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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1939

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WPA BILL IS CUT BY SINGLE VOTE IN SENATE POLL

Amendment to Limit Firings, However, Is Gaining Support of Upper Branch.

Washington.—The McKellar amendment, which would have restored the President's demand for \$875,000,000 to the WPA deficiency appropriation bill, was defeated by a 47 to 46 vote in the United States Senate last Saturday.

Labor pressure during recent weeks cut into the conservative majority, and almost resulted in a rout of the opposition forces on Capitol Hill.

Though the \$875,000,000 bill was defeated, the Senate, it was predicted, is sure to pass a bill limiting the firing of workers on WPA's rolls to only five per cent of the number during February and March. As a result, the anti-New Deal victory which conservative forces have been hopelessly predicting, proved to be a dud.

The CIO battle against slicing of the WPA fund was led by vice president Sidney Hillman, who warned that "now is not the time to gamble on recovery." He called the \$875,000,000 asked by President Roosevelt the "absolute minimum necessary to sustain the current recovery."

Unemployment Director Ralph Hetzel, encouraged by labor's fights against the cuts, declared late last week that the "tide now seems to be turning in Congress."

Calling upon union members to let their congressmen know of the opposition to carrying out Tory policies on the unemployed, he warned, that the fight is not over.

Since the senate has voted 125 million dollars less than the President had asked for, WPA workers throughout the country have been staging demonstrations in protest.

But the ban on politics in WPA was one of the strictest ever approved by the senate. It places severe penalties upon any one seeking to influence the vote of WPA workers and ban solicitation of political contributions of any kind from federal employees.

GUFFEY, DAVIS AND TIBBOTT ARE URGED TO AID COUNTY SCHOOLS

Urging that Congress act to assure a PWA allocation of \$100,000,000 to Pennsylvania to be utilized to carry out the provisions of the Thompson act to provide new school buildings and declaring that unless action is taken thousands of Cambria county children will be forced to attend school half-day sessions, a committee representing Cambria County School directors on Monday night sent the following telegram to Senators Joseph F. Guffey and James J. Davis and Congressman Harve Tibbott:

"We, the undersigned, representing school districts in Cambria County in which 160,000 parents are vitally interested, urgently request you to support a new allocation of PWA funds to Pennsylvania in the amount of \$100,000,000 for the construction of school buildings. General State Authority in Pennsylvania has already approved school building construction in Cambria county to the extent of \$6,000,000, but these funds cannot be utilized without favorable action on the part of congress on the grant as herein requested.

Unless favorable action is taken by Congress to grant further PWA funds thousands of children in this county will be forced to attend school half-day sessions. Parents in this county are insistent upon favorable action. Thanking you for your continued cooperation."

The telegram was sent as the result of action taken at a meeting held on Monday night in the court house of school directors from districts which have made application for school construction funds under the Thompson law. Although only ten of the 26 districts which had made application for the funds were represented at the meeting, it was pointed out by Dr. Arthur M. Stull, county superintendent, who presided, that all the districts affected were desirous of having action taken to obtain the funds.

A committee composed of Otto T. Strittmatter, Hastings-Elder Township Joint Board; V. S. Harvey, Barnesboro Susquehanna Twp. Joint Board; M. F. Doran, Barr Township and Herman C. Ribblett, East Conemaugh Board, was named by the directors to immediately wire Senators Guffey and Davis and Congressman Tibbott urging their support for further allocation of PWA funds.

Mr. Doran declared that the construction of new buildings is a vital necessity unless the school children are to suffer from being forced to attend only part time.

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE



Whenever "Dynamite," a London, England, bulldog, wants a spot of fresh air he is loaded aboard a wheelbarrow by his master, an east coast resident, and is taken for his constitutional.

POPULATION OF COUNTY JAIL GAINED IN 1938, IS REPORT OF THE WARDEN

The population of the Cambria county jail showed an increase during 1938 as compared to the previous year, according to the annual report submitted by Warden Ed H. Kneec to the county prison board at a meeting held on Monday afternoon. The total number of inmates during 1938 was 1,647 as compared to 1,500 during 1937. During 1938 1,523 men and women were discharged, leaving a population on December 31st last of 124.

The number of women incarcerated last year showed a decrease in comparison to 1937. During 1938, 79 women, four of whom were negroes, were in the institution as compared to 108, one a Negro, during the previous year. Last year 1,418 men including 115 negroes, were incarcerated as compared to 1,387, including 95 negroes, in 1937.

The average daily population of the jail last year was 160.3 as compared to 143 in 1937. The average term per inmate last year was 35.5 days, while in 1937 it was 34.5 days.

A reduction in the cost of feeding prisoners was shown for 1938 by Warden Kneec. The per capita cost last year was 10.3 cents compared to 13 cents in 1937. The per capita cost per day of maintenance was also reduced in 1938. Last year the maintenance cost, which includes all jail charges, was 44.6 cents. In 1937 it was 49.5 cents.

Receipts also decreased last year. Mr. Kneec received a total of \$9,642.44, of which \$8,950.74 was paid in by paroled inmates and \$692.70 as board for federal prisoners and jail fees. In 1937 Mr. Kneec received \$14,608.09, of which \$13,642.19 was paid by those on parole and \$965.90 as board for federal prisoners and jail fees.

Only one prisoner died in the jail in 1938. The man was brought to the jail having a temperature of 104 degrees. As he was pronounced ill with pneumonia it was not feasible to remove him to a hospital. Three men were designated to act as nurses and he was given medical care by Dr. H. M. Bennett, the jail physician. He died despite efforts to save him.

The bake shop showed an increase in production last year, 55,827 loaves of bread being baked compared to 51,765 in 1937. Of the amount baked, 12,230 loaves were delivered to the Juvenile Home. During last year 175 pies, 178 cakes, 6,700 cup cakes and 1,500 biscuits were also baked, a portion of which was also delivered to the Juvenile Home.

Warden Kneec recommended that the jail walls be repointed and that new blankets and mattresses be purchased. He also thanked the prison board for its cooperation.

Mr. Kneec's administration of the jail was commended by President Judge John H. McCann, who presided at the meeting.

"Mr. Kneec is to be congratulated on the excellent work he has done at the jail and there is no doubt but that it is one of the best conducted in the state," the Judge said.

The members of the board voted to reappoint Mr. Kneec and his aides. They are Harry Peach, deputy warden and the following keepers: Robert Treese, William Banford, William Muhlenberg, Fred Black, George Cunningham, and the matron, Miss Katherine Miller.

Despite his protests, County Controller Henry L. Cannon, on motion of Judge McCann, was elected president of the board.

NOTES OF NORTH CAMBRIA INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

Secretary John Frank Sends the Press-Courier A Number of Interesting Matters.

The Italian Swiss Colony, operating a winery in Asti, California, has repeatedly refused to employ union coopers. The Northern Cambria Industrial Union Council has placed the products of the Italian Swiss Colony on the "We don't patronize" list. We respectfully ask all members of organized labor not to buy any of the products of this winery while it is on the unfair list. We would appreciate it if you would notify the Italian Swiss Colony, Asti, California, as to your feelings of unfair employers.

We appeal to organized labor, their families and friends, to help us combat the most vicious anti-union drive ever conducted in America. We urge you not to buy Endicott-Johnson shoes. Buy shoes bearing the union label.

The Crosby Corporation is one outstanding manufacturer in the radio and refrigeration industry that operates under a closed shop contract. The wage scale is among the highest in the industry and working conditions are excellent. The Crosby Corporation has been very cooperative in placing the union label of the I. B. E. W. on all radios and refrigeration units and we feel that great material benefit will inure to labor generally if we are successful in making this appeal to organized labor for support.

JOHN FRANK, Secretary.

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN ORGANIZE SCHOOLS IN CAMBRIA COUNTY

Organization of volunteer firemen's training schools in Cambria county was completed at a meeting of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County and Vicinity held on Thursday evening of last week in the Hastings Fire Hall.

The schools, with George Cartwright of the Johnstown Fire Department, as instructor, will be held in Barnesboro, Portage and Conemaugh in Zone 1, Northern Cambria will attend classes in Barnesboro, while classes in Zone 2, Central Cambria county, will be taught at classes in Portage, and the companies of Zone 3 will assemble at Conemaugh.

The classes will begin this week and will continue for fifteen consecutive weeks. Proper methods of fire fighting and salvage work will be taught at the classes.

The firemen adopted a resolution asking for the revision of the act of the assembly which abolished payment for polling places in fire halls owned by fire companies. Assemblyman Denis L. Westrick promised firemen he would do all in his power to have the bill revised.

The next meeting of the association will be held February 23, in Patton.

DEPRESSION IN 1940 IN OFFING, AFL BUSINESS SURVEY PREDICTS

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor's monthly survey of business suggested that some means of national planning for industry be set up to forestall another depression in 1940.

"A very real danger lies ahead for 1940," the publication said. "By 1940 the present wave of government spending will have largely exhausted its stimulating effect on business and unless plans are devised to set private industry to work producing goods and raising living standards, we shall either face another depression or put a greater armament program to put men to work."

"Excessive armaments lower living standards and increase danger of war. Also, government cannot forever go on piling deficit upon deficit."

"In this critical outlook, which literally may be a matter of life or death to all of us, the first step is to establish a national planning board of representatives from business, labor, agriculture, consumers, government with provisions for experts to assist them and a mandate to stimulate the production of goods by private industry."

The survey presented an optimistic picture of the outlook for 1939, barring war.

JAMES GROUNDS SIX OF THE STATE'S AIRPLANES

Harrisburg.—The six airplanes owned by the commonwealth were grounded for an indefinite period on Monday by Governor Arthur H. James. The chief executive's secretary, J. Paul Pedigo made the announcement in a two line note which did not contain an explanation. The fleet, five under the revenue department and one for the motor police, was built up under the administration of Governor Earle.

SCHOOLS TO GET BIG AMOUNTS AS AID FROM STATE

Auditor General Approves Payments in Fourth Class Districts in Cambria Area.

Reimbursements in the sum of \$371,655.20 for part payment of teachers' salaries in fourth class public school districts of Cambria county, were approved last week by Auditor General Warren R. Roberts at Harrisburg.

Largest amount in the county is to be paid East Conemaugh Borough, to receive \$14,563.80. Portage Borough and Barnesboro Borough receive the next largest amounts, with payments of \$12,523.61 and \$12,398.06 respectively.

Schools in fourth class districts receive 50 per cent aid from the state. First class districts receive 35 per cent and second and third class districts receive thirty five per cent. A total of seven million dollars is to be distributed in the state among fourth class school districts.

Where the teacher valuation is rated between \$50,000 and \$100,000, the districts receive 50 per cent state aid, and under \$50,000 the proportion is 75 per cent. In no instance may a school district receive more than 80 per cent aid from the commonwealth.

The appropriation for the 1937-39 biennium for reimbursement to school districts under the Edmonds Act, and amendments, was 60 million dollars, leaving a deficit of approximately one million dollars to be provided for by subsequent appropriation. The current payment is the second half of the total allotment for this purpose and ends with the close of the school year, July 1938.

Payments approved in some of the fourth class districts, of interest to our readers, follow:

Allegheny township	\$ 1,395.00
Ashville Borough	744.00
Barnesboro Borough	12,398.06
Barr township	4,278.00
Carrolltown Borough	782.60
Chest township	2,473.33
Clearfield township	2,790.00
Dean township	1,392.00
East Carroll Township	2,678.40
Ebensburg borough	5,622.54
Elder township	3,069.00
Hastings borough	8,380.46
Patton Borough	10,703.13
Spangler Borough	10,012.61
Susquehanna township	7,728.30
West Carroll township	7,405.12
White township	1,302.00

RABBIT REARING AREAS ARE SOUGHT

At a special meeting of the Cambria County Sportsmen's Association held at the court house in Ebensburg recently plans for mapping Cambria county and for a study of the wild life conditions in the county were adopted. The purpose is to designate the areas best suited for ringneck pheasants and rabbits.

The association recommended that three additional wild rabbit propagation areas be established. One is in operation on the Samuel Edwards farm, Cambria township, where the rabbits bred prolifically last year and when trapped furnished several hundred animals for stocking in areas where they had been shot out.

John McFadden, newly elected president, presided at the meeting attendance at which was small because of the severity of the weather. The next meeting of the county association will be held at the court house on Thursday, February 23rd.

EBENSBURGER GETS HORSE TRADE VERDICT

Pittsburgh.—An Ebensburg riding academy proprietor who claimed he got the worst of a horse trade was awarded \$230 by a county court jury and ordered to return the horses.

Fred Brickley, the academy owner, sued for \$285 claiming he had paid that amount and pitched in a pony "to boot" for two mares owned by J. G. Malsch, North Side, Pittsburgh, horse trader.

Brickley charged that one of the mares was an "outlaw" horse and unfit for a woman to ride and the other was blind in one eye. He said he spent \$25 trucking one of the mares back to Pittsburgh but that Malsch refused to make a settlement.

Malsch denied the one horse was blind and contended that Brickley made the deal after he had seen the horses.

MINER FOUND IN SHANTY, EXPIRES

Milan Stoyanovich, 56, of Vintondale, died on Saturday evening in the Memorial hospital, Johnstown, where he had been admitted only a few minutes before. He was found unconscious in a shanty at Vintondale and rushed to the hospital.

FROM THE RANKS



Starting as a messenger boy at the age of 13, John G. McCarthy, 50, who served seven consecutive years as a director of the Chicago Board of Trade, was recently elected president of the organization. It is an honorary post in that he serves without pay.

URGES THAT UNITED STATES SEEK VARIOUS NEW USES FOR COAL

Washington.—Representative Fries, Democrat, Illinois, suggested last week that Congress attack the ills of the bituminous coal industry by setting up experimental stations to find new uses for coal and its by-products.

He said he would introduce a bill to provide fourteen million to sixteen million dollars for two research laboratories in Southern Illinois with a view to establishing others elsewhere at a later time.

The first object, he said, would be to create electrical energy from coal at a cost which would enable thousands of farmers to use it.

This alone would spur manufacture and sale of electrical appliances, furnish work for millions of unemployed and eventually pay for itself and return a profit to the treasury, Fries said.

Authoritative information has been given me that the by-products of coal for use in road building are far superior to the by-products of any other source. Such use of coal would in turn put people to work on roads built at minimum cost. There are a dozen major by-products of coal and out of this dozen there are several hundred by-products, valuable from an economic and social viewpoint.

ALLOCATE FUNDS TO GALLITZIN PROJECT

Presidential approval of an allocation of \$107,402 was given Saturday for a modern water distribution system in Gallitzin Borough. The project is sponsored by the borough council, which will provide the sum of \$37,072.72 as the borough's share of the work. Word of the approval was received Saturday.

New water lines, house connections and a 200,000 gallon steel storage tank are included. Work is expected to get under way in the near future. More than 3,000 consumers in Gallitzin will be benefited by the new system.

PATTON MAN NAMED DPA SENIOR TYPIST; APPOINT TWO OTHERS

Paul L. Thomas, of Patton, was appointed a senior typist for the Johnstown office of the Department of Public Assistance over the last week end. His salary is in the \$1,020-\$1,140 range.

Two other appointments listed for Cambria county are Emmatine Strafford of Harrisburg and Sarah E. Lehman of Millersburg, also named senior typists at the same salary.

A check of local DPA officials found no ready explanation for the latter two appointments, since neither name is on civil service lists acted upon by the county assistance board.

JOBS-PAYROLLS REACH NEW HIGH IN CLOSE OF YEAR

December Proved Best Month of 1938 According to Department of Labor and Industry.

Harrisburg.—Industrial employment and pay rolls hit new highs for 1938 during the last month of the year, according to compilations by the Bureau of Research and Information of the Department of Labor and Industry.

Indices, based on 1933 averages, reached 106.8 for employment and 149 for payrolls. In other words, for every \$100 paid in wages during an average month of 1933, almost 107 men were at work and \$149 were paid during December, 1938.

The number of wage earners increased 4.1 per cent; and working time 6.2 per cent.

The dominant factor in these gains was the exceptionally large increase reported by more than 2,000 retail stores. The 66,800 clerks, etc., employed by these stores during the middle week of December represented a 26.1 per cent increase over the November personnel, the highest gain reported since the beginning of the series in 1923.

Weekly payrolls for the same firms were \$1,372,000, 23.5 per cent higher than November. The average December work week consisted of 42.2 hours; total man hours worked increased 33.9 per cent. Because temporary holiday clerks received lower wages, average weekly earnings dropped from \$20.97 to \$20.53 and average hourly earnings decreased from 51.2 cents to 48.3 cents.

Only three other non-manufacturing groups reported November-December gains in employment, and all of these were less than one per cent. Bituminous coal mines and the street railway, bus and taxi group were up .01 per cent each. But, all in all the entire increase in employment in the month of December may be attributed to the holiday seasonal upswing.

MAY DROP 100,000 WPA WORKERS NOW ON THE STATE ROLLS

Harrisburg.—The WPA in Pennsylvania is preparing to drop approximately 100,000 WPA workers and 3,000 supervisory officials from its work relief rolls.

The almost 42 per cent reduction in the state's WPA enrollment was being made from orders from Washington, it was learned, and will be spread over the next five months. The cut, it is said, is in line with the reduced appropriation of 725 million dollars voted by congress, 150 million dollars less than the amount asked by the President.

The slash in WPA rolls will affect approximately 500,000 persons in this state if carried out. It threatened to confront the state with one of the most serious relief crises in years unless there is a business improvement or an additional WPA appropriation by Congress. The state's relief rolls today are the highest since the WPA was organized in July, 1935, with approximately 125,000 persons receiving direct relief from the state.

JAMES SEES BUDGET BALANCE BY JUNE 1

Harrisburg.—Governor Arthur H. James announced last week that he believes he could balance the budget by June 1st end of the biennium fiscal period.

James estimated the deficit he inherited from the Earle administration at some \$50,000,000.

The bulk of the deficiency, he declared, is in unemployment relief. He estimated savings to be effected in payrolls alone by June 1 at \$1,750,000. He added that approximately \$4,000,000 could be obtained from the balance of the 1937 legislature appropriation for flood control.

UNIONS HAD MUCH TO DO WITH DEFEAT OF PHILA. TAX

Forces of organized labor mobilized to fight the proposed wage and three per cent sales tax and won an impressive victory when both measures were withdrawn by the Philadelphia City Council. The Philadelphia CIO Industrial Union Council joined with other labor groups and business organizations in planning a march on the city council. But 24 hours before it was scheduled to start, the city fathers announced that the sales tax was off and other means would be found to meet the municipal deficit.

INDUCT NEW SCOUT TROOP AT WATKINS

Installation of the newly organized Boy Scout Troop at Watkins, near Bakerton, sponsored by the community, took place Thursday evening, at an appropriate ceremony conducted in the school building there.