

Largest General Weekly Newspaper Circulation in the Area.  
**THE UNION PRESS-COURIER**  
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 The endeavor of the Union Press-Courier is to sincerely represent Organized Labor in their efforts to obtain economic freedom. We solicit the support of all Unions. Material for publication must be authorized by the organization it represents and bear signatures of the President and Secretary of the Local, together with the Local Seal.  
 The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of the combined circulations of two largely circulated weeklies and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and the major mining towns in Northern Cambria County.

**EDITORIAL VIEWS AND COMMENT**

Patton has put over some pretty big projects from time to time in the 28 years in which this newspaper has been under the present management, and to the credit of its population there, has never been any serious division of opinion when such movements were initiated, or under way. It has always been the policy of this newspaper to foster such enterprises when opinion was crystallized, and not to use its columns to differ with others who might, perhaps, not have had just the same opinion. But, when the community did center on a proposition, we like all the rest, put our shoulder to the wheel and helped. That's been the spirit of the local folks.

It is somewhat amusing to us to see a lack of this spirit developed in another north county town, both by the grapevine and by the columns of its newspaper. Of course, regardless of what happens, the neighboring community will iron out its affairs to the satisfaction of the majority of the people who actually raise the money. However, we can't see the wisdom of a local newspaper advocating any movement, and particularly insisting upon it, until the majority of the folks who pay the bill have their wishes known. Patton has done some wonderful things over the past several years. This newspaper has never been placed in the light of being otherwise than a booster—and we've never had reason to regret it.

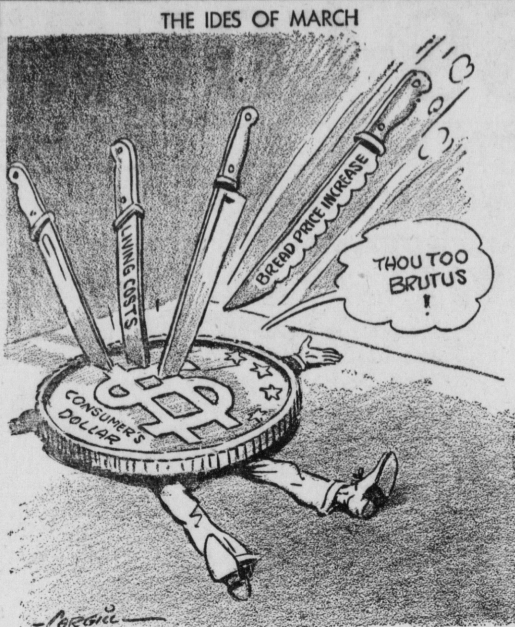
Gov. Earle was a good governor, at least for the common man and his family, and the statute books of Pennsylvania will ever hold his administration fond in memory. However, the former executive has not been any too prudent since his return to private citizenship, and much of the imprudence came from talking too much. The world now

is in a state of tension, and our national administration and congress have really important decisions to make, and it isn't any time to be tossing lighted matches into powder kegs. Earle wants the United States to atom bomb Russia, before Russia atom bombs us. None of us like Communists, but the attitude of the former governor is ruthless and horrible, and puts him in the category of an extremist to state it mildly.

A bill has been introduced in the state legislature that would require school districts to insure members of high school football and basketball teams against injury while engaged in school sports. It might be good legislation, but in order that no local business deals could be made such insurance should be covered by some state-wide agency.

The T-men are putting the heat on income tax dodgers and further indictments are expected to be forthcoming in the Pittsburgh district, of which Cambria is a part, very shortly. So far, the men indicted, and who entered guilty pleas, have been pretty lucky in that they kept out of prison. When a Johnstown man manages to get off on probation, when his total tax and cost payments amount to \$225,881 alone—that's good fortune for him—even if the bill now has been paid.

During the war days the remark of "if he's old enough to fight, he should also be old enough to vote." Surely there was logic in the claim. However, the war is over now, and there's a lot of things that soon are forgotten—such as World War I veterans can tell you, and the proposition of lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 isn't mentioned much. But a constitutional amendment to lower the 18 is before the state senate, and it



was introduced by two Democratic members, Dent and Holland. We wouldn't want to predict it will get anywhere. But maybe it will. So far, Georgia is the only state in the union which permits 18-year-old persons to vote.

And we also note that Senator John J. Haluska, of this place, together with Sen. Leader, York, and W. J. Lane, West Brownsville, all Democrats, have sponsored a bill to empower police officials to arrest gamblers on Sunday in the state. This would plug a "loophole" in the state's Blue Laws outlawing Sunday arrests except for treason, felonies or disturbing the peace. The prohibition has permitted gamblers from West Virginia, and Ohio, and other nearby states to set up "gambling joints" in our own fair state of Pennsylvania on Sunday and leave before midnight, immune from arrest, according to the sponsors.

The days of the fat pay envelope and fat profits are definitely ended, according to Pittsburgh District Tax Collector Stanley Granger. He reports that income and excess profit taxes from the first of last July until March 15 of this year amounted to only \$277,178,379 compared to \$555,548,218 for the same period last year. The largest tax payment filed was for \$2,225,000.

John L. Lewis still holds the loyalty of his union's rank and file—makes no mistake about that. Some of the miners have been making voluntary contributions of \$1 each to help pay the fines imposed by Judge Catesborough. Since Mr. Lewis stated last week that he was reinstating the government contract the chorus in effect, from the rank and file, has been, "If our leader tells us to work, it's O. K. with us".

Some of the folks who are so loud in their complaints of how the miner wants everything, and of how well he lives, should read a recent story in the Ladies' Home Journal, and reviewed in the current issue of the U. M. W. Journal, of conditions as they still exist in Harlan County, in Kentucky. They starkly reveal that poverty and disease still flourish, despite all the attempts at bettering conditions that have been made both by legislation, and organization of the workers themselves. Families of seven or more live in four room shacks with no doors between the rooms, three town pumps furnish the minor supply of 700 residents. Toilets are outdoors. Garbage is disposed of in the nearby creek where children also swim in summer. Tuberculosis is rampant, and malnutrition an epidemic. Yet, because of the organization of the United Mine Workers, these pitiful conditions still are much better than they were before the union came.

It is all well to talk a bit now and then, perhaps, on the street, and growl and complain about the "travels" of the miners are making, but most everyone who has lived in northern Cambria Co. for the past decade well knows that if the miner is to retain what he has gained, and do a bit better for himself and family—and for the rest of us, too, for that matter—there can be no retraction of past gains when the negotiations with operators are concluded, and there should be permanent gains made in many ways.

**BRIEF COMMENTS**

Thoughts That May or May Not Interest You Discussed from Week to Week

Some of the windy weather of Tuesday in this section displayed at least in miniature what might be a hurricane can have—although we were not nearly that bad off. But high wind can do lots of damage and does not have to detract if it does it, when gales of the Tuesday intensity hit.

Some of the chips that follow up the barometers and weather instruments tell us that the winds prevalent Tuesday were traveling at a greater speed than any we have had in more than a dozen years. However, the velocities were general, and not confined to narrow areas such as have in the past ripped out forests, and demolished buildings.

Some years ago, the older residents remember, the Catholic Church at the Summit was demolished by a veritable hurricane, and the writer can remember as a boy of standing in Carrolltown and looking at a strange cloud swoop down upon the Carrolltown Fair Grounds, and tear up in splinters a large exhibition hall on those grounds, yet not a more than a brisk wind was blowing at the point where we were standing. A host of really large trees located in the grove near the Children's Home near Ebensburg, bore testimony for some years afterward of how a "big blow" can uproot the giants of the forest.

Wind is one of the destructive elements, whether you call it a cyclone, hurricane, or what-not, located in Pennsylvania we don't experience what the folks down Florida way dread the most—wind. In spite of all the fine weather advertising that the Floridians are so fond of telling us about, they don't advertise their winds.

We can be a bit thankful that the snows had pretty well disappeared before the storms of the early part of this week. One can well imagine what the result would have been had the wind of Tuesday met up with the deep snow of a few weeks ago. Patton woods have been panned in from the outside world until the wind subsided—that's for sure.

The writer having served in the Legislature for a number of years, can appreciate some of the things E. T. Leech, Editor of the Pittsburgh Press, said Sunday, in which he tells of some people seeking the legislation beneficial to them, regardless of whether it might be harmful to others, and he points out particularly to "businessmen being the darndest people."

Editor Leech says they like to picture themselves as rugged and independent. They don't want to be bothered by politicians. They

want more business in government and less government in business. They're strong for free enterprise. They want to be released from controls and bureaucratic influence. They are only to stand on their own feet and solve their own problems, without political fear or favor. At least that's what they say. But it isn't what they do.

In actual practice, says the editor of the Press, they constantly are inviting government interference with business. That is, with somebody else's business. By 'free enterprise' they mean no restraints on their own business. But its all right to interfere with their competitors. All sessions of legislatures and Congress are flooded with bills promoted by businessmen, with the idea of helping themselves and hurting their competitors.

The classic example, of course, is the tariff. From its inception it has been a case of groups of businessmen pulling political wires—each group seeking an advantage for himself and a disadvantage for somebody else. The little businessmen want the big ones restrained—in the hope that this restraint will enable the little ones to grow big, at which time they'd like the restraints removed. The independent wants protection from the chains, so that he may be free to do what he chains are restrained from doing. The producer of the branded merchandise wants to be able to enforce prices below which his product can't be sold. The producer of unbranded merchandise would like a law to wipe out the brand names.

Mr. Leech also takes a fling at the dairy industry and the oleomargarine restrictions, and the gas and coal controversies. And he says "So it goes, almost endlessly." One of the prime complaints of businessmen is that bureaus make their own laws, through the decisions, directives and regulations that they promulgate. And that's a good complaint.

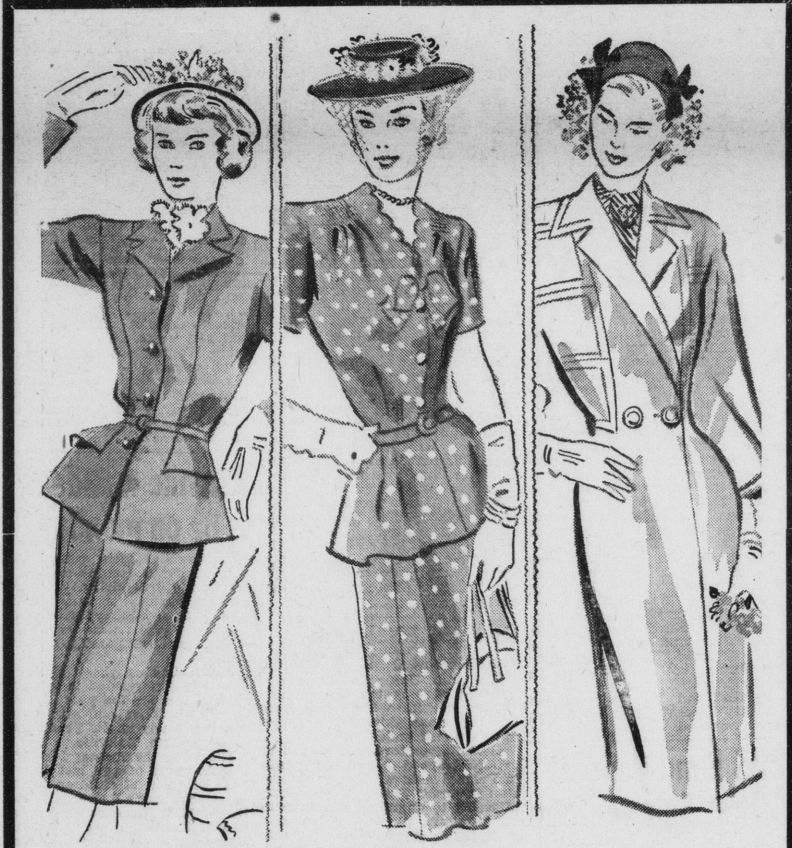
But, as an example of how far businessmen try to go in the same direction, there's a bill in the Pennsylvania legislature which would give the American Optometric Assn. (a private organization) the right to regulate the optometric business as it sees fit from now on. Already the optometrists have prohibited by law the advertising of prices—even when such advertising is strictly honest.

But now it is proposed to amend this law by adding a provision that the State Board of Optometrical Examiners may refuse to grant a license, or may cancel, suspend or revoke a license "for a violation of the code of ethics of the profession of optometry." Since the organized optometrists have changed their code at will, this would amount to a state grant allowing them to make their own laws.

Incidentally, this matter of advertising is one of the biggest subjects of legislative action—and one in which the consumer, who has the most at stake, has been almost completely unrepresented. All the professions, and a lot of them, can be called professions, only by the widest stretch of imagination, constantly are clamor-

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