit are the Bird Company; William C. Fowner, of Pittsburgh, a brother in law of John Barnes; the Girard Trust Company, executors and trustees under his will, and Frederick C. Shaffer, administrator of the estate of Amy F. B. Shaffer, widow of John Barnes, who remarried after his death.

BLANDBURG MINER FALLS DEAD IN PIT

Edward Miller, 63, of Blandburg, fell dead on Monday morning while working in the Harbison and Walker Refractories Mine at Blandburg. Mr. Miller was digging and loading clay in the mine when he suffered a heart attack and died before he could be removed to the opening of the mine. Mr. Miller leaves his widow, Mrs. Lela (Weakland) Miller, two daughters, two brothers and two sisters.

CIO OPENS FIGHT FOR NEEDED WPA APPROPRIATIONS

Efforts Are Redoubled to Win Speedy Passage of A Billion Dollar Fund for Nation.

Washington.—The CIO prepared this week to redouble its fight to win speedy passage of a billion dollar WPA deficiency appropriation and prevent the closing of all WPA projects throughout the nation by February 7th. It called on its unions to write and wire members of Congress to show labor's stand.

International unions and industrial union councils in increasing numbers have informed the CIO that they are taking action to back the CIO demand, made by President John L. Lewis two weeks ago.

President Powers Haggood of the United Shoe Workers, announced that all senators and representatives have received communications from his union urging the billion dollar appropriation. The United Rubber Workers has adopted a similar program, and the National Maritime Union is appealing to all east coast seamen to make known their demands.

All CIO affiliates in New Jersey and Alabama have been asked to notify their Congressional delegations of the CIO stand on the relief issue. In addition, Industrial Union Councils in scattered sections of the nation are taking similar action.

President Roosevelt's budget message, it is noted, contained a request for \$875,000,000 for WPA. CIO leaders point out, however, that a full billion is needed if further curtailment of the WPA activities is to be forestalled.

In an open letter to Congress, Ralph Hetzel, Jr., CIO Unemployment director, warned that a suggested appropriation of only half a billion dollars would "create indescribable misery among millions of honest, decent, American citizens, who want work, but cannot get it."

Support for the CIO position on the WPA was seen this week in a front page editorial appearing in the Philadelphia Record, pro-New Deal paper. It said:

"So far this government has played a cruel game of expanding and contracting WPA as if it were an accordion.

"No one should be dropped from WPA until there is a place for him in private employment. But hundreds of thousands have been thrown off WPA a sit they were so many bags of salt, thereby scarcing the living daylight not only out of all WPA workers, but out of three times as many marginal workers who live in constant fear that they, too, will be jobless.
"A job for everyone is economically sound.

"It can be accomplished without increasing the national debt. When we examine the proposition we find it is not such a staggering task as might appear at first glance. At most it would add \$3,000,000,000 a year to the present relief expenditure. This is based on putting 2,000,000 additional heads of families to work at \$750 a year, and 4,000,000 supplementary workers at half that amount per year."

MINE OFFICERS OF DISTRICT 10 FORM A NEW SAFETY GROUP

Mine executives of Bituminous District No. 10 met at Ebensburg Friday evening to effect a new organization to promote safety in the mines and cut to a minimum the number of accidents. It is planned to form a permanent organization and hold quarterly meetings for a closer cooperation between mine executives and mine inspectors.

Present at the meeting were Al Hunt, general manager of the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Corporation; Alex Jack, general superintendent of the same concern; L. F. Crouse, general manager, and W. R. Chick, general superintendent of the Monroe Coal Company; James Morgan controller, and James Campbell, superintendent of the C. A. Hughes Company; W. B. Hughes, general manager of the Johnstown Coal Company; David Davidson, general superintendent of the Springfield Coal Company, and W. H. Filer, inspector for District No. 10.

District 10 of the Joseph Holmes Safety Council will meet on Friday of this week in Ebensburg. Fred Vinton of Indiana, general superintendent of the Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Company, will be the speaker. Ira A. Bradley of Cresson will preside.

During the recent New England hurricane disaster, telegraph messages from New York to Boston were sent over a cable route via London.

BR-R-R, IT'S COLD



A sudden midwest cold wave didn't catch this newsboy unprepared. He foiled the wintry blasts with a makeshift stove and a couple of gunny sacks. He also added a couple of sweaters to his ensemble.

AID SOUGHT FOR JOBLESS MINERS IN PENNA. AREAS

Federal and State Relief Agencies Study New Proposal to Solve Unemployment.

Harrisburg.—Federal and state work relief agencies today studied a new proposal to solve unemployment in Pennsylvania coal fields.

Public Utility Commissioner Donald M. Livingston urged that idle anthracite and bituminous miners could be employed successfully in a coordinated statewide program of flood control, water supply and reforestation projects.

He pointed out that all three are developments to a type to require excavation work, and said he believed "a lot of this work could be started almost immediately through WPA projects in collaboration with the Department of Forests and Waters, Fish and Game Commissions, General State Authority and the State Planning Board."

"These projects," he asserted, "would provide useful work for many years to come, of a type which could be performed readily by men used to mining and would go far toward solving the unemployment problem."

He observed that increased employment in the coal regions would also relieve unemployment in manufacturing cities.

BARNESBORO IS FORTUNATE IN A MINE REOPENING

Barnes & Tucker No. 12 Mine Been Closed for Past Nine Months.

The future of the coal industry in the Barnesboro vicinity took on a brighter aspect last week with the announcement of the management of the Barnes and Tucker Coal Mining Company that No. 12 mine at Barnesboro has been reopened after a shutdown of nine months.

Along with this good news to Barnesboro workers came the announcement that the company has sufficient orders for the mine to operate for a number of months.

While only 50 men have been called back by the company at the present time, additional workers will be added to the pay roll in the future.

At one time, when the coal business was at its height, the No. 12 mine loaded daily 7 steel cars or 3,500 tons of coal and employed 650 men. All modern equipment is installed in the mine, and the coal loading device at the tippie is said to be up to date in every respect.

The No. 12 mine is one of the oldest in the Barnesboro section. Richard Todhunter, Jr., has been named superintendent of the mine and Michael McEhal has been named mine foreman.

DANCE AND SPAGHETTI EVENT. A special dance and spaghetti supper will be held on Friday, January 13th, at the Arlington hotel in Barnesboro. Dancing from 8:30 to 12. Everybody welcome.

GRANGE SPEAKER SAYS FARMER IS EXPLOIT VICTIM

Blames Machinery Makers; Decentralization of Industry Solution of Unreasonable Costs.

Condemning unfair practices of "big business" in absorbing small industries and taking advantage of the farmers by raising prices on farm machinery, John A. Smith, of Dickenson, former member of the state legislature from Cumberland County, and past master of the Cumberland County Pomona Grange, Saturday addressed the members of the Cambria County Pomona Grange at its meeting in Munster hall near Munster. The session was largely attended and was attended with an interesting program.

The speaker cited the fact that in recent years many small concerns have been supplying farmers with machinery that sprang up and are manufacturing and meets their needs at reasonable prices. "Twenty-five or 60 years ago," he said, "none of these concerns could have lived in the ruthless age of competition. All would have been crowded to the wall by the more efficient methods of mass production, but today they are succeeding because big business has not been honest with the people and with itself.

"Big business has watered stock and bought out competing firms until it is necessary to make a profit three or four times as great as its honest investment. When big business says it must have a great profit because of high wages it merely hides behind a smoke screen. Decentralization of industry is proving that small business can make a profit and pay good wages by underselling big business because these decentralized plants make a profit only upon the honest investment of an individual or two who have not learned the tricks and crimes of high finance."

Under his topic of "Farm Finances and Taxes," the former legislator urged laws that will enable development of small industries by honest capitalization. He urged decentralization in the milk industry as well as in other industry and took issue with the Grange theory that transfer of the milk control and sanitation work to the Department of Agriculture, will solve the milk problems. "It is merely chasing the scratching dog from under the table to a place under the stove," Mr. Smith said. "It is not getting rid of the fleas. What is necessary, and what always has been to 'delouse the dog.' Adequate police power and a will to prosecute the offenders flagrantly abusing the authority alone will give the farmer a fair return on his cost of production and on his investment.

The speaker also discussed farm taxes and quoted statistics to show that taxes in Pennsylvania farm lands are higher per acre than in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, or West Virginia. At the morning session on Saturday R. M. Niebauer, master of the grange, appointed two committees for 1939, as follows:

Legislative: E. J. Farabaugh, Elmer Rowland, Charles Holtz, Frank Ropp, and M. L. Miller.

Home Economics: Charlotte Davis, Mrs. George Leiden, Louise Westrick, Mrs. M. H. Mohler and Marian Garrett.

Preceding the general meeting in the afternoon there were conferences of subordinate grange masters and lecturers, and at 1:30 o'clock there were memorial services for Frank Cunningham, late of East Carol township and the Cross Roads Grange, and Mr. Swinter of the Flinton Grange. C. J. Bearer of the Cross Roads Grange, eulogized Mr. Cunningham while the Swinter eulogy was by Mrs. Nellie Stratton of the Flinton Grange.

The grangers adopted resolutions urging the Bureau of Animal Industry to exercise greater care in selecting veterinarians to make tubercular tests of cattle. Another resolution urgently requested the commissioners of Cambria County to lend financial aid to the program of cattle testing in Cambria County during the triennial tests required by the Bureau of Animal Industry. The tests are scheduled this year. A third resolution adopted asked for amendment to the state constitution requiring that any person desiring to vote must have paid county and local taxes within two years of the election at which they vote. Another resolution expressed appreciation for the entertainment and dinner provided by the Munster Grange.

RADIO BARGAIN. FOR SALE—Eight tube Majestic radio in good condition; closing out for \$5.00. Easly Furniture Co., Spangler, Pa. 4t.

American Womanhood



NEW YORK—A statue representing "American Womanhood," created by Gaetano Cecere for the facade of the Home Furnishings Building at the New York World's Fair 1939.

SUPREME COURT WILL 'AIR' STATE WORKMEN'S ACT

Surprise Move Made to Hear Argument on Compensation Law Validity.

Harrisburg.—Validity of the Earle Administration's widely-contested "liberalizing" amendments to the Workmen's Compensation law will be argued on Friday of this week before the State Supreme Court, which in a surprise move, took original jurisdiction in a test suit pending here more than a year.

As opposing counsel outlined arguments for presentation to the tribunal in Philadelphia, and many folks wonder why the supreme court had not stepped into the picture long ago, instead of now. If the supreme court had not assumed original jurisdiction, the case filed over a year ago would have amble through the lower courts and might not have reached the supreme tribunal for a year or two. The present move would indicate that the court will reach a decision during the next month or two, and presumably while the legislature is in session.

It was regarded as significant in some quarters that the supreme court waited until after the November 8th election—at which Republicans swept state wide offices, regained control of the house of representatives and drossed down the overwhelming Democratic majority in the senate—and until after the incoming Governor Arthur H. James had ample opportunity to formulate policies of his regime before taking over the Workmen's Compensation test suit.

Some observers took the view that objections of the Supreme court to the revised statute would be an accurate criterion on the changes contemplated by the James administration.

MINIMUM COAL PRICES BACKED

Washington.—The Bituminous Coal Commission announced last week approval for coordination purposes of proposed minimum prices and marketing rules for five coal fields.

District producers' boards will use the figures in coordinating rates for shipment to consuming areas.

The fields for which coordination prices were approved are Western Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan and in Van Buren, McMinn and Warren Counties, Tenn.

NLRB BELIEVES LABOR GROUPS WILL REUNITE

Annual Report to the President Predicts That Peace Will Come Within the Year.

The National Labor Relations Board said Monday it was "gratified to note . . . signs that before another year has passed disunity in the American labor movement may be a thing of the past."

In its annual report to President Roosevelt and Congress the board also replied to general charges against it, particularly complaints that it has favored the Congress of Industrial Organizations against the American Federation of Labor and other questions figuring in the impending battle over Wagner Act amendments.

The issue of AFL-CIO rivalry for selection as a bargaining unit came before it in 41 cases during the fiscal year ended last June 30th. The NLRB said that it adopted the AFL contention in 21 cases, the CIO proposal in 16 and that contentions of both groups were adopted in part in the other four cases.

The board conducted 1,512 elections between July 1, 1937, and June 30, 1938. The CIO was on the ballot in 816 elections, in which it polled 175,838 votes. It was victorious in 563 of the tests, or 67.8 per cent of the number in which it participated. The AFL polled 57,151 in the 604 elections in which its unions took part. Federation affiliates won 263 of the elections, or 43.5 per cent, the board said.

In the 312 elections, involving approximately 80,000 workers in which the CIO and AFL opposed each other, the CIO won 219 of the polls, and the AFL won 86. One resulted in a tie vote and neither labor union received a majority in six of the contests.

"The necessity for deciding such issues as just outlined between unions affiliated with the AFL and Unions affiliated with the CIO has always been distasteful to the board, especially since their decision and the decision of other issues which have arisen because of the split has absorbed a disproportionate part of the board's time and energies," the report said. "However, the board has no alternative under the statute except to decide these issues when presented.

"Despite the profound cleavage in the labor movement, organized labor has still been able to derive enormous benefits as a result of the great guarantees of economic democracy embodied in the National Labor Relations Act.

"A unified labor movement would be in even a stronger position to enjoy the rights protected by the statute, and the board is therefore gratified to note that at the time this report is being prepared there are signs that before another year has passed disunity may be a thing of the past."

The board said there was machinery of unions to resort to the machinery of the act and the guaranty of rights contained in it instead of using its economic weapon in the form of a strike.

"Industrial unrest, particularly where the right to organize is an issue, finds two main outlets—strikes and appeal to the Board," the report continued. "The former is drastically affected by such cyclical fluctuations as business recessions or progression; the latter scarcely so. While the number of cases before the board has a seasonal pattern which is so similar to that of strikes, it is, nevertheless, steadier. As an established, legally sanctioned agency, it provides an outlet for industrial protests which might otherwise result in strikes; and a larger proportion of such protests are before taken before the board rather than expressed in the form of strikes."

MAN LOSES LIFE IN MINE AT BENSCEEK

Paul Dunn, 33, of Lilly, was crushed to death on Saturday morning when he was caught under a fall of rock in the Bensceek mine of the C. A. Hughes Coal Company. After his body was extricated, it was found that his death was due to a crushed skull, a broken back and internal injuries.

Dunn was employed as a timberman in the mine and was engaged in setting timbers when one broke and a portion of the roof fell, pinning him under it. He is survived by his widow and a child.

Admitting he had embezzled \$266.80 of the funds of Portage Local 498, U. M. W. of A., Vallie Yingling, formerly financial secretary of the organization, was sentenced by Judge McCann at Ebensburg on Monday to be placed on probation for two years, pay the costs and to make restitution at the rate of \$25 a month. Yingling was alleged to have taken funds which had been paid into the local by the treasurer of District No. 2 of the U. M. W. of A.