

'48 District Coal Production Cut by Stoppages, Shortages

Operators Say More Miners Could Be Used

Slowed down by three big obstacles, the coal production in this district skidded to near rock bottom in the first quarter of the present year.

A month-long strike and shortages of both men and railroad cars are attributed as major sprags on mine output in the region.

The district mine field in the first four months of the year produced 11,095,000 tons of coal, according to figures of the State Department of Mines.

Biggest dips in production were noted in March and April when mines lay idle as workers fought for \$100 a month pensions.

With contract negotiations currently stymied, another big treat to coal output is posed after the present pact expires June 30.

At the present rate of production the district would produce approximately 35,000,000 tons for the year, a big drop under the 1947 tonnage.

If the contract barrier is hurdled without a walkout, production is expected to sprint quickly upward during the remainder of the year.

Railroad car shortages were crippling especially in January and February. The tight transportation situation still holds down production at a number of district operations.

Many mines in the district signified they could handle many more men if miners were available.

Production in April rose slightly over March. Last month the district produced 2,296,000 tons of coal, compared to March output of 2,246,000 tons.

January production was the highest with 3,561,000 tons, but this figure is below the average. February output sank to 3,092,000 as rough winter weather stalled further the transportation situation.

St. Francis College Presents 34 With Degrees on Sunday

Sen. Francis J. Myers Is Principal Speaker

Thirty-four young men and women received bachelor of arts and science degrees at impressive commencement exercises Sunday afternoon at St. Francis College, Loretto.

One of the highlights of the ceremonies was the presentation of an honorary degree of doctor of law to Sen. Francis J. Myers, Philadelphia. The Senator was principal speaker at the exercises. Rev. Father Adrian J. M. Veigle, T. O. R., president of the "College Among the Pines," presented the degree to the Philadelphia Senator.

Doyle Hall was filled to capacity with relatives and friends of members of the graduating class.

In his address Sen. Myers rapped Communism and those who promote Communistic ideas. He appealed to the graduates to follow the teachings of God as advocated by their college professors and spiritual leaders.

The speaker said Communism is spreading in the United States because of the present unrest. He urged the college students and graduates to unite solidly and work toward curbing spread of un-American activities.

Sen. Myers was introduced by Attorney Charles Margotti, Pittsburgh, president of the board of trustees of the college.

Father Veigle delivered the sermon at baccalaureate services on Sunday morning in St. Michael's Catholic Church, Loretto. Celebrant of the Mass was Rev. Father Giles Wade, a Franciscan priest at the college.

The college president was guest speaker at a luncheon for graduates, their parents and members of the faculty.

3 National Guard Camps, Indiantown, Slated This Summer

Three separate military encampments, bringing a total of approximately 15,000 officers and men will be held at the expansive Indiantown Gap Military Reservation near Harrisburg this summer.

The summer training schedule at the Gap will be started July 10 to 24, by the 79th Infantry Division, Organized Reserve, under command of Maj. Gen. R. W. Wilson, Philadelphia. Fifty reserve units from as many communities throughout the state will take field training in basic weapons and also refresher courses.

On July 25th, the day after the Reserves depart, five artillery battalions of the 29th Division Artillery, Maryland-Virginia National Guard will come in to conduct two weeks' artillery firing.

From Aug. 14 to 28, approximately 10,000 officers and men of the 28th Division, Pennsylvania National Guard, will conduct their second post-war encampment at the reservation under the command of Maj. Gen. Daniel P. Strickler, Pennsylvania's Lieutenant Governor.

NICE BOYS, THESE!

My mother rented a room in our house to two boys whom she did not know. She was a little worried at first, but in a few days she stopped fretting. "They must be nice boys," she explained. "They have towels from the YMCA."

BETTER TIMES AHEAD!

Could this be an indication of better times ahead? A recent treasury department bureau of federal supply surplus material list includes: "Tape, linen finish, cotton, red—45,000 spools."

Cars Hard to Get; Registration Rises

2,431,710 Vehicles Driven in State in '47

Although a shortage of automobiles still plagues the State and Nation today, registration figures for the year 1947 shows that in the twelve month period the second highest number of motor vehicles in the history of the state was logged by the State Department of Revenue.

A review of the figures shows that 1947 automobile registrations totaled 2,024,119 as compared to the record year of 1941 when registrations numbered 2,029,120—or a difference of only 5,001.

On the other hand, continuation of passenger and commercial vehicle registrations reveals that 1947 was the banner year in the history of Pennsylvania with a total combined registration of these two types of vehicles of 2,431,710. The next highest year, again 1941, contained 2,329,899 such registrations.

Similarly, total receipts from such registrations followed registration figures. Last year, receipts from all types of registration fees for motor license fees, including motorcycles, buses, operators' licenses, etc., amounted to the amazing sum of \$43,749,185.19.

And back to 1941 again—the next highest year—receipts totaled \$41,252,411.92.

It is interesting to note that in 1906, when registration first started, the combined figure for passenger and commercial vehicle

Truman Signs Air Force Bill; Spending May Be Held Down

President to Get Report On Planned Expenditure

President Truman signed the 70-group Air Force bill into law last Friday but served notice that he may not approve spending of the full \$3,198,100,000 voted by Congress for aviation.

Mr. Truman's statement reopened a controversy which began when his administration recommended keeping the present 55-group armada, but strengthening

registration in Pennsylvania amounted to 10,954—as compared to 2,431,710 last year.

defense needs of the U. S. "To assist me in discharging this responsibility, I have asked the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Bureau of Budget to formulate and recommend appropriate expenditures."

The officials Mr. Truman named are Secretary of Defense Forrestal and Budget Director James Webb. Recalling that he has promised to review the entire military program next September, and again in December, the President added:

"Our National security requires that the total national defense program be based on a strong economic system and depend on a level of expenditures which can be supported in subsequent years. It is therefore my intention to carry out provisions of the present act with this in mind."

In giving final approval to the 70-group air force last May 11,

Congress overrode the objections of Forrestal and others that such a large armada would throw the defense machine out of balance and require costly expansion of the Army and Navy to support the expanded air force.

In the present 55-group force there are 5,500 active combat planes, 7,500 in storage.

That doesn't mean just increasing the 5,500 planes in the 55 groups to 6,869 in 70 groups, as year by year the old planes will have to be replaced.

This will mean building thousands of planes, costing billions of dollars. The funds being provided now are just a starter.

The bill makes \$3,198,100,000 available for the air force and the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics to place orders for new planes.

—50¢ A good investment in a Classified ad.



... Memorial Day

WE PAY TRIBUTE
TO THE HEROES
WHO FOUGHT AND DIED
SO VALIANTLY ❖ ❖

The least we can do is lay flowers at their graves, and go to Church with reverent thoughts of them, and come home and bring them to verbal life for a moment while we sit around a comfortable living room. That's the least we can do for the men and boys whose memories this Memorial Day honors. But they deserve more than the least we can do -- they through their sacrifice earned the most we can do -- and that means keeping this country free . . . keeping the world free from war . . . keeping all the people of all the world free to live at peace!



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