SAFETY FIRST— 5,000 LIVES SAVED

PHOTOS BY U.S. BUREAU OF MINES

U-S-BUREAU-OF-MINES

EQUIPPED FOR RESCUE

RESCUE PARTY WITH BUREAU APPARATUS

THE new laboratories of the interior department's bureau of mines at Pittsburgh, costing more than a million dollars, were dedicated recently with appropriate ceremonies in which the mining and metallurgical industries of the country took part. The program of three days was arranged by the bureau of mines in co-operation with the Pittsburgh chamber of commerce.

One of the biggest features of these ceremonies was the nation-wide first-aid and mine-rescue contest held during the last two days. About 100 teams from the coal and metal mining companies throughout the country entered the lists. The last day there was a holiday for the miners of the Pittsburgh district and thousands witnessed the awarding of the prizes to the winners.

In addition to the usual prizes for these contests, the Joseph A. Holmes Safety association, an organization created in 1916 in honor of the memory of the first director for the purpose of giving recognition to persons who had performed meritorious and heroic deeds in the saving of human life in the mining and metallurgical industry, or who had developed some safety appliance to further the saving of life in those industries, made its first awards. Dr. Van H. Manning, president of the association, announced the list of recipients of diplomas and medals and recited the deeds for which they were presented. The committee on awards had recommended that 12 gold medals be awarded, all for heroic deeds performed by miners in coal and metal mines in efforts to save the lives of fellow workmen.

Speaking of the accident conditions generally in the mining industries and of the outlook, Dr. Van H. Manning, director of the bureau of mines, says:

"I am often asked, 'What has the bureau of mines accomplished in saving of human life in the mines?' It is difficult to say, as there are so many varying factors involved. I may say, however, that if you consider the prevailing average death rate in the mines for a period of years before the federal government took up this work and compare it with the average fatality rate since the bureau was created, you will find that 5,000 less miners have been killed. In other words, had the old fatality rate been maintained through the last few years 5,000 more men would have lost their lives. It must also be remembered that the situation was gradually becoming worse, and who knows that there might not have been 7,000 or 8,000 lives lost? We also have to take into consideration that, thanks to the many improvements in life-saving methods and the greater understandings of the causes of accidents, this saving of 5,000 human beings will be increased as the years roll on until we can show several times 5,000 lives saved.

"It is indeed a glorious record of human progress. Five thousand lives saved! Perhaps 2,000 less widows! At least 3,000 children who still have fathers. Take away all the other manifold duties of the bureau of mines and this one accomplishment is worthy of all its costs to the government since its establishment and for years to come.

"I do not mean that the bureau of mines deserves all the credit. It was, however, the agency that picked up the isolated, sporadic efforts of a few well-meaning men and companies and welded them into a great national movement for greater safety in the mines. It at once gained the cooperation of the miners, the mine operators, the state mine inspectors and others, and without these the bureau of mines would have been almost helpless.

"It was in 1911 that the bureau held under its auspices a great national first-aid and mine-rescue meet at Pittsburgh, which was attended by 22,000 miners. The slogan of that meet was 'safety first,' and that was the time that the slogan, since internationally famous, first became a national battle cry for this humanitarian movement. Not only was 'safety first' immediately adopted by the mining companies, but it was also taken up by the railroads and by industrial plants of the country. Safety organizations appeared everywhere. Determined campaigns were fought to reduce the number of deaths and injuries. In quite a number of mills and factories and railroads there was a reduction in the fatalities of more than 50 per cent. Further improvement was slower, but the original gains were made and added to.

"Just how many thousands of lives were saved may never be known, for there are no statistics that adequately cover industrial accidents, but we do know that the bureau of mines and its associated agencies started a movement that not only spread throughout the entire United States, but it also reached the other countries of the world with an equally good effect. And it all started with the modest mine safety meet we held in Pittsburgh in 1911.

"Since that time the bureau has gone its way, improving its methods, interesting the miner in his own safety and that of his fellow man; doing what it could to point out to the owners of the mines the dangerous places that could be avoided and making recommendations as the result of its experiments looking toward still greater safety.

"Today the bureau of mines maintains in every mining field of the country a mine rescue car, fully equipped with modern life-saving apparatus, that responds to disasters and assists in the rescue work. In the meanwhile it visits the mines in its district and gives the miners training in both mine rescue and first aid to the injured. As a result there are several thousand miners throughout the country who are expert in the use of the oxygen mine rescue apparatus and who are familiar with the most modern methods of life saving. Besides, more than 50,000 miners understand first-aid-to-the-injured work as well as a regular hospital corps. All of these men have been trained by the bureau of mines.

"Happily, great mine disasters have been becoming fewer and fewer as the men come to a better understanding of the causes. Nevertheless they do happen, and one thing that the bureau has preached is that upon such a visitation there shall be a more orderly and systematic method of rescue work, for it has been demonstrated that life can be saved in devious ways. The bureau has endeavored to tell the miners that in a great catastrophe it is often better for entombed miners to barricade themselves in, keeping the poisonous gases out of their working place and waiting for relief. In this manner 42 men entombed in a mine for four days were recently rescued, the men even being able to walk out of the mine.

"We are not content to rest on the progress made. There are now more than a million miners in the United States, and each year more than 3,000 are killed in accidents and a quarter of a million injured. Taking the cold, business calculation of the state compensation commissions and eliminating the suffering and sorrow of 3,000 killed each year, the economic loss from these fatalities alone is $12,000,000 a year, for these commissions are paying an average of $4,000 for every life lost. This is a terrible toll for one industry to pay each year. It is hard for us to realize that out of every mining camp of 1,000 men, three of them are sure to lose their lives within 12 months.

"Mining will always be an extra hazardous business. But the question is, 'Have we reached the irreducible minimum?' No, I think not. It is my belief that we can cut down the present fatality rates full one-half; that we can save each 1,500 of the 3,000 killed.

"The causes of these fatal accidents are much better known. Operators and miners are giving much more thought to the dangers of the mines, and the wide-awake among them have installed more modern safety devices. Through the experimental mine of the bureau mining men and miners both have a keener understanding of the dangers of coal dust and have learned how to combat them.

"In the mining industry a human life is much more valuable than ever before, and I believe that can be said of all the industries. This is seen in the great advances in safety work, the millions of dollars spent in safety devices and the humanitarian work of the different state compensation commissions. The day of the ambulance chaser and those ghouls that preyed upon the widow beset with grief over the loss of her husband have happily passed away. The state now steps in and sees that the widow and the orphan are protected, and that alone is worth all the fight that we have endeavored to make. I do not say that the bureau of mines is responsible for these state compensations, but I do know that these commissions came after the mining industry started its great human-saving drive and that the disclosures of the conditions in mining furnished the states with facts that favored the establishment of these commissions.

"Cut the mine fatalities in half."

The dedication ceremonies brought to Pittsburgh for the three days the most prominent mining and metallurgical men of the nation, not alone those interested in the safety-first movement, but also those connected with the allied industries that use the products of the mines.

The bureau of mines, in co-operation with the Pittsburgh chamber of commerce, arranged an elaborate program of events calling for the presence of high government and state government officials besides the leading men of mining throught in the country. The first morning the new laboratories at 4800 Forbes street were dedicated, Dr. Van H. Manning, director of the bureau, presiding.

After invocation by Dr. S. B. McCormick, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, there was an address of welcome by E. V. Babcock, mayor of Pittsburgh. Responses were made by Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior; Horace B. Winchell, president of the American Institute of Mining and Electrical Engineers; John L. Lewis, acting president of the United Mine Workers of America, and William C. Sproul, governor of Pennsylvania. The formal ceremony of handing over the keys of the building by Secretary Lane to Director Manning followed.

After luncheon at the bureau of mines buildings the guests boarded special trains to the experimental mine of the bureau of mines at Bruceton, Pa., 14 miles from Pittsburgh. Upon arrival there a prearranged explosion of coal dust took place in the experimental mine as a demonstration to the visitors, and after that there was an inspection of the mine and the explosives-testing plant, the guests returning to the city at 6 o'clock in the evening. At 8 o'clock there was a general meeting at Carnegie Music hall under the auspices of the Pittsburgh chamber of commerce, with an address by Secretary Lane and an organ recital by Dr. Charles Heinroth. A moving picture prepared by the National Coal association, "The Story of Coal," was given a first presentation.

The second day the new laboratories were open for inspection by the guests the entire day, and at 2 o'clock the elimination contests in the National Safety First-Aid and Mine-Rescue meet were held at Forbes field; also the awarding of the state championships. At 5 o'clock, at Forbes field, there was a demonstration of the explosibility of coal dust and at 8 o'clock the chamber of commerce presented a pageant typifying the spirit of the mining industry, with music by the band of the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

The third day at 9 a. m. there was a final mine-rescue contest by the ten successful teams of the previous day at Forbes field, with a presentation of the national cups and prizes. At 2 p. m. announcement of the J. A. Holmes Safety association was made by Dr. Van H. Manning. At 2:30 o'clock the final first-aid contest, participated in by the 20 best teams of the previous day, was held. At 5 o'clock there was a demonstration of a coal-dust explosion at Forbes field, the events closing with a smoker at the chamber of commerce in which prizes were awarded and speeches made.

The honorary committee in charge of the dedication of the Pittsburgh station included: George S. Oliver, president Pittsburgh chamber of commerce; John F. Herron, president city council of Pittsburgh; Harry N. Taylor, president National Coal Operators' association; John L. Lewis, acting president United Mine Workers of America; Horace B. Winchell, president American Institute of Mining and Electrical Engineers; Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior; Dr. Van H. Manning, director bureau of mines; Dr. S. B. McCormick, chancellor University of Pittsburgh; Dr. Arthur A. Hammerschlag, president Carnegie Institute of Technology; Dr. S. W. Stratton, director bureau of standards; Dr. R. F. Bacon, director Mellon institute; Seward E. Button, chief department of mines, state of Pennsylvania; Dr. D. Van Schaack, president of the National Safety council; T. A. O'Donnel, president American Petroleum institute; Mortimer E. Cooley, president American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Fayette S. Curtis, president American society of Civil Engineers; J. A. Capp, president American Society of Testing Materials; Dr. William H. Nichols, president American Chemical society; Calvert Townley, president American Society Electrical Engineers; G. H. Neilson, president Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania; Dr. W. D. Bancroft, president American Electro-Chemical society; R. T. Stull, president American Ceramics' society; E. N. Zern, president Coal Mining Institute of America; James A. Angell, chairman National Research council.

Home Helpfulness.

"I am tempted," said Mr. Meekton, "to give Henrietta a moving picture machine for Christmas."

"Is she to lecture?"

"Not in public. But I had an idea that maybe some of those long talks she has given me would be more interesting if they were illustrated."

BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

SCOUTS SHOW UP HUN WORK

The black walnut census which the Boy Scouts of America made for the government during the war, and which resulted in their locating 20,000,000 feet of the valuable timber which could be converted into airplane propellers and gunstocks, disclosed the alarming fact that the tracts of forest populated with these trees in years gone by are now no more. When the emergency arose the forest service was compelled to report that there were no known tracts of this particular timber.

Investigation showed that as far back as 20 years ago, and again 10 years ago, German agents toured through the country, found these tracts and paid what, at that time were considered fabulous prices for the lumber.

Little did the farmers and landowners dream that some of these very trees would be used as the stocks of German guns to be pointed by the thousand at our American and allied soldiers.

True to their slogan of preparedness, however, the army of boy scouts who took part in the recent census for the government, planted black walnut as they went along on their work, five for each tree cut down, so as to insure against any such dearth in the future.

They gathered as many of the nuts as they possibly could, and along the fences and roads and in the hollows (selecting low, moist ground), they placed the seed, breaking the hull with their heel, but not removing it, and then dropping it into a hole, which they covered level with the rest of the ground.

SCOUT PROVES HIMSELF A HERO.

Denton McBean, a twelve-year-old Spokane boy scout, is the hero of his troopmates.

Because of the quick action of the young scout, Raymond Rice, returned war hero and uncle of the boy, is alive now, instead of drowned in the waters of Twin lakes.

Hero of battles on the Frnech front, wearer of the distinguished service cross for unusual bravery, and a wound stripe, Rice became exhausted while swimming in the waters of the lake.

Superior Judge R. M. Webster, an eye-witness to the heroic rescue, told the story:

"Denton heard the cry from the beach that a man was drowning. Without removing his clothing he sprang from his cot and dashed to the end of the pier and plunged into the water. Rice had already gone down twice when the lad came up to him.

"There was no hesitancy on the part of Denton, who seized the drowning man by the clothing at the back of his neck and began to tow him toward the shore. Once Rice, in his delirium, seized a young woman near him and would have carried her under, but Denton quickly struck him on the wrist and ordered him to free the girl.

"It was the coolest and most thorough rescue of a drowning man I have ever witnessed."

SCOUT SAVES LIFE OF FRIEND.

An Ogden (Utah) boy has recently given a practical demonstration of boy scout first aid in saving the life of a companion, who had fallen from a horse, and cut himself severely on a bottle, severing an artery.

The scout immediately put into practice his scout knowledge of first aid, making a tourniquet to stop the serious blood flow until the injured lad could get medical aid.

Dr. E. Rich, who was summoned to the lad, declared that in all probability the scout saved the injured boy's life, and complimented him on the able manner in which he had rendered first aid.

SCOUT TROOP ALL RED-HEADED.

As to unusual scout organizations, there's one being formed in Kansas City by Carl Pickwell, who will admit only red-headed boys.

He has already recruited eight "reddies" and is sure that the remainder of the required 32 will be tenderfoots before the passing of another moon.

No, he hasn't specified any particular shade of red—auburn, chestnut, henna, bright red, dark red, red to scare a bull—any red so long as the dome that tops the applicant's anatomy is of a scarlet hue. Won't it be some troop?

WHAT SCOUTS LEARN IN WOODS.

Twenty-two Tacoma boy scouts, ranking in especial merit after a year's program, camped at Longmire Springs, Rainier National park, where they learned the dual arts of camp-keeping and forest conservation.

They were learning to be real Americans, those scouts, and becoming masters of the woods and forests.

Tramping from 10 to 20 miles each day, they became familiar with the trees and animals and the climate conditions of the Western woods.

WILSON DECLARES STRIKE UNLAWFUL

PRESIDENT AND CABINET ARE AGREED THAT STRIKE MUST NOT BE PERMITTED.

A MATTER FOR QUICK ACTION

Well Being, Comfort and Very Life of All the People Are Vitally Concerned in Impending Strike.

Washington.—Holding the impending coal strike to be not only unjustifiable, but also unlawful, President Wilson, in a statement issued with the support of his entire cabinet, called on the coal miners of the nation, both union officers and members, to rescind the strike order effective November 1.

The President declined to enter into the merits of the controversy but emphatically declared that the strike, which he characterized as the most far-reaching proposal in the nation's history, to restrict production and distribution of all necessaries of life, had apparently been ordered without a vote of the individual miners concerned. For this reason, the President served definite notice "that the law will be enforced and the means will be found to protect the interests of the nation in any emergency that may arise out of this unhappy business."

The President's statement follows:

"On September 23, 1919, the convention of the United Mine Workers of America at Cleveland, Ohio adopted a proposal declaring that all contracts in the bituminous field shall be declared as having automatically expired November 1, 1919, and making various demands, including a 60 per cent increase in wages and the adoption of a six-hour work day and a five-day week, and providing that, in the event a satisfactory wage agreement should not be secured for the central competitive field before November, 1919, the national officials should be authorized and instructed to call a general strike of all bituminous miners and mine workers throughout the United States, effective November 1, 1919.

"Pursuant to these instructions, the officers of the organization have issued a call to make the strike effective November 1. This is one of the gravest steps ever proposed in this country, affecting the economic welfare and the domestic comfort and health of the people. It is proposed to abrogate an agreement as to wages which was made with the sanction of the United States fuel administration, and which was to run during the continuance of the war, but not beyond April 1, 1920.

Would Affect All Interests.

"All interests would be affected alike by a strike of this character, and its victims would be not the rich only, but the poor and the needy as well—those least able to provide in advance a fuel supply for domestic use. It would involve the shutting down of countless industries, and the throwing out of employment of a large number of the workers of the country. It would involve stopping the operation of railroads, electric light and gas plants, street railway lines and other public utilities.

"From whatever angle the subject may be viewed, it is apparent that such a strike in such circumstances would be the most far-reaching plan ever presented in this country to limit the fascilities of production and distribution of a necessity of life, and thus indirectly to restrict the production and distribution of all the necessaries of life. A strike under these circumstances is not only unjustifiable. It is unlawful.

"The action proposed has apparently been taken without any vote upon the specific proposition by the individual members of the United Mine Workers of America throughout the United States, an almost unprecedented proceeding. I feel convinced that individual members of the United Mine Workers would not vote, upon full consideration, in favor of such a strike under these conditions.

"When a movement reaches a point where it appears to involve practically the entire productive capacity of the country with respect to one of the most vital necessities of daily domestic and industrial life, the public interest becomes the paramount consideration.

Time for Plain Talk.

"It is time for plain speaking. These matters with which we now deal touch not only the welfare of a class, but vitally concern the well being, the comfort and the very life of all the people. I feel it is my duty, in the public interest, to declare that any attempt to carry out the purpose of this strike, and thus to paralyze the industry of the country, with the consequent suffering and distress of all our people, must be considered a grave moral and legal wrong against the government and the people of the United States. I can do nothing less than to say the law will be enforced, and the means will be found to protect the interests of the nation in any emergency that may arise out of this unhappy business.

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON.