

Union Press-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 as solicited by the publication must be authorized by the organization it represents and signed by the President and Secretary and bear the seal.

THIS is the season of the year when "We eat what we can and can what we can't."

THE CANDIDATES now are going down the "home stretch" in the primary race that will come to its end on Tuesday next. To a very great extent the campaign has been conducted cleanly, as it should be, and voters generally should repudiate any candidates who attempt to besmirch the campaign in either party, whether by printed or verbal word.

DURING the next week both the Democratic and Republican parties in Cambria County will select standard-bearers for two judgeships, a sheriff and two jury commissioners. The host of candidates in the field in both parties guarantee, of course, that the gratified candidates will be few, and the disappointed many. To our mind, politics is a gamble. And you must be a good sport to take the game in its true sense. A few will win, a lot will lose. To become disgruntled because one has lost, shows poor sportsmanship. After all, whether you are Democrat or Republican, you simply have been endeavoring within your own ranks to be one of its representatives to stand at a general election. A spirit of bitterness openly displayed toward your party, after defeat, only proves to the voters of your party that you have placed personal ambition above party interests.

WE NEED have no fear that the

party will nominate candidates who are not qualified and capable. In fact both parties have excellent candidates in the running. When the battle of the November election is over, Cambria County will have elected capable judges, and a capable sheriff. And in a few short months there will be another primary election taking up the interest of the politically minded. In May of next year, primary time rolls around once again.

WHILE newspapers remind us of the primary election, and while the candidates and their friends are going their rounds trying to pep us up, the fact remains, nevertheless, that the voter interest apparently is one of indifference. Working conditions are better than they have been for years, usually one factor that causes election disinterest; conditions over the world, and the threat that the United States may become involved in war, has a far greater appeal to the people right now than who is running for office. The upshot of it all may be that an extremely tight vote will be polled on Tuesday.

IT DOESN'T matter one iota whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, you have a duty as an American citizen to perform on September 9th. That duty is to vote. Regardless of how small your interest may be in candidates, it still remains your duty to exercise your right of franchise. VOTE next Tuesday. Vote for whom you please—but VOTE.

EBENSBURG, this week, again is staging a fair that the citizens of Cambria County can well be proud of. In general, it outranks practically all the fairs in this section of the state, and folks who attend it do not go home disappointed. If you haven't yet been up to the annual exhibition, you still have plenty of time. It closes next Saturday night.

LAST Monday a dedication service featuring the unveiling of a monument was the feature event of Labor Day over at Jamestown, near Portage. To the folks who reside in that section, and to the crowd that attended the unveiling, it was not an event that brought forth joy. It was rather an extremely sad occasion for many who were present—the most of them women and children—all widows and orphans. Labor Day of 1941 marked the unveiling of a monument erected and dedicated to the memory of the sixty-three victims of the Sonman Mine disaster of July 15th, 1940. It represented the combined efforts of a number of Mine Locals and interested individuals in the district. It will stand in a small park and be ever mindful of a fatal day that brought sadness to a community. It will also stand as a constant reminder that such disasters should not happen.

OVER in the Portage area Labor Day was picked as a fitting time for the dedication of this monument. It should also act as a reminder to the rest of us that Labor Day commemorates a justly earned holiday, gained by the toil of the masses, the maining and even the lives of those whom it honors. It should likewise remain a lesson to all of management that Labor is the very foundation of civilized humanity, and that all who toil should have every protection from danger; that the almighty dollar must not be placed above the safety of humanity; that only through organization and cooperation by all can the accident death toll be reduced as the years roll along.

SAFETY has been practiced and it has been preached for years, yet in the past year a number of mine disasters, including the Portage catastrophe, have occurred. While the smaller mishaps have been substantially reduced, why is it that major disasters can yet occur. Surely there of greatest importance along the line. Laws have been created for the protection of the miner. Certainly, we presume, if the letter of the law rigidly was adhered to, loss of life would not be so great.

NO ONE can observe the legislative record of our times without recognizing that virtually all the gains won by labor through its trade unions may be taken away, through repressive anti-labor legislation. It is sufficient that we recognize that the actions of our elected representatives in all branches of the government States may become involved in the well-being of the people in our labor and also our farm organizations. It is time that those in the labor movement abandon the old fashioned 19th century prejudice that labor should not become involved in politics.

LABOR can be a giant if it simply acts as a unit. For its own good it must use its strength against all the forces which in their own selfish interests, in their greed for profits, and in their efforts to preserve positions of power and wealth, have always opposed those men, movements and proposals which would bring to the masses of our country greater well being and a greater measure of participation in the democratic process. Facing this common opponent, labor and the farmers, too, should join themselves together in a genuine co-operative political activity for the pursuit of their common objectives.

Warnings Given to Violators of Pennsylvania Mining Code

Warning that severe penalties will be imposed for violations of the state mining code was given Tuesday by Judge Ivan J. McKenrick in ordering Charles E. Powell, Blainburg, to pay the costs and to be placed on probation for one year after he had pleaded guilty to violating two provisions. The judge stated that unless violations of the code cease the court will have to make an example of someone. The prosecution was deemed by the State Mining Dept. of such importance that Deputy Secretary of Mines W. Garfield Thomas and mine inspectors appeared in court. Ernest Yanssens, Cresson, board member of the United Mine Workers, appeared to outline the policy of the union. A plea for enforcement of the code was made by Mr. Yanssens so that "the lives of the miners may be protected."

In some instances small operators have no apparent regard for the safety of the miners. Mr. Yanssens said, "and it is the opinion of our union that, in order to bring about enforcement, the time has come for stern penalties to be imposed. We do not want any repetition of some of the mine disasters that have occurred in this county and our names in previous newspapers, but by enforcing the code imposing stricter penalties."

Services Held to Honor 63 Killed in Blast at Sonman

Relatives and friends of the 63 miners who lost their lives in the Sonman mine explosion on July 15, 1940, assembled Monday in Jamestown to participate in a memorial service during which the monument erected in honor of the dead was unveiled. The service was held on the grounds adjoining the Union Hall, where the monument has been placed and enclosed within a fence. Memories of the men killed in the disaster were refreshed during the ceremony and widows and mothers of the explosion dead were swept as the names of each victim was called and relatives marched into the enclosure to stand in one body beside the monument. Approximately 150 members of the families of men killed in the explosion comprised this group. Short speeches were delivered during the occasion by E. N. Palmer of Portage; Ernest Yanssens, Cresson; Judge Charles C. Greer and Judge John H. McCann. The invocation and benediction were read by Rev. A. M. Habrowski, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Portage, who also paid tribute to the victims in a brief talk during which he dedicated the ground upon which the monument has been erected to the memory of "those who laid down their lives that others might live."

County Criminal and Civil Court Terms Are Postponed

Acting on the recommendation of District Attorney Stephen Mayer, President Judge John H. McCann and Judges Ivan J. McKenrick and Charles C. Greer have ordered that the September term of criminal court, which was scheduled to open Monday, be postponed to a date to be announced later. Similar action was taken in postponing the term of civil court, due to open Monday, September 15. The court order resulted after Mr. Mayer informed the judges he believed that the congregating of people, necessary during a term of court, might prove dangerous at this time in view of the infantile paralysis epidemic.

William E. Jones, 33, of Marsteller Dies Monday

William E. Jones, 33, of Marsteller, died Monday afternoon in Spangler Hospital, where he had been a patient for the past month. He was born in Johnstown, March 9, 1908, a son of John J. and Jesse Jones. In addition to his parents, who reside in Marsteller, he is survived by his widow, Mrs. Agnes (Ludwig) Jones, and three sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones and Mrs. Robert Jones, both of Marsteller; Mrs. Raymond Jenkins and

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Resolutions of Respect.

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God in his infinite wisdom to remove from our fraternal circle our beloved brother, Peter Semelberger, and whereas, by his death, Patton Branch No. 90, Knights of St. George, has lost an outstanding member, a good Catholic, and a teacher in matters pertaining to our organization and the principles it exemplifies, therefore,

Resolved, That by his death we have suffered an irreparable loss, and as a token in his respect, that our charter be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days and that a copy of these resolutions be spread on the minutes of our order, a copy be sent to members of his family, and the same be printed in the local newspaper.

SENATORS VOTE DOWN OLD-AGE PENSION PLAN

Washington.—The Senate Finance Committee rejected last Thursday, by a vote of 15 to 2, a request that it incorporate a new old-age pension schedule—a minimum of \$30 monthly

Turnpike Camp for Objectors.

Washington.—Formal approval of a week camp to be operated by conscientious objectors along the Pennsylvania Turnpike, was announced last week. Lewis E. Hershey, national director of selective service, signed the order setting up the camp at Sideling Hill Tunnel, Fulton County, Pa.

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