

A GENERAL NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.

AN ATTAINMENT OF THE LARGEST GENERAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

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STEELMAN IS HOPEFUL NEW COAL AGREEMENT WILL BE MADE SOON

Federal Negotiator Says Temporary Arrangement May Be Decided Any Minute

Work stoppage in the Nation's bituminous coal mines became fully effective Tuesday night after labor and management failed to reach a contract agreement, but a federal conciliator said he believed continued negotiations during the next 48 hours would bring a temporary arrangement for the resumption of work.

At the time of going to press the United Mine Workers of America and the Nation's major soft coal producers agreed shortly before to continue negotiations and Dr. John R. Steelman, director of the United States Conciliation Service, announced at once that "I therefore assure the public that there is no cause for alarm."

The conciliator said he would telephone President Roosevelt to inform him of the situation. He added that he was doing this at the direction of the conference in reply to the chief executive's urgent insistence Tuesday night that the negotiators not permit the dispute to endanger this country's national defense effort.

Steelman pointed out that the mine workers automatically do not work without a contract and that the contract expired Monday midnight. Therefore, he said, the stoppage continues.

Steelman then read to newsmen a prepared statement in which he said: "I have every confidence in the intention of the conferees to reach an equitable agreement on all issues before them and believe it can be done within that time (48 hours)."

In event a mutual agreement is not effected by that time he believes a temporary arrangement for resumption of operations would be made.

The stoppage affects all mines in the bituminous coal fields and a total output of 3,150,000 tons in the country, according to American Bituminous Coal Association.

ACTIONS FILED IN BAR NESBORO BANK CLOSING

Civil actions to recover \$30,300 from 32 stockholders of the closed Citizens Bank of Barnesboro have been filed in the Cambria County Common Pleas Court on behalf of L. H. Humbert, the deputy receiver.

Although no answers have as yet been filed, it is anticipated that the stockholders will oppose action on the grounds that the certificates which they hold carry the words "fully paid, non-assessable." The cases probably will be scheduled for trial at the June term of court, with one of the 32 actions being selected as a test case.

Twenty-six residents of Barnesboro are among the defendants, as well as 12 from neighboring towns.

COUNTY ADOPTS NEW BUDGET FOR THE YEAR AT OLD MILLAGE RATE

Three Thousand Dollars Borrowed In Order to Meet Long Overdue County Payroll

Meeting for the first time since they were injured in an auto accident on January 13, County Commissioners F. P. Holleran and John Thomas Jr. on Tuesday afternoon adopted the 1941 county budget, continued the millage rate at six mills and accepted a loan of \$300,000 worth of county six-month tax-anticipation notes.

Besides the two commissioners, the County Controller, Dennis L. Westrick, County Solicitor George M. Spence and Chief Clerk Frank Dorr also attended the meeting which was held at Mr. Thomas' home in Viewmont.

Three bids were received by the county for the loan, the lowest which was accepted, being submitted by C. C. Collins & Co., Philadelphia bond house. The firm will buy the notes which will be dated April 4, and mature December 4, at an annual rate of interest of 4 1/2 percent, the same rate at which a similar issue was issued for \$250,000 by the county last year.

HOUSE APPROVES SOFT COAL PRICE EXTENSION BILL

And Federal Inspection of Coal Mines Seems to Be Coming Along Pretty Well.

Washington—A House-approved 2-year extension of federal regulation of minimum prices for soft coal headed for the senate last Friday and backers of the measure predicted it would move speedily through the upper body.

As the House voted an extension of the measure late Thursday, the Senate approved a bill providing for annual federal inspection of all coal mines. An amendment eliminating educational requirements for inspectors will send the bill back to the House for action.

Refusing to consider any amendments to the extension of federal coal price regulation bill and almost without exception or opposition, House members endorsed entirely the measure drawn up by Representative Patrick J. Boland, Pennsylvania Democrat, and approved by the Ways and Means Committee.

As sent to the Senate the only change made in the existing law related to the consumer's office of the coal division. The bill called for establishment of the consumer's office—now a part of the Interior Department—as an independent agency.

DRIVE FOR BRICKYARD ORGANIZATION IS ON; HEADED BY CIO UNION

Johnstown Firms Among Those Organized by United Construction Workers

An organization was formed recently by the employees of Hiram Swank of Johnstown by the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee. The drive was under the supervision of Representatives Ladd, Breet of Kittanning and Peter Ferrara of Indiana. The employees of the plant formed Local No. 252. Negotiations will begin on Friday of this week.

The Haves Refractories Company's No. 6 and No. 7 Brickyards of Johnstown have also been organized 100 percent. Here Local Union No. 213 has been established and negotiations will begin on April 7. The Haves brickyard at Lewisport also was recently organized by the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee.

In Clearfield County the Harrison Walker brickyard at Barrett has been organized and Local No. 264 established. Harrison Walker brickyard No. 1 at Clearfield has already been organized and the No. 2 and the Wallace brickyards are expected to be organized this week.

The organization campaign is also underway at Blandburg in Cambria County and at Templeton in Armstrong County.

The move is on to organize all of the brickyards in Central and Western Pennsylvania and will continue until complete success has been obtained.

CAMBRIA FIREMEN TO LAUNCH THREE TRAINING GROUPS

Advanced Schools to Be Held in Three Centers; Over One Hundred in Attendance

The Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County and vicinity will launch three advanced firemen's training schools in Cambria County within the next week. This announcement was made last week at a meeting of the county organization in the South Fork Fire Hall, Minnetonka. Sixty volunteers are expected to enroll in the classes, which will be organized in Spangler, Ebensburg and Conemaugh. Firemen to attend the courses will be selected from those recently completing the primary courses given in the county.

Members of the Gallitzin Volunteer Fire Company were present and reported that plans were progressing satisfactorily for the annual county convention, which will be held July 30 and 31 in Gallitzin. Speakers at the South Fork meeting were Fire Chief John Moran of Johnstown, Sheriff Walter W. Davis and Roy Gillan of the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Short talks also were made by Fire School Instructors Cartwright and Little.

After the business meeting a dinner was served in the South Fork Fire Company Auxiliary. Hester George presided as toastmaster.

County Controller Dennis L. Westrick discussed legislative matters affecting firemen and fire companies. He reported that the foreign fire insurance payments, which were withheld last year, are expected to be made by the state in September.

Raymond George of Lilly, secretary of the county association thanked the companies responding to Lilly's call for assistance last Wednesday when a fire gutted the Hughes store.

PATTON JOINS WITH CARROLLTOWN POST IN SPECIAL MEETING

Americanism Program to Be the Feature of Thursday Gathering

In line with many other American Legion Posts over the country, the Walter McCoy Post No. 614 of Patton and the Fox-Peale Post No. 508 of Carrolltown, have united in sponsoring an Americanism Day in honor of the newly adopted citizens of the area, which includes Carrolltown, Patton, Hookerton and St. Benedict. An entertaining and well balanced program has been arranged for the affair which will be held on Thursday of this week, April 4, at 7:30 p. m. in the Carrolltown American Legion Hall.

Climaxing the program will be the presentation of citizenship certificates by Prothonotary John L. Hite, to 26 new citizens who recently swore allegiance to the country.

The general public is cordially invited to attend the meeting which is designed not only to honor the new Americans but also to kindle a new spark of hope and to lend encouragement to those trying times.

The program follows:

Invocation, Rev. Father Valerian, O. S. B., assistant pastor, St. Benedict's Church, Carrolltown.

Introduction, F. W. Green, Commander Post 506.

Song, "God Bless America," Assembly, accompanied, Miss Betty Kelly.

Pledge to the Flag, Burton C. Winslow, commander Post 614.

Address of welcome, M. J. Farabaugh, Carrolltown burgess.

Vocal solo, Helen Zedak.

Clarinet solo, Sam Raffa.

Address, "Americanism," Attorney Thomas Swope.

Presentation of Citizenship Certificates, John L. Hite, Prothonotary.

Song, "Star Spangled Banner," Assembly.

Introduction, Rev. Thomas McQuillan, Chaplain, Walter McCoy Post.

WORK STARTS ON NEW RECREATION CENTER FOR PATTON DISTRICT

Work was started Tuesday on the new 100x70 foot swimming pool, bathhouse, shelter and tennis courts and other improvements which will give Patton one of the best recreation centers in Northern Cambria County.

The park will be located at the site of the old firemen's park, which has been purchased by the borough. The Federal Government is contributing \$14,516 as its share of the WPA project which will be a major item in its construction.

This week work started in clearing, grubbing and getting ready for erecting under the direction of a competent engineer. The park is looked forward to with eager anticipation by all the citizens of Patton as well as surrounding areas.

HONOR ST. BENEDICT MAN ON ANNIVERSARY

C. D. Earley of St. Benedict was honored a surprise party at his home in St. Benedict on the occasion being celebrated.

Cards were played to the guests.

INQUEST THURSDAY INTO REVLOC BLAST

The inquest into the explosion which occurred March 13 in the shaft of the Monroe Coal Mining Company at Revloc and took a toll of four lives will be held in the courthouse at Ebensburg at 9 a. m. this (Thursday) morning. Coroner Patrick McDermott announced recently.

A report based on investigation of the blast made by a mine inspector commission will be submitted to the Coroner and will be made part of the proceedings. The commission was composed of Inspector George J. Steinbesser, Indiana; William Lamont, Colver, and Dennis J. Keenan, Barnesboro.

BIDS REPORTED ASKED ON NEW ROAD SECTION IN NORTH OF COUNTY

Ebensburg-Carrolltown Link Will Be Part of Vast Modernization Job Plan

Calling for bids on another major Cambria County road construction job, the State Highway Department Tuesday moved another step nearer the fulfillment of the plan which aims to make Route 219 a thoroughly modern highway spanning Pennsylvania and linking Buffalo, N. Y., to Johnstown, Pa.

The department asked for bids by April 18 for grading and construction of 2.53 miles of road between Ebensburg and Carrolltown in Cambria and East Carroll Townships. The concrete roadway is to be from 22 to 46 feet wide, with eight foot shoulders on each side.

Discussing the contract, Cambria County engineer H. Frank Dorr pointed out that the new contract is one of a series planned by the Highway Department to thoroughly modernize the route.

The construction job will link the northern terminus of paving work from Ebensburg last year, and its two and one-half miles of paving will be completed early this summer.

Now known as Legislative Route 1394 this route when completed will be redesignated as Route 219, replacing the present roadway along the distance between Carrolltown and Ebensburg by approximately two miles.

Another link in the same long-term construction plan is the new Conemaugh-Goods Corner road, contract for which was let earlier this year.

Ultimate design of the Highway Department is to completely modernize Route 219 for speedy transit between Johnstown and Buffalo, and also as a major connecting link between the all-important East-West highways of the state.

Other Cambria County contracts will link the northern end of the proposed Conemaugh-Goods Corner road to the William-Penn Highway at Mundy's Corner, and also will connect the section announced Tuesday to Carrolltown.

Two other important road construction jobs in Cambria County, a particular part of this plan, are scheduled for completion this summer with work to be resumed soon after the winter layoff.

They are the easy-grade route to Westmont from Johnstown and the 4 lane relocation and paving job on Route 22 east of Crossen.

A contract has already been let for a new road over the "Buckhorn" from Ashville to the Cambria-Stair County line.

JOHNSTOWN STEEL MEN GAIN VICTORY IN CAMBRIA PLANT

Production Resumed Monday As Union Takes In Hundreds of New Workers

Johnstown—Normal production was resumed at the Cambria Plant of the Bethlehem Steel Plant on Monday following a strike called by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee last Friday. The strike was called following efforts to hold an ERP election in the plant, which the union said was a violation of the ruling handed down by the National Labor Relations Board declaring the ERP a company union and ordering dissolution of it.

On a visit to the SWOC office in Johnstown Monday the writer was pleasantly surprised to see the offices jammed to the doors by workers signing up in the union. On inquiry, union officials stated that since Sunday afternoon over 2000 new members had been admitted to the Steel Union. One interesting sidelight while the writer was there was the appearance of a 76-year old member of the union who came in to pay his dues and stated: "I've always been a strong union believer, but this is the first time I have been in the office to pay my dues, the reason being that I was in fear of losing my job."

Settlement of the strike was announced by Thomas Lambert, the U. S. Conciliator Service and Charles Kuntz, director, and P. A. Ramsey, the mediator of the state labor mediation office.

The signed agreement contains these four points:

- 1.—That all strikers be returned to their jobs without any loss of seniority and without any discrimination whatsoever.
- 2.—The company will continue to meet and deal with representatives of the employees in collective bargaining.
- 3.—All dealings shall be without discrimination. The company will continue to deal with the S. W. O. C. as the collective bargaining agent for all employees and will accord it equal treatment and opportunities, including the right to represent all employees in any dispute.
- 4.—Future action with reference to selection of an exclusive bargaining agency should await final disposition of the case now pending in the court.

The agreement contained certain terms of the S. W. O. C. in the Johnstown district for the past four years. Much praise has been heaped upon the director of the union in Johnstown, James Gent, by the city and county officials as well as by some leading newspapers throughout the country, for the fine peaceful way in which the strike was conducted.

At a meeting held in the Capitol Ballroom on Sunday the following persons had this to say in behalf of the union and the conduct of the strike:

El. G. Andrews, editor, commended Gent with the saying, "Establishment in your minds that the union was the thing. The way to get rights is to give the other fellow his rights, and what is left of yours." Andrews said one of the reasons there was not much trouble this time as compared to the strike in Johnstown in 1937, was that "no politicians were running around butting into your business."

Mayor John A. Corway, who remained quietly in the background during the layoff, sent the following telegram to Mr. Gent, in charge of the S. W. O. C., and to Mr. Hough, General Manager of the Cambria Plant.

To Mr. Hough:—Thank you for the able, intelligent manner in which negotiations were conducted. You have proven to the nation that labor differences may be settled speedily and equitably in an atmosphere of peace and good will. Surely industry was never more brilliantly nor creditably represented."

To Mr. Gent:—"On behalf of the people of Johnstown, I congratulate the leadership and the membership of S. W. O. C. for reaching a speedy and amicable agreement. The nation will applaud the sane, orderly and temperate fashion in which you conducted your walkout. Now we can all roll up our sleeves and get to work on badly-needed defenses, secure in the knowledge that labor will march unflinchingly with industry on the difficult journey ahead."

Other organizers assisting Mr. Gent in organizing the Steel workers in Johnstown are: Eugene Maurer, Donorc, Maurice Mallinger, Pittsburgh; Michael L. Noary, Johnstown and W. T. Hildreth of Lewisport.

Other directors and organizers who have worked in the Johnstown district in the past four years have been: John Tiedeman, Pittsburgh; Abe Martin, Ship Level; David Watkins, U. M. W. A. organizer and director during the 1937 strike; John Stokesser, Johnstown, who had charge during the National Labor Relations Board trial; Philip Clowes of Bucklebridge; Howard T. Curtiss now located at Bethlehem, Pa., and George Spencer, organizer, Johnstown, Pa.

There are about 25,000 horses in Cambria valued at \$10,000,000.

IDLE MINERS WILL GET COMPENSATION SOON

Can Become Eligible Three Weeks After Filing Claims

Harrisburg—Pennsylvania's soft coal miners probably will become eligible for unemployment compensation within three weeks of the filing of their claims, if they remain idle while the operator-miner negotiations are conducted in New York.

A similar step two years ago—the first since the State Unemployment Compensation system began paying benefits—resulted in a ruling by Secretary of Labor and Industry Lewis G. Howe that the stoppage of work in the mines in an absence of a contract is not a strike or a labor dispute.

The State Unemployment Compensation Law grants benefits to idle workmen after waiting a period of three weeks, but specifies a six-week waiting period for strikers.

Mr. Howe set a precedent when he ruled that the 1939 mine shutdown was merely a cessation of work. That precedent likely would be followed in a similar circumstance this year.

The 1939 shutdown lasted six weeks and cost the Unemployment Compensation Fund about four million dollars according to estimates made at that time.

The situation then was the same as it is at the present—inability of the negotiators to arrive at a new contract before the expiration of the old one. State officials awaited the outcome of the wage negotiations in New York to learn whether the rapidly clearing strike situation of recent weeks would be followed with a complete stoppage of the state's soft coal mines.

PLAN MEET SATURDAY OF CAMBRIA POMONA

Members of Cambria County Pomona Grange, 51, will hold their regular session Saturday at the Buckhira Grange, Hall near Fortage, Morning and afternoon sessions are planned.

Feature of the session will be a detailed explanation of the functions of various units of the Farm Credit Administration. The discussion will be under the direction of Irvia H. Kniff, bank, vice president and secretary of the Baltimore Bank for Cooperatives.

At the morning gathering Mrs. A. J. Yahner will talk on "Flowers and the Farm Home," and Clair Oliver will discuss "Improving Home Grounds."