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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1939

723 South Fifth Ave. PATTON, PA.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER YEAR

BREAK IS LIKELY IN MINING DEADLOCK

STATE CIO GROUP IN CONVENTION AT HARRISBURG

Second Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Industrial Union Council On This Week.

Faced with several important issues the Pennsylvania Industrial Union Council, CIO, is holding its second annual convention at Harrisburg this week. Sessions opened on Tuesday.

Although the appearance of John L. Lewis, CIO chieftain, is indefinite, because of current negotiations between miners and operators in both the hard and soft coal fields, most of the other top ranking industrial unionists are expected to attend the three day conclave which will close on Thursday evening.

Five topics will probably feature the discussions. They are:

1. A new organization drive for 400,000 more members.
2. Labor legislation pending in the general assembly.
3. Contractual difficulties in the anthracite and bituminous coal industries.
4. The recent decision of a federal district court in Philadelphia imposing a fine of \$711,932 against Hosiery Workers.
5. Peace between the AFL and the CIO.

John Phillips, president of the state council, said that undoubtedly a new organization drive would be started at the convention. His remarks were confirmed by Lester Thomas, secretary treasurer of the organization.

"We have over 500,000 members in the organization now," Thomas said, and there is a potential membership of nearly 900,000 CIO members in the state. We are going after every one of them."

Phillips outlined the legislation which the state CIO group would oppose.

Include among measures are those changing the present labor relations act, revising the workmen's compensation acts, setting up a new relief system, changing the status of present unemployment compensation, old age assistance and industrial home work laws, amending the teachers' tenure act and other bills affecting the welfare of teachers.

Phillips denounced the pending change in the workmen's compensation act as the most ruthless and pitiless bill ever introduced in that subject.

On the strained relations between the AFL and CIO, he declared:

"Our policy is to promote peace. Undoubtedly the council will reiterate the desire of all workers for unity in the labor movement."

Approximately 1,000 delegates, representing 1300 local unions, are in the state capitol for the meeting this week. The council was organized March 29, 1938, after William Green, president of the AFL, revoked the charter of the state organization because it supported Lewis. A new AFL group was organized a fortnight later.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, AFL affiliate, will hold its convention in Philadelphia starting May 10th.

TEACHERS' GROUP TO NAME OFFICERS

Officers for District 6 of the Pennsylvania State Education Association will be held at a meeting to be held on Saturday afternoon in the Gallitzin school. The meeting will be held at 2 p. m.

Joseph F. Bernard, chairman of the Gallitzin Division of the Association, will be the principal speaker at the meeting. District 6 is composed of the following townships and boroughs: Reade Township, Tunnelhill Borough, Gallitzin Borough, Gallitzin Township, Ashville Borough, Dean Township, White Township, East Carroll Township, Carrolltown Borough, Chest Township, and Patton Borough.

WORK IS STARTED ON BARNESBORO HALL

Ground was broken last week for Barnesboro's new community building, which was authorized by members of Hope Volunteer Fire Company at a meeting two months ago, although final preparations were only recently completed.

At a meeting last week the Community Building Association was organized. R. H. Steele was named the chairman. The new structure will be located in the northern section of the Barnesboro park and will be 62 by 120 feet. A basement also will be constructed for recreational purposes.

COLLEGE SEEKS NEW COAL USES

Bethlehem.—Men from the mines and scientists from the laboratories met the other day at Lehigh University to widen the uses of hard coal and to seek fields for its sale.

Opening session of the meeting included technical studies of the burning characteristics and natural advantages of hard coal, use of anthracite for warm air heat in the home and expanding the domestic market for anthracite.

Speakers for the most part were research experts who submitted papers describing their experiments.

WAGE AND HOUR ACT RECORD HAS SHOWN BENEFITS

Administrator Andrews Sums Up Results of First Six Months' Enforcement of Law.

Washington.—Administrator Elmer F. Andrews on Monday sounded a nationwide radio warning to employers not to violate the Wage-Hours Act, and cited the promissory record of the administration's first six months of existence in which, he declared, "we have not lost a single case in the courts."

Andrews summed up the first six months of wages-hours enforcement under the act, which began last October 24, with the declaration:

"The act has thrown a strong floodlight upon the dark places of American industry, the unpleasant things we could not see before. We cannot duck them. No amount of talk about the beauties of rugged individualism will obliterate them. We know now where the scrubbing brush and fumigator are needed."

Andrews admonished employers that "a few employe lawsuits could be far more expensive than voluntary, wholehearted compliance."

Citing satisfactory compliance thus far, he said out of 11,910 complaints received, the administration took 19 cases to court, 14 injunctions and five criminal prosecutions, and obtained \$31,500 in fine levies and \$12,000 in pay restitution.

Of 11,000,000 workers in interstate commerce, wage increases for about 300,000 have been gained, Andrews said, and next October 24, when the 30-cents-an-hour minimum wage becomes effective, these workers will receive \$32,760,000 increase in wages for the year, he estimated.

The act has raised the Nation's purchasing power, he concluded. Thousands of other workers, he said, have received time and one-half overtime pay, and shorter working hours.

Andrews traced the speedy expansion of the Wage-Hours Administration from a small headquarters staff and 23 field inspectors six months ago, to a national force of 131 today, and said the "skeleton force" was still inadequate to cope with the problems in industry.

WINSLOW'S TOGGERY SHOP WILL OPEN IN MASONIC BLDG. SOON

New Men's Furnishing Store Will Cater to Public, and Sell Nationally Advertised Merchandise.

Barton C. (Tubby) Winslow, well known Pattonite, will in the next few days open Patton's newest store, "The Winslow Toggery Shop," in the Corner Room of the Masonic Building on Fifth and Magee avenues, next to the Press-Courier office. Mr. Winslow has for the past month been preparing and fitting up the quarters, and for the past few weeks stocks have been arriving. He will handle a full line of Men's Furnishings and Shoes, mostly of the nationally advertised brands. Likewise, he will have agencies for men's tailor made clothing.

Feeling that Patton is in need of a store of this nature, Mr. Winslow will endeavor to please the trade. Watch this paper next week for his opening announcement.

NOTICE.

To all members of Local Union No. 2908, United Mine Workers of America, St. Benedict, Pa. You are requested to come to the Miners' hall in St. Benedict on Wednesday, May 3, between the hours of 8 and 12 a. m. to sign for unemployment compensation.

Committee: Richard Bradford, Joseph Jones, Harry C. Ream, Metro Karol.

LABOR PARLEYS ON PEACE WILL FACE A DELAY

Nothing More Will Probably Be Done Until After Congress Acts on Wagner Act Dispute.

Washington. Administration sources have disclosed that President Roosevelt's hopes for labor peace are waning between the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations over Wagner Act amendments.

Lewis, proffer to the Senate of documentary evidence of collaboration of AFL officials, the National Association of Manufacturers and "reactionary employers" in drafting federation amendments to the Wagner act "poisoned the peace atmosphere," one labor expert held.

He said the AFL had given Lewis ample provocation for his step, however, by inspiring the Progressive Miners of America, to lodge charges reflecting on Lewis' integrity before the senate committee.

Fear of prejudicing his status of impartiality in the peace negotiations has impelled Mr. Roosevelt to keep hands off the coal parcels.

OPERATORS ARE OPPOSED TO PENNA. MINE LICENSING

Pittsburgh.—Prominent Western Pa. coal operators last Friday approved a legislative bill providing a campaign for "more equitable" coal freight rates but objected to proposed legislation for licensing mines.

They appeared at a hearing on the bills before the House of Representatives Committee on mines and mining.

The freight rate bill provides an appropriation of \$100,000 for a four year fight for revisions of soft coal freight rates and authorizes the attorney general to intervene before the Interstate Commerce commission in any case in behalf of operators in Western Pennsylvania.

Four major producers and operators' associations spoke for the bill. Representatives of the United Mine Workers also endorsed the bill, but agents of four railroads said they had not had time to study the proposal.

House Bill 1,9008 would require \$100 annual licenses for all bituminous mines and bond of \$1,000 for each operator to assure his observance of the state mining laws including several thousand small truck mines of which state officials now have no record.

Byron Canon, secretary of the western Pennsylvania operators, told the committee:

"Members of our association are in favor of a record being kept in Harrisburg of all mines in the state, large or small. Generally speaking, we do not think a license fee or posting of a bond should be of such nature as to make the operation of mines prohibitive. Both large and small mines have a right to operate and should not be penalized out of business. One feature we do oppose is the provision for licensing every individual mine. For instance if a company has 20 mines, it would have to pay \$2,000 a year to operate."

Representative E. K. Kane of McKean county, interjected that the purpose of the bill was not to provide revenue, but simply the cost of operating under the act. "People without any responsibility whatever are stealing coal and operating mines. We would require some evidence of responsibility before opening a mine and employing human beings in the operation of these openings."

RURAL GROUPS IN SINGING EVENT

Several Cambria county choral groups are expected to enter the annual Rural Chorus which will be held on Thursday, June 15th at State College. Any musical group of any rural community of population not exceeding 2,500, may enter, County Farm Agent H. C. McWilliams, advises.

Groups participating in the contest must have at least eight members. Each group will be required to sing two numbers. The required number is "Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair." The other number may be selected by the group participating, but the two numbers should not require more than ten minutes for presentation. Groups desiring to enter should communicate with Mr. McWilliams, who will furnish copies of the contest rules.

THOMAS L. LEWIS, MINE LEADER, DIES

Charleston, W. Va.—Thomas L. Lewis, who rose from the job of an anthracite breaker boy to the presidency of the United Mine Workers Union he helped found, died last Saturday at the age of 73. He retired from business in 1930 because of illness. Lewis, who was not related to President John L. Lewis of the U. M. W. A., headed the union from 1908 to 1911. Later he published the Coal Mining Review, a trade paper, and assisted in organizing the National Coal Association.

HOSPITAL DANCE AT SUNSET MAY 10 BY LADIES' GROUP

Baron Elliott and His Orchestra to Play for Miners' Institution Charity Event.

The annual charity ball of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Miners Hospital of Northern Cambria of Spangler will be held on Wednesday evening, May 10th, at Sunset Park.

Plans for the annual affair were outlined at a recent meeting of the auxiliary. Mrs. John R. Eagly, president of the organization, presided.

Mrs. Sidney Derringer, of Barnesboro, was elected chairman of the dance committee and Mrs. Samuel Klinc of Barnesboro, was named chairman of publicity. Announcement was made at the meeting that negotiations had been completed with Baron Elliott and his orchestra to furnish music for the ball.

The charity ball or the auxiliary, held annually, is the highlight of the social season for the organization. The funds derived each year are used by the auxiliary to purchase equipment needed at the hospital.

Members of the auxiliary in each of the towns in the north of the county have been named members of the ticket committee for the ball.

ELDER TOWNSHIP'S FARMERS UNITE FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Refusing to become disheartened when efforts to secure a WPA project for the construction of a road, approximately 20 feet wide, Elder Township farmers are building the road themselves.

Handicapped the entire winter by a mud road almost inaccessible to travel, the farmers started building the road about two weeks ago and already have finished about 400 feet of the job. When completed the road will be approximately 700 feet long and will be of service to approximately 40 families in the township. Although there is no foreman to supervise the project, the road is reported to be substantially constructed.

During the entire winter persons living along the road were forced to carry their food supplies from town to their homes and in many instances physicians were forced to walk in order to visit the sick.

The new road was constructed at a minimum cost, the meager funds being provided by landowners and persons directly affected by the road.

Spokesmen for the workers said that the remaining two hundred feet of road will be built during the next three or four weeks.

BARNESBORO SHIRT PLANT TO RESUME OPERATIONS SOON

Announcement that the Barnesboro factory of the Phillips-Jones Corporation, which has been closed for several weeks, will be reopened in the near future was made at Barnesboro last week by J. W. Witwer, superintendent of the plant. Mr. Witwer had just returned from Pottsville where he had conferred with company officials.

The Barnesboro superintendent was advised that the corporation officials were putting forth plans to get the various factories of the concern ready for an extensive production schedule. The Barnesboro plant, it was learned, is one of the first to be returned to a full time working schedule.

The news was received warmly in Barnesboro, in view of the fact that when the factory there is working at capacity, 350 people are employed with a monthly payroll in excess of \$10,000.

The Phillips-Jones Corporation is anticipating a large government order within the next few weeks, it is said.

MINERS RETALIATE WITH VIGOR IN AFL TRUCKERS' FIGHT

Johnstown Local 110 "Getting Works" for Aiding and Abetting Progressive Miners.

The United Mine Workers of America of Cambria and adjacent counties have declared war on the Johnstown Truck Drivers' Union, No. 110, AFL affiliate, of which H. D. Lehman is president, because the truckers have "aided and abetted" the arrival at the E. E. Sheets house coal mine in Johnstown of the Progressive Miners' Union, now under AFL sponsorship. Business men, and the general public as well as practically all mine operators are agreed that there is absolutely no need for any dual miners' union in this section, or elsewhere, and the UMWA can hardly be criticized for the stand they are taking.

The majority of the contracts which Truckers Union No. 110 have had in force with Johnstown and other employers, expired last Sunday night, and because of the fact that the miners are insisting that stores accept no merchandise from trucks driven by AFL drivers, in the communities where merchants rely upon miners' trade, it is said that Local No. 110 is having a tough time in getting renewals signed.

Drivers Local 110 reaches into Indiana and Somerset counties, and rival CIO truckers unions have been set up at both Indiana and Barnesboro. Over in Indiana it is reported that more than 75 of the AFL members have swung to the CIO.

The miners have fostered a spirited drive against Johnstown trucks entering mining towns where drivers belong to Local 110, and are advising Johnstown employers, if they want the miners' business not to sign up with the AFL. Likewise they have notified community dealers, too, that if they want their business, they should accept nothing delivered by an AFL driver belonging to Local 110. Stores accepting merchandise in this manner will be picketed.

The advent of even a very, very few Progressive Miners in this section will not be tolerated by the UMWA, who has, and will continue to enjoy the confidence of both the operators and the public. Dual unionism in our area will not be tolerated, and the United Mine Workers of America feel justified in taking all measures against such a movement, however small, and particularly are they striking back at a union that is alleged to have encouraged the movement.

SPENCE UPHELDS TAX COLLECTORS

County Commissioners John Thomas Jr., Frank P. Hollern and Lillian D. Keller on Monday afternoon notified John Whalen, secretary of the Cambria County Tax Collectors Association, that they had been advised by County Solicitor George M. Spence that the collectors' claims for two percent commission on delinquent taxes paid into the county treasury is legal. Attorney Spence said that an Act of Assembly of 1931 specifically provides for payment of the commission.

While the commissioners voiced their willingness to make payment of back commissions, which the collectors assert are due them from 1935 to 1938, County Controller Henry L. Cannon declared he would not approve the payment unless ordered to do so by court order. As a result, Mr. Whalen said the collectors would meet at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon in the courthouse to prepare plans for obtaining court action to force Mr. Cannon to make the payments.

Mr. Cannon, in refusing to approve payment of the commissions, asserts that the collectors do nothing to earn the fees. The money is paid into the county treasury after the collectors have turned in their duplicates, he declares and therefore have done nothing to entitle them to payment. The collectors have pointed out that they should be paid the commission because they made efforts to collect the tax before it is returned to the county.

The commissions have been paid in the past by borough, townships, and school districts and were last paid by the county in 1933.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

A ceremony uniting in marriage Miss Irma B. Conn of Emehigh and Leo H. Plouse of Barnesboro, was performed recently at the Methodist church at Emehigh.

SETTLEMENT OR GENERAL TIE-UP LOOMS AT ONCE

Operators Offer to Collect Dues From Both Union and Non-Union UMWA Men.

LEWIS STUDIES PROBLEM.

Exclusive bargaining rights to the United Mine Workers of America and a check-off system to collect dues from both union and non-union employees—designed to protect the union against inroads from other labor organizations, Tuesday afternoon was the offering of the soft coal operators, in a new effort to draft a wage and hour contract for the industry. With the patience of John L. Lewis and his co-operating mine leaders exhausted, and with the entire policy committee in session in New York, the miners had practically decided that this was to be the last week of stalemating, and with no contracts signed at once, the entire industry, both in and out of the Appalachian conference, would cease operations.

Trouble among the operators has been a possibility that some of the southern producers might refuse to sign contracts. The miners have been marking time since the middle of last week while the operators worked out a proposition and attempted to obtain full support of their conferees. The general conference of miners and operators is again in session on this Wednesday afternoon (our press time) and some action may be taken. Whether Mine Workers will accept the offer is not known. Legal phases may cause them to decline. However, at the time this reaches our readers, both daily press and radio will have advised you whether it has been settlement, or a strike, or still another attempt to negotiate.

This new proposition of the operators came at a time when a break with the possibility of a nation wide shut down of the coal industry, was considered as imminent. For a month 338,000 miners have been idle in the Appalachian area and Mr. Lewis had indicated he would force a showdown before Friday of this week when, unless the order was countermanded, mine workers in the outlying regions would also quit.

The proposal of the operators on Tuesday was the very first advanced in three weeks as a new avenue to peace, and it included a rewritten version of the operators' offer of April 14 to recognize the union as the exclusive bargaining representative under the Wagner Relations act. The check-off proposal made on Tuesday had not been advanced in the April 14th offer.

Under the check-off proposition of the operators, non-union miners would pay the same monthly dues as members of the UMWA as their contribution to the administration of the contract and participation in its benefits.

The non-union members would be exempt from initiation fees and special assessments. Average dues are \$1.00 monthly.

Government Labor Department officials, including Secretary Perkins, are in New York, and have attempted to use their influence in adjudication of the stalemate. There is a feeling that the northern operators would long ago have complied with union demands, but that the southern producers are "bucking." Operators of the north are just as anxious to keep the entire Appalachian conference intact, and to recognize the UMWA, with whom they have had cordial relations, as is the Mine Workers body itself in settling amicably. But there are still those operators in the south who would break unions if they could. And these operators would be instrumental in recognizing any outside union, to the extent that they would plan, in time, to cast all bonafide organized labor aside.

So, when you read this article, you may already know that peace has again been restored in mining circles, or you may see the stalemate continued. Likely, if continued, Mr. Lewis will sign up with those operators who are willing to abide with his demands, and the union will seek to tie-up all who don't.

Held for Court.

Unable to post \$500 bond, Abraham Pranda of Barnesboro was remanded to jail pending removal to the Allegheny county jail to await federal court on charges of violating federal revenue laws. Pranda was given a preliminary hearing before U. S. Commissioner Ray Patton Smith last week after agents reported seizing two stills and a quantity of liquor in a raid on Pranda's home last Thursday.