

THE UNION PRESS

Combined with PATTON COURIER
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The endeavor of the Union Press-Courier is to sincerely and honestly represent Trade Union Workers in efforts to obtain economic freedom through organizations as advocated by the CIO and AFL, and we solicit the support of trade unions. Material for publication must be authorized by the organization it represents and signed by the President and secretary, and bear the seal.

The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of the combined circulation of the two largest circulated weeklies in Cambria County and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and the major mining towns.

RANDOM THOUGHT

Around a long, gree-covered table in New York's Hotel Biltmore last Saturday a group of hard men from the soft coal country—operators and union officers—put their signatures to a new contract, that for two years will regulate the terms of employment in the northern and a many of the southern mines. For the bulk of the bituminous industry again was working on Monday, following a stoppage that followed the expiration of the old contract at the end of March.

The settlement, although not yet quite complete, will assure an adequate supply of coal. It will end the shortage that threatened the continued operation of railroads, factories and public utilities, a threat so dangerous that it brought President Roosevelt into the picture, when last week he warned the negotiators to resolve their differences speedily. He did not make any definite threat of action in the event that they failed. In the background, however, were recollections of President Theodore Roosevelt's role during the six months' coal strike of 1902, when, by threatening to send troops into Pennsylvania's anthracite region, he forced the operators to come to terms with the men.

The main point at issue last week was settled in favor of the United Mine Workers Union. The union gained a "union shop," meaning that all manual laborers in and around the mines covered by contract must become members of the U. M. W. of A. if they are not members already. Southern operators, including those of Kentucky's "bloody Harlan" county, with its history of anti-union intimidation, resigned Saturday from the Appalachian conference of employers rather than concede the union shop. Governor Chandler of Kentucky (Thank goodness he was not elected to the U. S. Senate) has sent national guardsmen in to help the operators. In other sections of the south, however, many of the operators are signing separate agreements with the miners.

The UMWA was especially insistent on gaining a union shop clause this year because of fear of the Progressive Miners Union, an A. F. of L. affiliate, which is strong in a small fraction of the Illinois coal fields, would attempt to extend its sway. The UMWA is the cornerstone of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. A successful drive against the union might have had an ill effect on the CIO. But such a drive, happily, has been forestalled by the terms of the contract and the CIO has gained a firm foundation to press for a union shop in the automobile, steel and other industries organized by CIO unions.

Aside from introduction of the shop clause, the new bituminous coal contract was identical with the old one: It continued the seven hour day and the five day week. It continued the basic wage of \$6 for "day" workers in the northern fields. The day workers—drivers, brakemen, drillers, trackmen, wiremen, timbermen, bottom cargers—are concerned with transportation, maintenance and other functions of mine operations. The men who actually "get" the coal at the "face" are paid by tonnage. Their rate varies from \$1 a ton for pick mining, where the coal is broken down and loaded entirely by hand, down to around ten cents, where cutting machines are used. The tonnage rate is higher in "low coal" in which the seam is not thick enough for a man to stand up straight, than in "high coal". It also varies from district to district. The entire tonnage rate structure, set forth in a complicated structure.

The coal "trouble" in our district is over for the next two years. That John L. Lewis and his miners won, is cause for gratification. To those who have been condemning Lewis, there should be criticism, and we have had those. If the miners had lost the battle, they would not have been working any sooner. But the troubles that could have been ahead for all of us in this section would have been manifold. We all have—or we all should have—reason to rejoice.

The word is out that when the state legislature adjourns the job jam will

crack. That will be good news to the Republicans, or at least some of them, who want jobs. But it is possible, too, that when the legislature adjourns the Republican state administration may decide it is better politics not to break the job jam until after the fall election. And that can happen—at least to a great degree.

And speaking of the state legislature, which does hope to adjourn this month, but quite likely won't get it accomplished till June, so far as we can see it will go home with so few important laws enacted that the story can be told in a few paragraphs. About all that really will be accomplished will be a continuance of the Earle "emergency" tax program. There have been scores of bills covering almost every possible legislative subject, but they are on the road to abandonment.

Which, too, reminds us, that the Van Aldsburg bill, ripping out civil service for 4000 employees of the state relief administration will be pickled in the Senate. The bill passed the house last week after a long fight featured by a Democratic filibuster. Which is good news to the general public. The ripper bill was without merit, and simply was a move to make political jobs for the "faithful."

Cambria county's new DPA board has finally been confirmed by the state senate, following Senator John J. Haluska's withdrawal of objections. Senator Haluska, in withdrawing his request that compensation be refused, said that he did not want to be responsible for a breakdown in relief in Cambria county, and stated that his reasons for holding up the appointments of Governor James were because the Cambria County Board did not contain representatives of labor and because the "newer nationalities" were not represented among the nominees. The Earle administration made the same mistake when the first DPA Board was named, Haluska said, but rectified it at the last special session by appointing three relief board members who represented the two groups.

And so, the new Cambria county DPA Board can now go to work. The seven members will be composed of Evan B. Lloyd of Johnstown; Mrs. Mary M. Hayes of Westmont; Dr. David M. Bentley, of Moxham; A. L. Hunt, of Cresson; Dr. John Allen Murray, of Patton; A. A. Dietrich, of Nanty-Glo, and Dr. Charles E. Overberger of Barnesboro.

With the Bill of Assemblyman Rose of Johnstown calling for one less judge in Cambria county, and with suggested amendments to make it ineffective until 1941, the old contention is still being put forth by the Johnstown Democrat, as to whether this county needs four justices or not. We'll bet all the sitting judges know we don't even though they may not publicly admit it. But that's something that you couldn't blame a judge for admitting.

Last Sunday was an ideal motoring day, and the through highways were crowded with cars. Monday's papers were crowded with accident tales. In spite of the practically fool proof method in constructing cars, and in spite of all the curbing legislation on speedy and reckless drivers in Pennsylvania, mortal man can not legislate any control over the brain of a lot of fellows at the wheels of these modern "fool-proof" cars.

As usual, the Patton Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, attracted a large crowd to their annual Mothers' Day Program last Sunday afternoon, and the services and program were fitting. Speakers included Judge Arthur A. Nelson, of Ebensburg, Rev. James A. Turner, the Pastor of the Methodist Church of Patton, and Rev. Father Stephen A. Loya, of Portage, supply pastor of the local Greek Catholic church. Particularly fitting, too, is it that the Eagles do hold these Mothers' Day observances, for the idea that brought the first Mothers' Day observance was conceived in the mind of a member of the Eagles and the Fraternity added greatly in creation of its national observance.

Anything of a curious nature will bring publicity. It may be the first chap who conceived the idea of gulping goldfish, or it may be something more serious, if not so offensive. This week Patton is getting publicity on a matter that may later prove to be a serious problem—a burning coal mine that is endangering the surface of the land, has erupted through a public road, and may later erupt or cave in at points where damage may result to property—chiefly that of the Patton Clay Manufacturing Co. All the more interesting is the problem of how to cope with the situation—and so far no method has been suggested that is deemed practical.

While Patton has no major mining developments at present, although coal deposits here are by no means worked out and a comeback will be staged some day—it is fact that many of our working population depend entirely on the mining industry. This week this feature is again evidenced, when men leave at various periods throughout the day to work on various mining shifts in other communities. Colver, tops the list. Revloc, Bakerton, Barnesboro, St. Benedict, and Marsteller—all have Patton miners in their workings. Patton still is essentially a mining town—and perhaps it will continue to be such when some of the others, like the evidences of the

gold rush in the west—have taken on the "ghost" aspect.

Time was, in some of these strictly mining communities when a man had a hard time finding a job unless he and his family lived in a company house. However, in late years, the coal companies haven't been building sufficient houses to take care of the employees, and the day of the good road and the automobile, brings a man's employment near him even though he lives miles away. Hence, houses are in demand always in Patton, Carrolltown and other places that have no mines strictly of their own. The housing problem to accommodate the coal mines stretch out far and wide from the actual scene of operations in this day and age.

UNION BATTLES

Here are some slants on the CIO battlefronts, as written by Len DeCaux, editor of the CIO News:

The miners have again proved themselves the backbone of the American labor movement. Their successful resistance to the coal lock-out should prove a turning point for the whole labor and progressive cause.

Compelled to battle on many fronts at the same time—against an open shop drive in industry, against a campaign to destroy the Wagner act, and against hostile court decisions, as in the Apex case—labor has recently had all the disadvantages of being on the defensive.

But in stopping the open shop offensive, the United Mine Workers of America have furnished protection to every genuine union in the country. With its base thus safeguarded, labor can advance once more to new gains.

The Wagner act hearings already indicate that the big business foes of the act and the AFL craft leaders allied with them are finding it their turn to be on the defensive. And last week saw an attempt by some of the AFL leaders to run to cover, after a letter from Gilbert H. Montague to Colby N. Chester, head of General Foods, and general chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers, became public.

Montague, a corporation lawyer who has been associated with both the N. A. M. and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, reveals in this letter that even before the Houston AFL convention he was confidentially supplying AFL counsel Joseph Padway with material on the labor act; and that during the convention he responded to his "hurry calls for additional legal memos and data."

Montague then states that Padway had asked him "confidentially to prepare for him draft amendments of the act," covering some points on which he had received instructions from the AFL executive council.

This exposure and the knowledge that even more damaging evidence was in CIO hands threw panic into the AFL headquarters camp.

On the eve of an executive council meeting at which they feared the revolt of the AFL membership against the amendments might find expression Padway and John P. Frey sought and held conferences with the labor board in the hope of working out a backstairs deal to save their faces.

The CIO was not consulted on this maneuver and immediately denounced any such attempt to "barter away labor's interests" in private conferences. "If the AFL representatives want to back water," said CIO counsel Lee Pressman, "let them do so before the Senate Committee, where the public can be fully advised of the whole situation and where matters can be adjusted through the Democratic machinery which Congress provides."

In connection with the Apex case, labor's enemies are also showing alarm at the campaign launched by the CIO for amendment of the Sherman anti-trust act, so that it may be used, as it was intended, against business monopolies and not against labor.

The verdict of more than \$700,000 damages against the Philadelphia Hosiery Workers in the Apex case, is shocking the whole movement into a realization that such mis-applications of the Sherman anti-trust act are a threat to every union in the country.

So the CIO has had to set up a committee and to launch a nation wide campaign, both to support the hosiery workers in appealing this vicious verdict and to seek amendment of the Sherman act so that it may not again be used for union breaking purposes.

The big business press has gone to great lengths to confuse the issue thus raised. In so doing it shows its fear that labor with its base now protected in industry, will not be content merely with preserving present conditions, but is strong enough to go forward organizing new industries and in demanding a real legislative square deal.

CRIES OF BABY SAVE FOUR FROM FLAMES

The cries of six months' old Jacqueline Fargo, last Friday were credited with saving the lives of four members of the family of Rev. and Mrs. R. A. Fargo, as fire destroyed the six room house occupied by the minister's family at Vintondale.

Rev. Fargo was awakened shortly after 12:30 o'clock by cries of his granddaughter, Jacqueline Fargo. He found the house filled with smoke, and the minister, his wife and their daughter, Barbara, escaped from the building in their night clothing. The infant was also carried from the burning structure.

Within a short time after the Fargo family had escaped the house was a mass of flames and was beyond saving when the Vintondale Volunteer Fire Company arrived.

Some butterflies give off scents distasteful to birds—their chief enemies.

Pre-Summer USED CAR Sale! SAVE \$\$\$ ON A GOOD USED CAR at MAIN ST. GARAGE. TAKE A REAL VACATION THIS YEAR. TRAVEL BY AUTO. BUT DON'T WAIT UNTIL SUMMER IS HERE. PRICES ARE HIGHER THEN! BUY YOUR GUARANTEED USED CAR NOW AT THE MAIN STREET GARAGE, CARROLLTOWN. YOU WILL SAVE—AND GET A BETTER CAR, TOO! BIG ALLOWANCE! Bring your Used Car to Us! We are offering BIG TRADE-IN ALLOWANCES ON All Used Cars for A LIMITED TIME ONLY! BUY NOW and enjoy A NEW CAR for Summer Driving! LOOK AT THESE VALUES! 1937 CHEVROLET TOURING SEDAN—Here is a real bargain for you! Equipped with a radio and heater, in fine condition, and must be seen to be appreciated \$475. 1935 Ford Coupe \$245. 1931 Chevrolet 6-wheel Sport Coupe \$95. 1928 Chevrolet Coach \$35. 1935 Ford Coupe \$245. 1936 FORD DE LUXE TOWN SEDAN—An outstanding value for the price we ask. Come and see it \$325. SOME REAL TRUCK VALUES! 1936 Chevrolet 1 1/2 ton 157 in. WB, U. Lic. \$350. 1934 Chevrolet 1 1/2 ton, 131 in. WB, T Lic. Express with canopy top \$245. 1933 Chevrolet 1 1/2 ton 131 in. WB, T. Lic. \$180. 1936 Dodge 1 1/2 ton U. License, 160 in. W. B. 1927 Dodge 1 ton Truck at \$25. MAIN ST. GARAGE CARROLLTOWN PENNA. BUY a Good Used Car NOW!

HASTINGS MAN GIVEN A STIFF SENTENCE AT REQUEST OF PROSECUTOR

Complying with the recommendation of District Attorney Stephens Mayer that maximum sentences be imposed on Graynor Withers, because of his criminal record, Judge McCann on Monday afternoon sentenced the 37 year old Hastings man to serve from 5 to 10 years in the Western penitentiary on a burglary charge and one and one-half to three years in the same institution on an aggravated assault and battery charge, and that the sentences run consecutively.

Withers pleaded guilty to having entered the store of George Huether in Hastings early in the morning of April 2. He was surprised by the owner after taking \$3.50 from the cash register. Confronted by Huether, Withers hit the former on the head with a flashlight, stunning him. Huether's assailant then told him that if he divulged anything that transpired he would kill him. Huether ignored the warning and notified the state police.

Withers first became entangled with the law in this county in 1930 when he was sentenced to serve four years in the county jail on charges of breaking, entering and larceny. He served 11 months. Again in December, 1932, he was sentenced to serve one to two years in the county jail on similar charges and was released at the end of 8 months. In December, 1935, Withers was sentenced in Richmond, Va., to serve five years in the Virginia state penitentiary on charges of possessing burglar's tools and attempting to commit a felony. He was released from the Virginia institution last December and returned to Hastings.

Efficiency in potato peeling is the advantage of a new variety of potato which has shallow eyes and uniformly smooth surface.

\$38,000 TO BE SPENT ON REPAIR OF 37 MILES OF ROAD IN CAMBRIA

More than \$38,000 will be expended by the State Highway Department in repairing and reconditioning roads in Cambria county during the summer, Thomas L. Altemus, county superintendent of road maintenance, announced last week. Included in the program will be 37.88 miles of highway on 23 routes. To be used in the work will be 5,473 tons of stone for base, and 108,620 gallons of asphalt and tar for surfacing.

Among the roads to be constructed will be route 11072 between Coupon and Ashville where 33,628 pounds of calcium chloride will be used. This road was built as an experimental highway two years ago and the use of calcium chloride as a road substance was introduced in the county. It is said by highway engineers that the new method has been successful and the present work will be done on the surface of the present stretch which has already been treated with calcium chloride. To be resurfaced with this treatment will be 2.34 miles of road. The estimated cost is 6.75. Route 11086, Patton to Carrolltown road, 2.17 miles in length, is also listed for resurfacing. An estimated 6,109 gallons of asphalt or tar and 356 tons of stone will be required on this stretch. The estimated cost is \$2,225.

TOM EVANS IS NAMED A LAW ASSISTANT

Appointed last week by Attorney General Claude T. Reno to be a legal assistant in the state highway department, Attorney Thomas C. Evans of Ebensburg began his duties at Harrisburg on Monday. He will receive an annual salary of \$3,000. Attorney Evans is a former member of the legislature, being elected from

the second Cambria district in 1936, and again in 1930. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1912 and was admitted to the Cambria County bar in 1914. He has practiced before the State Superior and Supreme Courts and the U. S. District Court. During the campaign last fall he served as chairman of the Cambria County Republican speakers' committee. Mr. and Mrs. Evans will reside in Harrisburg.

JOE'S CUT-RATE STORE SPECIAL SALE! Men's Heavy WORK SHIRTS 49c. Men's Heavy WORK PANTS 98c. Men's Heavy WORK SHOES \$1-48. Men's DRESS SOX 5c. GRIFFIN'S WHITE SHOE POLISH 9c. Men's Double Overalls 98c. Men's Straw Hats 69c. Joe's Cut-Rate Store Barnesboro, Pa.