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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

Conditions have pretty well approached normal in the District soft coal fields, with the completion of the first week and a half of operations since reopening the mines. Railroads have recalled thousands of shopmen and other workers furloughed during the six weeks' shutdown and the signing of the "captive mine" owners, in this district principally Bethlehem Steel Company, leaves just about all of the mines operating, and rather lively at that—to meet demands of a nation that was beginning to be fuel conscious.

Although down in Johnstown, according to the newspapers, the same old story of "back to work" movements, were being started, reminding one of the days of the steel strike, the hopes of "Danny", the old Citizens' group and all the rest were nipped in the bud, when Bethlehem signed the same agreement with the miners that other companies similarly situated have signed. This is a renewal of the old agreement with deletion of the strike penalty clause. For which Johnstown, of course, can be thankful. In fact, Johnstown only found out to what great extent it was dependent upon the coal miners, when the miners ceased to work. And any movement again, such as that of the "back to work" steel strike days, would have made lots of innocent merchants suffer. Johnstown newspapers fail to sense that Johnstown, too, is dependent upon its drawing population. For instance, one has had but to read the editorials aimed in condemnation against John L. Lewis and the CIO generally, during the recent shut-down, to know their own "sincere" attitude.

But John Lewis has won a great victory, and in winning that great victory he has likewise insured the security of his constituents, the United Mine Workers of America, for the next two years at least. "Tink not for one minute, dear reader, there are not those amongst us in the Johnstown area, who welcomed in their hearts the Progressive Miners of America simply and solely because they might be instrumental in giving embarrassment to the U. M. W. of A. It might have been interesting to note just what would have happened in Johnstown had Bethlehem refused to sign on the dotted line.

The fate of Josephine and Black Lick, once Indiana county bustling mining communities, now seems likely to engulf the nearby town of Coral, which bids fair, too, to become a "ghost town" because mining has ceased. No work has been the rule in Coral since last July, and it is now said the coal plant will be dismantled. The residents of the town, since that time, have relied nearly solely on WPA. But strictly coal mining towns sooner or later land in that predicament. The town that also creates for itself other industries is the community that, in the long run, endures.

Notice on the first page of the Patton Chamber of Commerce calls to your attention the opportunity local property owners, through arrangements made by borough council, have to secure WPA labor in the improvement of their properties, by the construction of highways and streets, at the cost of materials alone. This is indeed, an opportunity, and folks who are at all financially able, should not pass up the offer. It may not be open for long. Read the story.

A letter from the Rev. Father Modestus Wirtner, O. S. B., informs us that the "Marker" at Hart's Sleeping Place will be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30th, at 1:30 P. M. The speaker for the occasion will be Col. Lewis F. Acker, of Cheswick, Pa., the President of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and the Rev. Father Modestus. The Marker was erected by the Cambria County Historical Society, and is situated along the Bakers' Cross Roads and Hastings Highway, a scant mile from the Cross Roads. Its dedication is a significant overture to a pioneer who was perhaps the first white man to pay periodic visits through the area that is now northern Cambria County. The title "Hart's Sleeping Place" comes from the legend

that this Indiana Trader had a sleeping place in the large limbs of a gigantic tree that is said to have stood on approximately the same spot as the marker.

And this reminds us, too, that while we are constantly bickering and bickering about our present day troubles, and petty peevishnesses, the Cambria County Historical Society, of which Attorney Peter J. Little, of Ebensburg, is president, of which the Rev. Father Modestus has energetically contributed aid, has been quietly going ahead in preserving for posterity those things most important in our own local history. And the historically inclined will do well to give assistance to the society, who do their work for no more remuneration than the satisfaction they get in doing it.

We'll admit the Democrats appear to be having continued troubles within their ranks in Cambria county, but patronage troubles are even a bigger menace to the County Republicans to create bitter September primary contests in Cambria, which may easily operate against any party success in the November election. Prior to the rise of the Democrats during the Roosevelt era, the Republicans had little cause for worry among members of their party disgruntled over a primary. There was no place for the disgruntled ones to go in those days, but the story is different now. In this rather evenly politically county of ours any bolting of a considerable number of Republicans, would fill the court house with Democrats.

Little state patronage has been distributed thus far by the James state administration, but knowledge of the general policy in handing out the jobs is causing distemper threatening to produce some bitter primary struggles. In fact there are Republicans, displeased over the situation, who are talking of fighting in the primary, any candidate backed by the leaders in the patronage distribution. The administration and its political leaders in the state hold that a big majority of the state jobs should go to men and women—and we quote the Pittsburgh Press in this—who supported Arthur H. James for Governor in the state primary contest with former Governor Gifford Pinchot. They claim the Pinchot supporters will eventually be given a share of the plums, but that the original James Republicans constitute a preferred list, which must be given first consideration. This is not going to down so well with the original Pinchot "boys" here or elsewhere.

And since we are talking politics, and since there is going to be a primary and general election in a few short months, and since the candidates are both in fact and rumor beginning to be seen and heard about, we can't pass up the persistent rumor we've heard relative to George C. Hoppel, of Patton, being a Democratic candidate for the nomination for County Commissioner. Mr. Hoppel is a personal friend of the writer, and he has been a friend, tested and true through years when we hadn't the easiest life in the world, and, as it was our pleasure four years ago, we will again assure Mr. Hoppel of our support, should he decide to be a candidate. When one foils around with politics and politicians over twenty years of time, one learns a lot, mostly to his regret. But when one also over the same twenty years, also has business and social contacts with a man who owes you nothing, and you find him different than the general run of politicians, you can give that man support without quivering. That's the way we feel about George C. Hoppel, and that's why we'll support him in his candidacy.

Four years ago, George C. Hoppel made a spirited campaign to gain a nomination for the commissionership, and in defeat, he supported the ticket as nominated without reservations. In that campaign, and since he has gained a large acquaintanceship. He is a contractor, and is peculiarly fitted for the duties of a county commissioner. He fair, just and honest, and is a loyal party man. Yes, if George C. Hoppel decides to formally announce himself for county commissioner, we'll support him—and we have the best of reasons for doing it—twenty years of personal knowledge of the man and his qualifications.

Really writing this column just once a week sometimes is a problem. We can well imagine what a problem it is to write a big eight column page every day, such as is the eternal task of the editorial director of the Johnstown Democrat. Hence, it is with quite a bit of understanding that we, too, grant him the necessity of writing a great deal about not much of anything, as is evidenced quite a bit on Mr. Andrews' page at times. But to say that we were surprised, amazed and astounded to see the big "send-off" given "Editor Owens" over a few sweet lines we published last week about the Van Allsburg bill headed for a pickling in the state senate, and the allegation on our part that bill was political anyway—is putting it lightly. Naturally we wonder what Editor Andrews is driving at under cover—what's the big idea, and why all the drivel? The fact that Mr. Andrews was the ONLY Democrat in the Assembly that voted for the bill, don't by any means give him authority to insinuate that he is giving strictly Democratic viewpoints in defending it, through his Republican owned newspaper. We still maintain the bill was political in the form it was passed in the House. Since the job-firing feature has been eliminated in the senate, perhaps it isn't so much a partisan bill anymore.

"Not having been in the party very long," says Editor Andrews, "Editor Owens cannot be expected to recognize Democratic principles when he sees them." Which means, of course, that because Assemblyman Andrews alone among all the Democrats in the House voted for the Van Allsburg bill, it is strictly a Democratic principle. He may be correct in his allegation that the relief executive personnel has but few deserving Democrats. Granting he is, that in itself is sufficient evidence that the set-up can't be very political at the present. Editor Andrews insists that we frequently guide labor down spur tracks. Can he point out an instance where the CIO, for instance, has been favorable to the Van Allsburg bill? If he can, we're willing to stand corrected. Usually, Mr. Andrews will have to admit, we're in the alley that is labor's alley, whether that means organization of Johnstown steel plants or not. Has the record of the Johnstown Democrat been as good?

Aside from whether our thought on the VanAllsburg bill's bad aspects is or is not correct, Editor Andrews in his whole story appears to be inclined to attack us from an adjective-denouncing, and more-or-less personal standpoint. Yet if some of the Democrats in this county had practiced in the past, just some of the "principles" of the writer, as files of the old Patton Courier will prove, and as a lot of Democrats who have fed at the "public trough" well know, there would today be less back-biting and factional jealousies within the party. Reared a Democrat, and working and voting as a Democrat, the writer came out of a Democratic newspaper office in this county, where he learned his trade, and was a part of the World War army. Out of the uniform, he came into possession of a Republican newspaper, and in those days it didn't pay to have a Democratic newspaper in that particular town. Yet, despite that fact, and in the early years of his editorial guidance the Patton Courier did energetically espouse the candidacy of Warren Worth Bailey for Congress—and we have our newspaper files to prove it. Over the intervening years, time and time again, the Patton Courier did do its humble bit in assisting deserving Democrats and some of them were elected. True, we likewise also supported Republicans who appeared best to us. But it is also fact that in most cases where Democrats were elected, the Patton Courier was found to either have supported them, or to have at least took no part in the campaign. There were instances, too, one in particular, where we did take an active and bitter part in defeating a Democratic nominee, for which we had good and sufficient reason. True, for a number of years our registration may have been Republican, but ours was just as independent a newspaper as they make em. Regardless of what the registration of the editor may have been, the files of the Patton Courier too, will prove that in the latter portion of the term of one Herbert Hoover, of sad memory, we were completely disgusted, and that from that time on, we were in sympathy with the New Deal. What other course was there for us to follow? Our own business caused us to seek a change. So did the conditions and the interests of hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of others in this nation. The result was the Democratic party came into power under the Roosevelt banner, and we were among some of those "new" Democrats who today aren't "deserving" but without whom the Democratic party would still be in the same oblivion that was its lot for years.

The Patton Courier in those days made no pretense at being any mouthpiece for organized labor, but it happened to be the ONLY weekly newspaper in this county, of ours that openly voiced and condemned the then Sheriff Carl Steur, for the enforcement of his two-man "mob-dispersing" practice. The only other newspaper in this county doing more in this manner was the Johnstown Democrat—and it had an entirely different ownership then—an ownership by Democrats, both in principle and practice.

Since it is not our desire to bore our readers with any matter that pertains to us personally, nevertheless, we are today being put on the "spot" in this county, not only by Editor Andrews, but by others, on "being only a new Democrat." Since Editor Andrews gave us so much of his valuable space, we surely can do likewise, in defense—and still do it without using a lot of blatant, old-fashioned derogatory adjectives that we wouldn't hurl at our sometimes "insurgent" house dog, let alone Editor Andrews. And, whether Editor Andrews likes it or not, the incident with us, is closed.

GRAVE DIGGERS.
(From the UMW Journal.)
In previous issues we have told through the Journal about the Fraternal hook-up between the American Federation of Labor and Wall Street. It is an astounding relationship. It is disheartening to the rank and file of organized labor in America when they see the high command of the Federation hobnobbing with Wall Street and working in hand with Wall Street's notoriously anti-union employers to destroy the gains that organized labor has made in the last few years. The rank and file membership of the American Federation of Labor does not like it, but the high command has such a stranglehold on the federation that it is difficult for the rank and file to do anything about it at present. Deep resentment over this alliance between the Federation and Wall Street rankles in the breast of many a member, but the high command completely ignores all protests and continues to

play ball with Wall Street's enemies of labor.

Everyone knows that the big Wall street interests operate against labor through the National Manufacturer's Association and the United States Chamber of Commerce, two notoriously anti-union organizations. Because of Wall Street's financial control, those two organizations must do whatever Wall Street tells them to do. Therefore they fight organized labor with all the viciousness at their command. And yet, fully aware of these facts, the high command of the American Federation of Labor joins in with them in carrying out Wall Street's desires and policies with reference to industrial and labor relations.

Wall Street hates the Wagner Labor Relations Law because that law is intended to break the bonds that have fettered labor and to establish the rights of labor by legal process. The Wagner Labor Relations law is to labor what the Declaration of Independence is to the American nation. What

the constitution of the United States does for the nation the Wagner law does for labor. The Wagner law prohibits the exploitation of labor. Therefore, Wall Street hates the Wagner law, and it makes this hate known through the National Manufacturer's Association and the United States Chamber of Commerce. When the high command of the American Federation of Labor joins hands with these two organizations in their attempt to hamstring labor, the whole performance becomes a stench in the nostrils of the rank and file of the labor movement.

Right now the high command of the American Federation of Labor, the National Manufacturer's Association, and the United States Chamber of Commerce are engaged in a campaign to destroy the effectiveness of the Wagner National Labor Relations law. They are trying to dig a grave for labor. They are jointly asking Congress to amend the Wagner law and to take the very life out of it. The federation

introduced a bill in congress to amend the Wagner law and President Lewis has correctly charged that in the preparation of these amendments the high command of the American Federation of Labor consulted and conferred with representatives of the Wall Street organizations. The amendments proposed by the American Federation of Labor are entirely satisfactory to Wall Street. But they are not satisfactory to the rank and file of labor. Several unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have denounced the amendments and are working against their adoption.

Last week the United States Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting in Washington. Leading members, big anti-union employers, made bitter speeches denouncing the Wagner Labor Relations law. They declared against the union closed shop, which always means the non-union shop. They loudly demanded that employers have the right to dictate to their employees what union they should join or whe-

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