

THE UNION PRESS

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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 Paton and the major mining towns.

RICHARD GILBERT

District No. 2 of the United Mine Workers of America—it's officers and every last member of the rank and file as well—today mourns a loss—one that reflects more than the death of a good man—but also one that reflects the death of the one man that has worked longer, been honored longer, and has through all of nearly forty years, carried on—in good times and bad, throughout harmony and strife—the cause of the organized mine worker in our district—Richard Gilbert, Secretary-Treasurer of the District.

Thousands of the miners knew Dick Gilbert personally, and practically all the thousands liked and loved him. Practically every last mine worker in District No. 2 knew of him—and what they knew was always favorable. No other union leader in the annals of the Mine Workers in District No. 2 has

had such a long and glorious record as has had Dick Gilbert. No other has continued to hold a record up until his death in the harness of officialdom as has Dick Gilbert, and no other has throughout these years since the turn of the century been immediately identified with the problems, the battles, the losses and the gains of the United Mine Workers of America in District No. 2—as has Dick Gilbert.

Back in 1900 Richard Gilbert was a resident of South Fork, and was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the District. He then moved to Clearfield. In the many years that followed, Mr. Gilbert stood for election and was always re-elected to the position. During all that period, policies, men and matters in the Mine Workers movement were at wide variance, at times, but always the rank and file of the organization trusted Richard Gilbert—and always they displayed their trust by returning him back to the office continuously, up until 1926, when autonomy ceased. And since that time Mr. Gilbert has been through the appointive power of the international officers, retained in the most vital position.

Practically every laborer who grew to know Dick Gilbert at all, grew to love him. They found him friendly, when approached, found him appreciative of any grievance presented, even though he may not have been able to help—found him helpful when he could be, whether such help came under the line of his official duties or not. Dick Gilbert's greater portion of life, was the thought entirely of the organization he represented. He saw the bitter years—he constantly "hung on" along with President Mark, and the other mine leaders, through the long, dark days when organized labor was desperately threatened—in those dark days before the New Deal again came to the help of the common man and woman. Dick Gilbert didn't look for his salary check in those days—he looked and sought for always—some movement, some ray of hope—and worked for the rejuvenation of the once powerful body of organized mine workers, that were crushed by capital and a reactionary government. And he lived to see the "come-back" and he has enjoyed the fruits of the measures that made the mine workers of Dis-

trict No. 2 more powerful than ever before, and he has "carried on" with the same vigor in these "better days" that continuously kept him in the confidence of his constituents when the days were not so good.

Dick Gilbert, too, saw days and months and years, since the turn of the century when his job was anything but a pleasant one. He saw turmoil in various segments of the rank and file—he perhaps, too, worked with other leaders who were not so interested in the movement as was he. He has had active part in many a battle between operator and miner. He has executed a job that had grown to be a part of him for forty years, and through all those forty years, he has had the confidence needed to carry on given him by the greater majority of his fellow members. Dick Gilbert, will be revered by the rank and file.

Richard Gilbert was a quiet, peace loving man. He was a home-loving man as well. His gardens, his flowers, his home itself, at Clearfield, well attest his irreproachable character. That fine character in Richard Gilbert, of course, had much to do with his popularity among the miners through the greater part of the half century past. That fine character, too, has been instrumental in the winning of many a battle—it was firm when occasion demanded; but above all, it was sincere in thought and in purpose. There was no duplicity in the bearing or mind of Dick Gilbert. And he was keen to discern the honesty or callousness of others he met in labor circles, or otherwise. He didn't give his trust to all who asked for it, but usually when he did give his good will to any man, it was not mis-placed.

District No. 2 of the United Mine Workers of America has lost its "Grand Old Man." As the years roll on, his name will be come legendary to perhaps yet unborn members of the United Mine Workers of America, just as will his memory be revered to the members living today. His was a job well done in the interests of organized labor, and even unto death he took with him the thought most prevalent in his mind—the betterment of those who toil. May his soul rest in peace.

RANDOM THOUGHT

Moses L. Annenberg, multi-millionaire publisher of the Philadelphia Inquirer, and the man who was No. 1 backer of Governor James in the campaign of last year, was indicted last week by a federal grand jury in Chicago on charges of evading more than \$5,500,000 in taxes and penalties on income from his newspaper and race information enterprises during 1932-38 inclusive. The indictment, which climaxed nine weeks of grand jury hearings and two years of investigation by Internal Revenue agents, was described by U. S. District Attorney William J. Campbell as the biggest of its kind ever returned by a grand jury. Campbell said the indictment was "only one of a series" that would result from the inquiry into Annenberg's enterprises. Another grand jury seeking to determine whether Annenberg's race information services engaged in any monopolistic practices in violation of the Sherman act, continued by-products of the income tax case. All the "big shot" racketeers and gangsters usually get caught up on income tax evasion. It sent Al Capone to Alcatraz when all his other alleged crimes went by default.

One sentence in President Roosevelt's message to Young Democrats in convention in Pittsburgh last week will be quoted many times between now and the party's nominating convention next summer: It is particularly of interest to labor: "If we nominate conservative candidates or lip-service candidates, on a straddlebug platform, I personally, for my own self-respect and because of my long service to, and belief in, liberal democracy, will find it impossible to have any active part in such an unfortunate suicide of the old Democratic party."

County, state and local police are to be congratulated on apprehending and taking into custody a Nanty-Glo man, allegedly, last week, charged with a heinous criminal attack upon a young St. Benedict boy. Investigation has shown this same man has been in the toils of the law before on practically the same counts. Punishment meted out to him was not severe. Freedom soon was regained, and the result is he was immediately back to his old practices. The local case is simply an illustration. All over the country, the problem of curtailing the heinous activities of these morons remains unsolved. Certainly, their history shows, they are a menace to the public when permitted to run free.

The phoney relief recipient is beginning to shake and shiver a bit, as all over Western Pennsylvania there is a "crack-down" on him and his kind. Names of 13,000 western Pennsylvanians who have received illegal relief payments amounting to \$700,000 are in the hands of Public Assistance Department officials. The government is staging a determined effort to root out the chiselers, and in many instances prosecutions will follow. Every community has its chiselers. Sooner or later local sentiment catches up with them.

The broadened social security program, which became law under President Roosevelt's signature Friday, is one of utmost importance to all Americans. It is one with which every citizen should become familiar. For while its immediate benefits are only for

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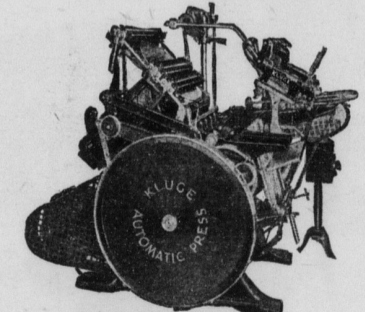
those who are needy now—the indigent, the aged, the blind, the dependent children—their long-range benefits are for the much larger segment of the population comprising the families who today are self-supporting, but who some day may join the ranks of the needy. The most important part of the new program is that which undertakes not only to make workers in private industry secure in their old age, but also to extend this insurance protection to their families. And it is so designed that these monthly benefits will be paid in the future not as a matter of right—insurance bought by premiums currently paid through payroll taxes of employers and employees.

Every one of the 45,000,000 workers who already have accounts under the old age insurance system and of the 1,100,000 additional workers for whom accounts will soon be established, should be eager to find out what the broadened program means in dollars and cents protection to himself and to his family. And in this connection the Social Security Board faces a major task in making that information accessible to all.

Coal mine fires in Pennsylvania are not confined alone to Patton. In the news stories we read that in the road between Hamilton and Punxsutawney was closed last week when a fire in the abandoned West Eureka Mine No. 1 of the Berwind White Coal Mining Company caused a road to sink. Intense heat from the underground fire also caused the black-top covering of the road to melt in a number of places. Highway Department officials said the road would not be repaired immediately because they were unable to determine the extent of the underground blaze.

And while we're on the subject of mine fires, we cannot help but comment on a feature story relative to the Patton mine blaze that appeared in the Chicago Daily News recently. Pim Moren, former Pattonite, sent us a clipping of it from Lewistown. Some weeks ago a reporter of that sheet came to Patton and interviewed all and sundry regarding the conflagration. But when one read the story as published, it would have been mighty hard to connect matters with Patton. It's a damn shame the way some of the "big-shot" reporters garble up a news item to make it interesting to disinterested readers. In this case, the Daily News' man took out his puns on the local fire company, painted the officials and the citizens generally of Patton as a bunch of Hicks, and made all manner of fun of any attempts that were made to control the blaze. In fact we have not had sufficient nerve to republish the story, which might make interesting reading to the sophisticated readers in the Windy City, but which would cause naught but a lot of cussing lo-

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