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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1941

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## LEWIS TELLS JOINT CONFERENCE SOUTH MUST MEET TERMS

### Northern Operators Agree to Pact Which Is to Be Ratified on Friday and Saturday

New York—Southern soft coal operators will have to agree to "every one of the points" in a contract which the northern operators and the United Mine Workers have approved, John L. Lewis, U. M. W. president, told the Appalachian Joint Conference Tuesday.

The conference, composed of 300 of the northern bituminous operators and miners' representatives, accepted terms of the contract, which is to be ratified after hearings before the National Mediation Board Friday and Saturday. Lewis promised the northern operators that the U. M. W. would reject any contract proposals for preferential treatment to southern operators, notably their insistence upon a 40-cent daily wage differential.

The contract accepted Tuesday by the northern operators granted a basic daily wage increase of \$1, a safety clause and an improved "recess" clause among other points.

One of the more important clauses provided for an annual vacation of 10 days, with payment of \$20 in lieu of wages.

The contract negotiations began on March 13, Southern operators withdrew from the Appalachian Joint Conference group on April 11 and set up their own wage conference, returning to bargain with the U. M. W. under a formula proposed by President Roosevelt, whereby any agreement reached would be retroactive to May 1.

Lewis asserted that the southern operators had added 35 cents a ton to the price of coal, more than enough to care for the wage increase demanded, and added that they were "safeguarding their own interests to the point of extortion."

The accepted contract between the northern operators and miners provided these facts:

Effective January 1, 1941, the basic daily wage for miners will be increased to \$1.00 per day or \$1 per day for 237 days of the calendar year.

Yield bonus rates increased 12 cents per ton. Minimum rates for pick mining shall not be less than the average of actual machine cutting and loading rates.

Basic inside labor rate of \$7 a day. Strip mine or pit workers to receive increases on day, hourly and monthly rates in conformity with the application of the \$1.40 per day or \$1 per day as it was applied to mine workers in deep mines. The adjustment of these rates to be referred to the respective district conferences.

From June 28, 1941, to July 7, inclusive, to be a vacation period during (Continued on Page Six.)

## DEBTS CONSUME THE BIG SCHWAB ESTATE DISCLOSURES SHOW

### Assets Are Only One-Sixth of Liabilities in Pennsylvania Accountings

The late Charles M. Schwab, steel master who died a summer home at Loreto and claimed Cambria county as his favorite resting place, who once had a fortune estimated at \$200,000,000, left debts estimated at \$200,000,000 in Pennsylvania with assets of only \$51,000.

This disclosure came last week in a report filed by the First National Bank of Ebensburg, ancillary administrator of the steel man's estate. Schwab died in his \$4,000,000 New York home on Sept. 18, 1933, at the age of 72. His will was probated in 1934.

Most of Schwab's debts were to the banks, ranging from a little as \$600 owed to the Dale National Bank of Johnstown and \$975 owed both the American National Bank of Ebensburg and the First National Bank of South Fork, to more than \$100,000 owed the First National of Creson.

In disposing of assets the bank listed \$29 obtained for an old coupe; \$8 for 2,271 shares of the Cambria County Fair; \$20 for office furniture; \$4 for carpenter tools; \$48, plumbers tools; \$7.90 for a rug and \$22.27 for silverware and linens in his private railroad car. To remove the silverware and the linens from the car, \$33.75 was paid to Thomas H. Smith.

Half of the estate were listed as Edward H. Schwab, 227 Park Avenue, New York; Gertrude Barry, Loreto; Mary Schwab, Carmel, Monterey, Cal.; Thomas M. Schwab, H. Pack street, Lake N. J.; Dorothy Schwab, Mitchell, 123 N. Maple Drive, Deyers Hills, Cal.; James H. Ward, 25 Broadway, New York and James Thompson, 55 Park Avenue, New York.

## County Moves For Division of Some Voting Precincts

Due to the very heavy registration of voters in a number of county precincts, Cambria County commissioners Monday prepared to divide certain districts where voter enrollment is regarded as unwieldy on election days.

The commissioners authorized Frank Dorr, chief clerk, to make a survey of a number of voting precincts, particularly Summerhill Township, Portage Township, South Gallitzin Township and the Walnut Grove section of the 17th Ward in Johnstown.

Voters in these precincts requested division of the districts and Dorr was authorized to assist in preparing plans of the proposed division of each district. It was pointed out that in one of the districts groups of voters are called on to make a 22-mile trip to vote—11 miles each way from home to the polling place.

## DYNAMITE FINDINGS PROMPT SABOTAGE FEARS IN COUNTY

### Explosives Found at Vital Points in Three Mines in County; Blasting Caps Stolen

From unofficial sources it has been learned that on three recent occasions dynamite has been found in unexpected places near vital points of Cambria County coal operations.

Most recent and potentially serious was an apparent attempt to sabotage operations on the tipple of Logan No. 4 mine at Beaverdale. On Tuesday of last week a stick of dynamite was discovered attached to machinery at the mine tipple. There were indications that the man or men who placed it there has either left voluntarily before completing their deadly work, or had been frightened away.

Police officials were entirely unable or unwilling to discuss any motive for the act.

But had the dynamite been exploded at a time when the tipple was in operation, equipment would undoubtedly have been damaged and perhaps some lives lost.

Other sticks of dynamite were found in other places in the county. In one case, it was reported that more than 1,000 blasting caps had been stolen late last week from an explosives magazine of the Beaverfield Bituminous Coal Corporation at Arvonia. An immediate investigation launched.

The theft of the detonators had been discovered Saturday. It apparently had occurred sometime between Wednesday evening and Saturday morning, the interval between visits to the magazine.

Entrance to the magazine had been gained by smashing locks on the door. Police said they had been unable to find any definite clue to the culprit.

Admittedly, the stolen explosives were potentially very dangerous, but because combined they would be sufficient to create a considerable blast and because they might be used as primers to fire a very heavy explosive charge.

Police authorities in Cambria County professed complete ignorance of the other two reported instances of dynamite having been found.

One report asserted that a stick of dynamite had been found in a loaded railroad car at a South Fork mine some time ago. It was claimed also that a fireman at a mine in the Portage district had discovered a stick of explosives in coal intended for use in steam boilers of the plant.

Whether or not these instances, if the actually occurred, were deliberate or simply carelessness was problematical. A possibility existed that some miner who had not taken the customary precautions with his explosives permitted and unused stick, or even one which had failed to explode in a "shot," to somehow filter into the load of coal.

However no possibility existed of a similar occurrence in the Beaverdale case. Mine officials throughout the district have redoubled the vigilance of their watchmen to prevent any possible repetition.

## Abatement of Tax Penalties Is Voted by Commissioners

The Cambria County commissioners Monday adopted by resolution abatement of the new act of assembly abating penalties and interest on delinquent taxes.

Under the terms of the new act, passed by the Legislature, delinquent taxes for the year 1940 and all prior years may be paid in five equal installments over a five-year period provided certain conditions are met by the taxpayer.

The new act will become effective July 1 unless rejected by the various public subdivisions in the state.

Due to the increased industrial and business activity in Cambria County members of the board of county commissioners believe that in all probability a great number of taxpayers will now be in better financial shape to pay delinquent taxes.

## PATTON HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Now Holding the Center of Interest; Graduation Exercises at Grand Next Tuesday

Patton High School's Commencement program on Tuesday evening, May 27th will be on a patriotic theme, it has been announced by school officials. A pageant will be the highlight of the graduation exercises. A large number of members of the senior class will take part in the program.

The Commencement, as usual, will be held in the Grand Theatre. Other commencement activities included the annual senior dinner-dance, an enjoyable event held on Tuesday evening of this week at the New Ebensburg Inn, Ebensburg, and the annual Junior Prom to be held at the New Moose Home in Patton on Friday evening.

Ross Smith and his orchestra furnished the music for the Ebensburg event, and Joey Sims and his music will be the attraction on Friday night.

Officers of the Senior Class are Robert Overberger, president; Helen Tipton, secretary; and Thomas Whitire, treasurer. Class colors are blue and white, and the class flower is Red Rose.

Members of the graduation class include: Joseph Halsek, William Platt, Ralph Adams Hubert Durier, Michael Dubyak, Henry Cosmider, Patricia Gill, Irvin, Charles Paul Dunagan, Fred Henninger, George McLaughlin, Robert Overberger, Mary Louise Deschamps, Elva Sheehan, Patricia Feigh, Isabel Butterbaugh, Sue Leon, Ann Smith, Julia Baranik, Norcia Gacko, Dolores Rodgers, June Khue, Marcella Girard, Rita O'Donohue Betty McDermott, Agnes Blake, Rita Petrosini, Eleanor McGeogal, Margaret Sherbrough, Louise Reeko, Anna Mary Hoover, Debra Greyson, Pauline Babick, Mary Berger, Rita Kartheim, Bernadine Zern, James Baker, George Davis, Edwin Woomer, Edgar Vecovci, Andrew Prellah, Nelson Lovex, Joseph Herna, James Seifridge, Joseph O'Leary, Andrew Hetako and George Tirkap.

## Cambria, Clearfield Lineup Proposed for 27th District

Harrisburg—A House sub-committee last week proposed a new version of reapportioning Pennsylvania's Congressional Districts and offered it for inclusion in the general bill now heading for a conference committee.

The Democratic House and the Republican Senate have disagreed sharply on how to reduce the state's delegation in Congress from 34 to 23 and as a result two bills crossed paths.

Under the Republican plan, one district would be eliminated from Philadelphia and one from Pittsburgh with Luzerne County getting an extra district. The Democrats proposed to take Lehigh and Berks in one district and Bucks and Montgomery in another.

The sub-committee's report recommended adoption of the Democratic proposal with these extra changes:

15th district—To consist of Indians, Jefferson, Elk, McKean, Cameron, Potter and Tioga Counties instead of Clinton, Lycoming, Potter, Tioga, McKean and Cameron, as at present.

20th district—To consist of Mercer, Venango, Forest, Clarion, and Armstrong Counties—thus adding Armstrong and subtracting Warren and Elk from the present setup.

23rd district—Blair, Centre, Clinton and Lycoming Counties adding Lycoming to the old group.

27th district—Cambria and Clearfield in what was formerly Armstrong, Jefferson, Cambria and Indiana.

28th district—Erie, Crawford and Warren, which formerly was Erie and Crawford alone.

Thus the population of the 15th district would be increased from 235,574 to 265,117; the 20th from 277,067 to 290,465; the 23rd from 272,061 to 281,342; the 27th would be reduced from 425,263 to 293,522 and the 29th would be increased from 209,257 to 298,622.

## Improving Spangier Plan

The plan of Spangier has been improved by a number of Spangier critics.

## MINERS PATRIOTISM NOT OBSCURE SAYS A WESTERN LEADER

### Cites Record of the U. M. W. of A. in Country's Defense During Past Emergencies

"Patriotism is not considered merely a war-time measure by members of the United Mine Workers of America. For their patriotism in time of peace or war cannot be challenged. In time of peace they fight for democracy on the political field and on the field of battle in time of war, and it is only natural to expect them to fight against any attempt to abridge their rights."

Thus wrote David Fowler, president of District No. 21, in a circular letter to members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives in answer to pending anti-labor and anti-strike legislation.

"We American miners do not kneel to anyone as to our loyalty to our God and country. In the World War 66,000 of our boys served in the trenches of the Spanish-American war, and their blood was shed so that the world might be free for democracy. During the World War, notwithstanding the fact that 65,000 had gone into the trenches while thousands of others had gone into better paying and safer jobs, the production of coal was enormously increased. Let me assure you that the tollers of America's basic defense industry will not be found wanting when it comes to meeting the needs of our country."

"Much has been said about Communism. The constitution of the United Mine Workers for the past 24 years or more has provided that no Communist can become a member of our union, and at the time of our expulsion from the AFL it was the only union in America which had that provision in its constitution."

"Let us not forget, in the past year 4,000 miners gave up their lives in the bituminous coal fields of this country and 41,000 miners were seriously injured, their bones were crushed, their flesh was torn from their bodies and their minds were shattered by the shock of defilement and death."

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## House Votes to Accept Admiral Peary Park Site

Harrisburg—The House of Representatives Monday night passed unanimously and sent to the Senate a bill to acquire Admiral Peary Memorial near Creson in Cambria County and place it under the State Historical Commission management. The measure was introduced by Representative Albert L. O'Connor.

The bill carried an appropriation of \$5,000 for acquiring the land in Creson Township, the birthplace of Admiral Robert Edwin Peary.

It also provided that: "No building other than the proposed monument of Admiral Peary in such form as may be approved by the Art Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall be erected upon the premises x x x."

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## NEW FEDERAL MINE INSPECTION LAW IS ANOTHER ADVANCE

### Great Forward Step Toward Reduction of Slaughter of the Coal Miners

When President Roosevelt signed the Federal Mine Inspection Bill on May 20, says the United Mine Workers Journal, the long uphill fight of the United Mine Workers of America for federal inspection of coal mines came to an end. It marked a great forward step toward the reduction, if not elimination of the slaughter of coal miners in the country's mines.

What is now the Federal Coal Mine Inspection Act was passed substantially in the form of a bill by Congressmen J. Harold Flansburg of Pennsylvania. As passed by the House, the Flansburg bill required prospective mine inspectors to be "an accredited mining engineer or the equivalent thereto. This the Senate amended to read that these inspectors were to be persons with five years' practical experience in coal mining. The House refused to accept the Senate amendment and a Conference Committee was appointed composed of members of both Houses. The following compromise was worked out and was incorporated in the act as passed:

"That in the selection of persons for appointment as coal mine inspectors no person shall be so selected unless he has the basic qualification of at least five years' practical experience in the mining of coal, and is recognized by the United States Bureau of Mines as having the training or experience of a practical mining engineer in those essentials necessary for competent coal mine inspectors."

The U. S. Bureau of Mines will appoint the mine inspectors subject to the Civil Service laws.

Under the act, the Secretary of the Interior acting through the U. S. Bureau of Mines is empowered to have made initial or necessary mine inspections at any time of the day or night.

Full publicity is authorized for all findings affecting the health and safety of miners in such mines as well as the names of occupational diseases originating in them. This publicity feature is expected to be an effective weapon in causing operators to remove conditions leading to accidents in their mines.

Operators who refuse to admit any inspector or other authorized representative of the U. S. Bureau of Mines into their plants shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail. The operator or others in control of the mines must furnish complete information about accidents. Annual reports are to be made to Congress and will be available to the general public.

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