

STATE COMPENSATION LAW UPHeld BY COURT

This State's Unemployment Compensation law, which was enacted in 1936, in the shortest possible time—five days—was declared constitutional this week by the United States Supreme Court.

The Nation's highest tribunal affirmed a decision by the State Supreme Court, holding valid the state law which set up machinery for an insurance system under which millions of dollars annually have been distributed to workers who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. The fund now has a reserve of \$185,000,000.

The law was challenged in state courts by Fred C. Perkins, York battery manufacturer, who claimed that the tax of 2.7 on the earnings of employees to support the unemployment compensation fund violated the commerce clause of the federal constitution. He contended likewise that the tax amounted to a levy on the privilege of engaging in interstate commerce in Pennsylvania.

The commonwealth, defending the law, denied it attempted to regulate interstate commerce or impose a burden upon it.

The Supreme Court granted the commonwealth's motion affirming the ruling by the state court. There was no written opinion.

Perkins gained prominence in the early days of the New Deal by refusing to comply with regulations set up by the NRA. He was prosecuted in the federal courts and his appeal from an adverse decision was pending when the Supreme Court ruled that act invalid.

Former Gov. George H. Earle called a special session of the Legislature shortly after the 1936 election to enact the state law to parallel the unemployment compensation provisions of the Social Security Act. With the Democrats then in control of both of the branches of the Legislature, the bill was passed in the minimum time of five days.

COAL OUTPUT INCREASED; FATALITIES ON DECREASE

Coal production in the Keystone State made substantial increases in 1941 over the year before and at the same time there was "an outstanding decline" in fatalities, Secretary of the Mines Richard Maize reports.

Hard coal increased 8.9 per cent and bituminous coal jumped 7.7 per cent for the year, Maize said.

The eastern fields produced 49,105,000 tons of anthracite until December 1 with 177 fatalities. In 1940, mines turned out 45,051,000 tons with 164 fatalities.

Over the same period, the bituminous areas of Western Pennsylvania produced 110,373,000 tons with 146 fatalities as compared to 1940's 102,467,000 tons and 182 fatalities. The ratio of deaths to production is lower now than at any time since 1930, the secretary said.

Auditor General F. Clair Ross has appointed Lawrence McMonagle of Johnstown as mercantile appraiser for Cambria County for the year of 1942. Mr. McMonagle served in the same capacity during 1941.

GRANGE INDORSES DAVIS FOR PAROLE BOARD SEAT

A resolution recommending the appointment of Ex-Sheriff Cyrus Davis as a member of the new State Parole Board to be set up by Gov. James was adopted at a meeting of the Pomona Grange members Saturday in the Munster Grange Hall.

The resolution called upon the Governor to name Davis as one of the five-member board, referring to him as one of the county's outstanding citizens.

Grangers pointed out that with his wide experience in public office he is highly qualified for the position.

In another resolution the Grangers opposed a move to combine the agricultural extension department with the school of agriculture at Pennsylvania State College.

Grangers also called upon the various draft boards to grant deferments to men employed on farms that show a sizable production of food.

During morning business sessions, P. C. Strittmatter, Patton, was elected a member of the executive committee and Lyman Sherbine a member of the important finance committee.

Memorial services directed by Philip Strittmatter, master, were conducted for four members who died during the past year. Musical selections were presented, and also a discussion on "The Grange, Past, Present and Future" by County Farm Agent H. C. McWilliams.

PORTAGE MAN NAMED MINE INSTRUCTOR AT PENN STATE COLLEGE

That the trend of mining is toward mechanized equipment is evidenced by the courses in extension which have been prepared by the extension bureau at Penn State. Extension instruction is relatively new and instructors trained in this field are scarce.

H. A. Corre, well known in county mining circles, has been named as instructor and assistant supervisor of mining extension instruction at Penn State.

Mr. Corre's experience includes two years on the engineering corps for the C. A. Hughes & Co. of Cassandra, nine months as inspector for the Ebensburg Coal Co., at Colver; one year as inspector for the Johnstown Coal and Coke Company of Portage, and ten years with the Consolidation Coal Company of West Virginia as assistant mine foreman in connection with mechanical mining operations.

He was born in Dunio in 1906 and received his secondary education at Portage. He was graduated from Penn State with the degree of B. S. in mining engineering in 1930 and secured his master's degree in 1934.

He holds a first grade mine foreman's certificate both in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

BARNESBORO MAN IMPROVING

Rev. Mr. Thomas, who has been ill from bronchitis for the past week, is slowly improving, although he is not as yet able to be about.

Mrs. Ella (Fitzharris) Leahy, 60, well known Lilly resident was injured fatally on December 26th in a fall down a flight of stairs at her home.

R-DAY FOR SOME SET MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY

20-44 Age Group Will Register on Monday, Feb. 16; Others to Register Soon After

Officials estimate that 1,300,000 men would be made available immediately for the armed services by the February 16 registration of those between ages 20 and 44, inclusive, who are not already on selective service rolls.

President Roosevelt's proclamation Monday setting the mid-February date for listing of unregistered men subject to combat duty under the new Selective Service Act will affect about 9,000,000 men.

Officials say it is expected that this group would include the following Class A-1 men available for immediate call to duty:

20-year-olds, 600,000; 21-year-olds, (who have heached that age since the last registration), 300,000; 36 to 44-year-olds, 400,000.

Army expansion plans are military secrets since the start of the war. However, the last official word was that some 915,000 men in the presently registered 21-35 group would be called before the Army dipped into the new registrations.

With over 1,800,000 men already in the Army, the new registration will place the Nation in position to put over 4,000,000 men under arms without calling any classes under 1-A and leaving out of account any men under 20 who may be acceptor as volunteers.

The new Selective Service Act provides for registration of all citizens and most aliens aged 18 to 64, inclusive, although only those aged 20 to 44, inclusive, are subject to combat duty.

In the technical language of the proclamation the February 16 registration order applies to men born on or after February 17, 1897, and on or before December 31, 1921. The existing machinery will be used.

Registration between the hours of 7 a. m. and 9 p. m. (local time) is to take place in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Selective service headquarters is preparing a new questionnaire which will develop more information on the skills than does that used heretofore. The purpose is to learn what special abilities the registrants have in regard to use in war industries or home defense of some who are not inducted into the armed services.

GOVERNOR INSISTS THAT LEGISLATURE AGREE ON REAPPOINTMENT TILT

There will be no war session of the general assembly "at this time" unless legislative and political leaders agree beforehand on a plan for congressional reapportionment.

Gov. Arthur H. James made this clear last week. "The principal reason for a special session is reapportionment," Gov. James said. "If there is no probability of that being settled, there is little probability of a special session—at this time."

Asked whether a special session would not be necessary in any event to enact anti-sabotage legislation and other war measures, Governor James commented, "I am not so sure whether it will be necessary to call a special session for defense, as some of these things can be bridged over." The governor referred to the war measures passed in 1917 and which are still in effect.

NEW DOG LICENSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Cambria County dog owners may now make application for 1942 dog licenses, County Treasurer Emyln Jones has announced. The deadline for obtaining the permits is January 15. After that the owner of an unlicensed dog will be subject to a fine of \$5 to \$100 and costs.

Applications made by mail should give the name and address of owner, dog's breed, sex, age, color and the markings. The fee for a male dog is \$1.10; female, \$2.10, and spayed, \$1.10. Owners of spayed dogs must provide an affidavit showing the dog has been spayed. Owners applying by mail should enclose return postage.

The number of dog licenses issued during 1941 by Jones showed an increase over 1940. During the past year 20,742 licenses were issued, compared to 19,513 in 1940, an increase of 1,229.

COUNTY NOW BOASTS TEN TIPSTAFFS TO AID JUDGES

The four Cambria County judges now have a total of 10 tipstiffs.

The latest addition was Charles A. MacIntyre, former register of wills and a disabled veteran of World War I. He will receive a monthly salary of \$125, and was appointed by Judge George W. Griffith.

Judge Griffith Monday appointed Miss Verna Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Williams of Ebensburg to be his secretary, at a salary of \$150 per month.

BAKERTON WOMAN IS INJURED IN CAR WRECK

Mrs. Margaret Christler, 52, of Bakerton, was admitted to the Miners Hospital, Spangler, on New Year's morning suffering from lacerations of the face and head. The accident occurred on Route 219 between Barnesboro and Garmantown.

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SAFETY INSPECTION OF MINES LAUNCHED

Nearly 50 U. S. Investigators Go Into Field Last Thursday; To Affect 6,000 Mines

Regularly authorized safety inspection of coal mines was inaugurated with the advent of the new year, Dr. R. R. Sayers, director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, reports.

Nearly 50 Federal coal mine inspectors, fresh from an intensive refresher course at the Pittsburgh experiment station, went to their stations in the field New Year's Day. On Monday another group of about 70 newly-hired inspectors reported at the station for a six-week training course and will take to the field in mid-February.

Directly affected by their activities will be the half million workers in more than 6,000 operating coal mines, hundreds of which are in the Keystone State. Their jobs are to probe unsafe mining conditions which, by death and injury to workers and destruction of property, could slow down defense production and increase the cost of coal.

According to the Bureau of Mines Statistics, during 1940 a total of 59,781 miners were injured, and in addition over 1,300 persons were killed in coal mines. Each of the injured miners lost an average of 39 working days, or a total of 2,321,459 working days. Based on an average production of four and one-half tons of coal per day for each miner, this involved a potential loss of 10,446,565 tons of coal. The deaths resulted in a potential loss of some 35 million tons of coal for defense and domestic needs.

It is anticipated that the new system of inspections will reduce the number of accidents, most of which could have been prevented by observance of safety rules.

Operating under a recently enacted law, the new inspectors will engage in large scale inspection, and will have unchallenged legal access to mines for the purpose of safety inspection.

COUNTY LADIES' UNIT OF AMERICAN LEGION WILL MEET THURSDAY

The first 1942 session of the Cambria County Council, American Legion Auxiliary, will be held in Johnstown on Thursday of this week with both business session and luncheon scheduled in the First Presbyterian Church, Vine Street.

Mrs. Thomas A. Owens, of Carrolltown, Council President, will be in charge of the business session which is scheduled to start at 10 a. m. The guests will include Mrs. Robert Russell, of Custer City, state vice president; Mrs. A. W. Miller of New Cumberland, southwestern district chairman, and Mrs. O. F. Suttcliffe of Somerset, western director.

Gifts for the Legion Auxiliary's child welfare work will be accepted at the meeting, with the receipts to be turned over to Mrs. Miller for the state department activities.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

The Hull program of American solidarity is bearing fine fruit now. The white-haired gentleman from Tennessee fought for it during years in which many were bored with, and uninterested in our neighbors to the south. Today every American Republic seems firmly attached to an anti-Axis front, and many have declared war along with us.

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