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Union Press, Established May, 1935.

Patton Courier, Established Oct., 1893.

VOL. 45. NO. 18.

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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1939

725 South Fifth Ave. PATTON, PA.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER YEAR

UNITED MINE WORKERS PREPARING FOR TALKS ON A NEW AGREEMENT

CIO CHARGES AFL WAGNER PLANS A PERILOUS MOVE

Say Intention Is Not Only to Break Up CIO, But Endanger All Collective Bargaining.

By Henry C. Fleisher.

Washington.—The nine amendments to the Wagner Act, sponsored by the top leaders of the American Federation of Labor and introduced by Senator David Walsh of Massachusetts, will destroy almost completely the value of the Act for American labor.

If the amendments should pass, anti-union corporations and that section of the AFL leadership which is moved only by blind hate of the CIO and industrial organization of the nation's workers, will get benefits. The workers in the AFL and the CIO alike will suffer.

These are the conclusions reached by the CIO Legal Department after a study of the Walsh bill. The CIO will shortly issue a pamphlet attacking the amendments and demonstrating point by point how they would injure all bonafide unions and prepare the way for a giant gain in company unionism.

Among the nine amendments suggested by President Green of the AFL are proposals which were never discussed, let alone approved, by the federation's convention in Houston, Texas, last summer. Had they been offered to the convention delegates it is likely they would never have been sanctioned.

The amendments would, to all intents and purposes, prevent the National Labor Relations Board from ruling against the vast majority of company unions which have been fostered by anti-union employers.

Under the new definitions of a company union, only the most clumsy attempts to keep the workers out of bonafide labor organizations would be found objectionable. The more subtle methods, which have been used by hundreds of employers would be approved.

It compels the National Labor Relations Board to certify each craft occupation as a separate bargaining unit—whether or not the workers involved desired to be separated from the majority.

Demands that employers be allowed to go to the courts for subpoenas for evidence—thereby making it possible for them to delve into the private files of unions; that the board be forced to make its files public; that employers' expenses on NLRB cases be paid by the Board; and that NLRB trial examiners be disqualified if employers think them biased—all these point to a deal between the AFL and Big Business.

The AFL leadership has always sought to justify its activities with the argument that it has been working in the interest of the workers. Its proposed amendments to the Wagner act, however, expose Green and his supporters on the AFL executive council as players of the employers' game in their war against industrial unionism and the CIO.

REELECT GRIFFITH HEAD OF CAMBRIA EXTENSION GROUP

J. Norman Griffith of Cambria township, was reelected president of the Cambria County Agricultural Extension Society at the annual business meeting of the organization held last Thursday in the Ebensburg court house.

Other officials elected are E. J. Bear, Hastings, R. D., vice president, S. I. Miller, Carrolltown, R. D., treasurer and Mrs. Freda O'Hara, Cresson, R. D., secretary.

The following were named to the executive committee: Englebert Farabaugh, Loretto, R. D., Lyman Sherbine and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jones, all of Wilmore, Edward Westrick, Patton, R. D., James Garrett, Cresson, R. D.; Mrs. Russell Edwards, Ebensburg, R. D.; Mrs. George Leiden, St. Lawrence and Mrs. John Hice, South Fork, R. D.

A report of the work done by the farm women of the county was given by Mrs. Emma Hall Eastman, home economics director of the county. Various other reports were submitted, including those of H. C. McWilliams, the county farm agent.

Citizenship Examinations.

Preliminary examination for naturalization papers will be conducted in the courthouse at Ebensburg on February 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th, it is announced by Prothonotary John L. Hite. More than 300 applicants will take the examination. Final tests will be given in June.

HALUSKA DISFAVORS ACTION TO ABOLISH MINES DEPARTMENT

Senator John J. Haluska, Cambria Democrat, last week looked with disquietude upon reports that Governor Arthur H. James intended to abolish the Department of Mines and replace it by a bureau in the Department of Labor and Industry.

"If any department should exist on this hill," he told the senate, "it is the Department of Mines. Certainly the coal miners and operators should have some substantial agency to take care of their problems."

"I regret very much," he added, "that the Governor has already seen fit to abolish one bureau in the department, that having to do with the bituminous mining in western Pennsylvania."

PREDICT MINIMUM BITUMINOUS COAL PRICES BY MAY 1ST

Washington.—National Bituminous Coal Commission officials are hoping to reestablish minimum coal prices soon after representatives of the soft coal industry and of the United Mine Workers of America meet to negotiate a new collective bargaining contract.

Negotiations between a joint committee of 10 coal operators and mine union officials will begin in New York on March 14th.

Industry spokesmen were expected to demand modification of the present Appalachian agreement, but the U. M. W. of A. will counter with a demand for contract improvement, as noted elsewhere in this issue.

A coal commission member said some minimum prices for the western district may be fixed by April 1st, and that prices would be fixed by May 1, and possibly by the middle of April.

A supreme court decision, last week, permitting the commission to make public individual cost statements of operators, cleared the way for the final hearing on proposed district prices. A group of operators had sought to prevent revelation of this data on grounds that it was confidential.

More than 500,000 individual prices will be promulgated by the commission in an effort to guarantee the "weighted cost" of production to coal operators. The commission's first minimum price fixing effort was revoked February 25th, 1938, after several circuit courts of appeals had enjoined the prices and cast doubt on their legality. The commission has revised its procedure in a manner it believes will meet those objections.

OWNERS OF 10,000 DOGS UNLICENSED IN CAMBRIA FACE PENALTY

Dogs—at least 10,000 of them—are unlicensed in Cambria County and unless their owners obtain the necessary permits at once the latter will be subject to fines of \$5 and \$100 and costs.

This announcement was made last week by John A. Riscosin, dog law investigator of the Department of Agriculture.

During 1938 there were 17,977 dogs licensed in Cambria county," Mr. Riscosin said. "Up to date this year only 7,000 licenses have been obtained. We have every reason to believe that there are just as many dogs in the county now as there were last year. Unless the owners of unlicensed animals obtain permits at once they will be subject to a fine."

"Last year at this date, 8,646 dog licenses had been issued by the county treasurer, which shows that up to the present time this year, 1,646 fewer licenses have been issued to date. We intend to start a drive against unlicensed dogs within a few days so it is up to all owners of these animals to obtain licenses at once."

The license fee for a male dog is \$1.10; female, \$2.10; and a spayed female, \$1.10. In applying for a license for a spayed a certificate must accompany application unless the dog has been previously licensed in this county. If applications are made to County Treasurer John Lloyd Jones by mail, return postage should be enclosed.

CAMBRIA ADDS 630 PERSONS TO ROLLS OF RELIEF AGENCY

Cambria County ranked fifth among the 67 counties in the number of new cases added to relief rolls during the last week in January the weekly report of the Department of Public Assistance showed on Monday. Throughout the state there were 19,658 persons added to the DPA caseload, including approximately 650 in this county.

Mexico's people are about thirty per cent Indian, 9 per cent white and 60 per cent mixed.

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND WORKERS ARE INVOLVED

Policy Committee, Headed by President John L. Lewis Will Meet in New York City on March 9th to Draft Demands for Soft Coal Contract. Present Agreement With Operators Expires Mar. 30.

Washington.—The United Mine Workers of America took the first steps last Friday toward negotiation of new contracts affecting 500,000 miners and 50,000 operators.

Officers of the union announced that the policy committee, headed by President John L. Lewis and including all district union officials, would meet in New York on March 9th to draft demands for the new soft coal contract.

Anthracite unions in Pennsylvania were called to a convention at the Commodore Hotel in New York March 21 to map policy in negotiating a new hard coal contract and to select negotiators. Approximately 300 delegates from three districts and 275 local unions will attend.

Operators in both fields are expected to ask modification of the present agreements and the U. M. W. of A. is expected to counter with demands for improvement, including a thirty hour week. Both agreements now call for a seven hour day and 35 hour week.

The soft coal contract, which expires March 30th, covers more than 400,000 miners and provides for a basic wage of \$6 per day in the north and

\$5.60 in the south. Approximately 100,000 anthracite miners are covered by a contract expiring April 30th which has a basic \$4.62 per day common labor.

Both industries were hard hit by the business decline in late 1937 and 1938. Soft coal production dropped 100,000 tons in 1938, and J. D. Battle, secretary of the National Coal Association, estimated the industry's loss in excess of 60 million dollars. Anthracite production dropped from 51,836,000 tons in 1937 to 45,054,000 in 1938.

The imminent fixing of bituminous minimum prices by the National Bituminous Coal Commission may be a factor in the soft coal negotiations. Government officials, mine union leaders, and some operators believe that these prices will stabilize the business and halt the losses. Coal commission officials hope to reestablish price minima by May 1.

The Tri-District Hard Coal Conference was called at a meeting attended by President Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Kennedy and the three district presidents and secretary-treasurers.

SENATOR HALUSKA SEEKS PENSION OF \$40.00 FOR ALL OVER 65 YEARS, IN LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Harrisburg.—Forty dollars every month was proposed in the Pennsylvania Legislature on Monday night for all persons over the age of 65.

Senator John J. Haluska, Democrat, of Patton, suggested in his bill that the aged who get such pensions be permitted also to hold real estate and a maximum of \$2,500 in personal property.

The state at present requires the aged to sign over to the commonwealth any real or personal property over \$500 in value before assistance up to \$30 a month is allowed.

Legislation to cut the number of restaurant liquor licenses, doubling the fees, and permit bottle sales in hotels, restaurants and clubs, was introduced in the senate.

COMMISSIONERS AND CONTROLLER APPEAL TO THE ASSEMBLYMEN TO PROMOTE A TAX SALES DELAY

County Controller Henry L. Cannon and John Thomas, Jr., president, speaking for the board of county commissioners, on Monday joined in an appeal to the five assemblymen from Cambria county to introduce legislation postponing property sales for delinquent taxes of 1935, 1936 and 1937, until 1941. The two officials pointed out that the sales scheduled this year would work an undue hardship upon property owners who are endeavoring to settle their tax accounts.

Unless legislative relief is forthcoming, the officials point out, properties in which 1935 and 1936 taxes are delinquent will be offered for sale by the county treasurer the third Monday in April and those on which owners have not made settlement for 1937, will be sold the first Monday in August.

"Many taxpayers in the county are making an honest effort to settle their delinquent taxes," Controller Cannon said. "Two tax sales within a year would work too much hardship upon property owners, especially under existing conditions," he said.

POTATO GROWERS HEAR PATTON MAN AT ANNUAL MEET

The Cambria County Potato Growers Association is able to market all potatoes raised in the county, P. C. Strittmatter of Patton, declared at the annual meeting of the Cambria County Agricultural Association held in Ebensburg last Thursday. More than 200 persons attended the meeting.

J. Norman Griffith of Ebensburg, R. D. 2, president of the association, presided.

"Times have changed during the past fifteen years in the marketing of potatoes as well as other farm crops," Mr. Strittmatter said. "The Cambria County Potato Growers' Association has been very successful in marketing our product through the state association."

"Pennsylvania potato growers can sell their products in the state because not sufficient potatoes are raised in Pennsylvania to meet the market demand. We therefore have the advantage by the margin of freight costs over raisers in other states who wish to sell in Pennsylvania."

Mr. Strittmatter declared that in order to market potatoes a standard package is necessary.

"Large manufacturers who market national products have learned that they most successfully enter the market when their product is put up in standard packages," Mr. Strittmatter declared. "This also is true as regards potatoes. We are now marketing our product in bushel and peck packages, but the smaller size package is the most popular with the housewife."

The Patton man also pointed out

MINES DEPARTMENT RETRENCHES UNDER SECRETARY THOMAS

Further retrenchment in pay roll expenditures in the Department of Mines in Pennsylvania was disclosed the other day by John Ira Thomas, new secretary of mines.

Thomas rescinded three appointments of mine inspectors made in the closing days of the Earle administration. Leslie L. Steele of Richland township, was among those dropped.

In eliminating the three additional inspectors, Secretary Thomas said tonnage production in Pennsylvania mines did not warrant appointments in the first place.

Another retrenchment move announced by Thomas was the curtailment of the activities of three miners' examination boards in the bituminous districts. Three members of each board had been serving five days a week at \$10 a day each. Thomas said most of the examining under the Haluska Certificate law was completed, so he ordered the boards to be in session not more than two days a week during the next four months.

POSTPONE ACTION ON OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE CLAIMS

Orders have gone out to state workmen's compensation referees this week to postpone action on occupational disease claims pending a state supreme court decision on validity of the statute.

Constitutionality of the occupational disease act and the revised workmen's compensation law, enacted by the 1937 Legislature, was attacked by two Clearfield county soft coal mining companies that were joined in the suit by nearly all the anthracite mine operators.

Labor and Industry Secretary Lewis G. Hines ordered the 15 referees to file occupational disease claims for further reference without hearings until the appellate court rules on validity of the compensation laws.

"The referees advise me," Hines said, "that work on other cases is almost at a standstill due to a flood of occupational disease claims."

"It is upon their advice and solicitation that I issued the orders to unplug the workmen's compensation claims settlement machinery."

CLASSIFICATION FOR COAL BEING URGED

Washington.—President Walter Ott, of the American Coal Producers' Association has recommended the National Bituminous Coal Commission classify three types of distributors as eligible to receive discounts on coal purchased for resale in cargo or railroad carload lots.

Ott, member of a Boston coal distributing company, testified at a hearing on rules and regulations for registration of distributors entitled to such discounts under the Bituminous Coal Act. His suggested classifications:

1.—"Exclusive" distributors, who handle a producer's entire production.

2.—"Regional" distributors, who handle all of a producer's business for a single region.

3.—"Wholesale" distributors, who buy and sell coal generally.

E. Weaver Dobson, of Minneapolis, chairman of the American Coal Retail Association's executive committee, suggested "wholesaler" be defined as "a person who purchases coal for resale in cars or cargo vessels and who does not physically handle such coal" and "retailer" as "a person who purchases coal in railroad cars or cargo vessels for sale in any quantity and who physically handles such coal."

TWO NORTH CAMBRIA MEN HELD FOR THEFT

William Wagner, 28, and Wade Adams, 22, both of Barnesboro, have been committed to the Cambria County Jail to await action on charges of breaking, entering and larceny. The defendants were unable to raise \$1,000 bond each when they faced D. A. Westover, Barnesboro justice of the peace. Both entered pleas of guilty at a hearing.

Wagner and Adams were arrested by County Detective Charles Cowan and Chief of Police Dean Whitely of Barnesboro. The defendants allegedly stripped an automobile belonging to Hale Repine of Mentcle, Indiana county, while the vehicle was parked between Belsano and Strongstown. They also allegedly stole ten cartons of cigars and a quantity of candy and chewing gum from the A. Artorius store in Marsteller one night recently.

ton, R. D.; E. J. Hughes of Wilmore; Lawrence Cretin of Dysart; E. J. Westrick of Patton, R. D.; W. H. Fyock, of Johnstown, R. D.; Jessie Griffith of Colver, and R. J. Nedmyer of Flinton.

EAGLES PLAN A GALA MEETING FRIDAY NIGHT

Charles C. Guenther of Pittsburgh Principal Speaker, and Class Will Be Initiated.

Friday evening of this week, February 10th, has been set as the date for a special meeting at Patton Aerie No. 1244, Fraternal Order of Eagles, when Charles C. Guenther, Past Grand Worthy President of the Order, of Pittsburgh, will come as the chief speaker.

In a statement concerning the fraternity's social-justice work, Worthy President L. Claire Smale said that while the F. O. E. was founded forty years ago as a mutual benefit society and has since paid out more than \$76,000,000 to protect its own members, it has played an important part in helping non-Eagles as well.

The local officer listed among the order's humanitarian activities its efforts to help indigent widowed mothers and their children, the dependent aged, and workmen injured at their jobs, citing the fact that all states now have passed mothers' pension and old age pension laws, and forty-six states have workmen's compensation laws. He said that when the Eagles became interested in legislation to protect these three groups not a state or even a county had such laws.

The order is now concentrating its efforts in the humanitarian field on the stabilization of employment, believing the local spokesman said, that a continuous job at a saving wage for the worker would insure economic stability for the country.

The Eagles-Ludlow bill, which has been introduced into congress, embodies this idea.

Mr. Guenther, a widely known figure in the fraternity, will discuss particularly this last phase of the organization's work, Worthy President L. C. Smale said.

A banner meeting night is being looked forward to. With Mr. Guenther as the principal guest, and in honor of Conrad H. Mann's birthday, the local lodge will initiate a class of candidates the degree work to be exemplified by Patton Aerie Degree team. A fish and oyster supper for members and the newly initiated candidates will follow. It is expected that Eagles from many nearby points will attend the meeting.

BOY SCOUTS OF NORTH OF COUNTY TO HIKE TO HART'S SLEEPING PLACE

In observance of National Boy Scout Week, various troops of the Boy Scouts of the Northern Cambria area will hike to Hart's Sleeping Place, at St. Joseph's Church, next Saturday.

They will leave their various towns at 10 a. m., take their lunches with them, and prepare their meal at noon. Troops from Patton, Watkins, Bakerton and Carrolltown are expected to take part. Attorney Peter J. Little of Ebensburg president of the Cambria County Historical Society, will be present after the noon meal, and will address the boys on the early history of Cambria County and on the particular significance of Hart's Sleeping Place in the early county and state annals.

BARNESBORO K. OF C. TO HOLD PRE-LENENT FAIR ON FEBRUARY 16

A pre-lenten dinner and card party will be held by Barnesboro council, Knights of Columbus, at the Brandon Hotel, Spangler on Thursday evening February 16th. The announcement of the affair was made following a meeting Monday evening, Jan. 23, of a committee selected to stage the event.

The committee chairman chosen to represent their respective communities were as follows: P. O. Holtz, Hastings; D. R. Lovette, Spangler; Carrolltown; D. J. Murphy, Barnesboro; R. G. Lieb, Nietko.

Buck, Bakerton, and Francis X. Young, Patton. Also present at the meeting were Thomas V. Korfz of Barnesboro, grand night; Dr. Harry Denny of Spangler, lecturer; and the Rev. Michael Brett, chaplain.

A chicken dinner, followed by cards, bridge, and cinch, are planned for the evening. A short entertainment, with Pat McGlynn of Hastings and Angelo Domenico of Spangler rendering vocal selections, will immediately follow the dinner. Father Brett will serve as toastmaster.

Knights from the Ebensburg, Johnstown, Altoona, and Portage councils have been invited to attend. Priests from the neighboring communities and the Most Reverend Richard T. Gullfoyle, D. D. have been extended special invitations.