CALDER COAL BILL IS SENT TO THE SENATE

Greatly Modified, Bill Is Unanimously Recommended for Passage At Once

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Greatly modified in form, the Calder coal regulation bill was sent to the senate today by the committee on manufactures with an unanimous recommendation for passage at the present session.

All provisions in the bill for federal control and operation of the coal industry during emergencies and all tax proposals aimed at elimination of excess profits in coal dealings, were stricken out by the committee session, but requirements for full and current publicity on coal mining costs and profits, to be gathhered by the Federal Trade commission, were left intact.

The committee inserted a section requiring the trade commission, whenever in its general reports it found instances of extortionate or excessive profits taken by coal mining corporations, to make individual and corporate names available to the public, and to report them individually to congress. Further sections added would require the commission to compile data on contract sale of coal, while the geological survey is authorized to compile current reports on coal production, stocks and movements.

The report of the committee said the bill was "not offered as a complete legislative solution" of the problem of preventing "a recurrence of the deplorable conditions to which the consuming public has been subjected, more especially during the past year."

"The committee finds," the report added, "that no cause constituted either justification or legitimate excuse for the great advance in prices which occurred, which the evidence clearly shows was participated in by operators, wholesalers and retailers, and aggravated by the entrance of a horde of speculators. It is fair to say that not all operators, wholesalers, or retailers increased their prices unduly. Many operators, particularly of the largest class, had a large proportion of their output on contract price before the close of the fuel administration."

The report concluded with the assertion that congress has a manifest duty at this time to bring about publicity of costs and profits of industry and to declare that coal is a basic necessity, charged with a public interest and use.

CUBAN RAW SUGAR OFFERED AT 4 3-4 CENTS PLUS FREIGHT

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—R. B. Hawley, president of the Cuban-American company, and a member of the sugar finance commission appointed by President Menocle to normalize the sugar market in the United States, announced today that Cuba made its first offerings of raw sugar to the American trade.

The price offered was 4 3-4 cents per pound and freight to the United States and 4.60 cents a pound f. o. b. vessels in Cuban ports. These offerings, Mr. Hawley said, met with ready acceptance here and in Canada. He added that the prices named were subject to change at 24 hours' notice.

COMMISSION'S OFFER MADE

HAVANA, Feb. 24.—The sugar sales commission has offered for sale 100,000 tons of sugar at 3 3-4 cents cost and freight. The commission has not received an acceptance of its proposition.

The object of the sugar sales commission is not to fix a price for the sale of the present crop in bulk, but to sell sugar by lots at convenient prices in order to pro-rate losses or profits among the sellers.

It is understood in sugar circles that the sugar commission, upon receipts of an offer at an equiable price sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture of sugar aid provide for a reasonable profit, would consider the sale of the forthcoming crop in bulk.

FOREST FIRES IN STATE

The North Carolina insurance department sends out the following:

"What shall North Carolina do about the great loss by forest fires? This is a real live question and one on whose answer much depends. During the five-year period from 1909 to 1913 the average number of fires reported per year in North Carolina was 633. These fires burned each year about 415,000 acres, at an average loss of $650,000, and two lives.

"The cost each year to private individuals of fighting these fires was about $20,000. The losses and costs should be stopped, if possible, or at least greatly reduced. This can be done by the exercise of ordinary care, especially at this season of the year, when fires are so likely to get out and spread.

"The insurance commissioner appeals to all citizens not to start outside fires on windy days or leave them to be fanned into flames or spread by winds rising during the night. Fire is used too promiscuously and carlessly for burning of new lands being opened, as well as other lands covered with vegetation. Hunters, teamsters, and smokers must exercise more care with their fires and matches.

"All cases of careless as well as intentional starting of fires that damage lands and forests should be reported to the insurance commissioner, so that they may be investigated and, where the evidence justifies it, vigorous prosecutions instituted.

"The loss from these causes since 1913 has been even greater each year."

STRONG ANABAPTIST TREND

PARIS, Feb. 5.—(Correspondence Associated Press).—The Rumanian government, with the object of checking the strong anabaptist movement in Transylvania, has issued a decree forbidding a change of religion without permission of the ministry of the Interior, says a dispatch from Bucharest by the Hungarian news agency.

The anabaptists deny the efficacy of infant baptism and insist on baptism by immersion.

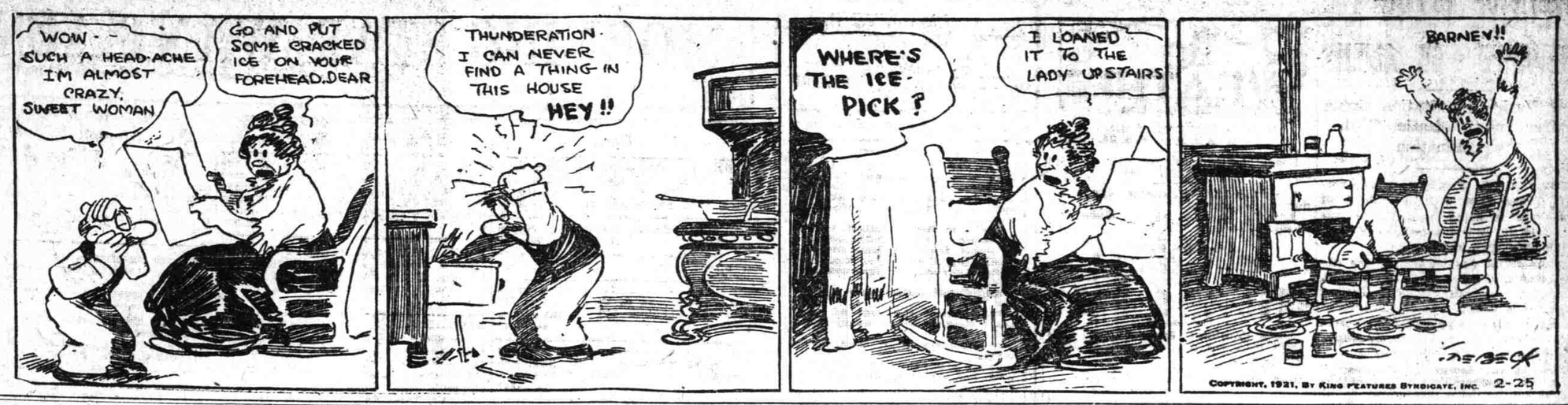
INDIAN STUDENTS STRIKE

CALCUTTA, Jan. 17.—(India Information Bureau).—Ten Calcutta colleges are now affected by the strike of students who are putting into practice the program of boycott of British institutions recently proclaimed by the All-India students' conference at Nagpur. It is estimated that 2,000 students are out. Meetings are being held at which students are urged by the speakers to spread the boycott to all educational institutions under British control.

Strikes of taxi-drivers and of drivers of private cars still continue.

When lumbermen or fire destroy forests, dwellings are costlier to build, making it harder to own a home in town or city, for as the forest falls lumber rises.

BARNEY GOOGLE—Cool action on Barney's part. —By BILLY DE BECK



Over Nine Million Automobiles in United States Registered in 1920

Of Total Number, 8,234,490 Were for Passenger Use and 945,826 for Commercial Use—North Carolina Registered 140,860 and South Carolina 82,818—This State Collected Enormous Sum of $1,785,000 From Cars.

(Special to The Star)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24. — Official figures compiled by the American Automobile association indicate that there were 9,180,316 passenger and commercial motor vehicles registered in the United States during 1920, of which approximately 8,234,490 were for passenger use and about 945,826 were commercially employed. During the same period 271,230 motorcycles were also registered. The total receipts from registrations amounted to $99,141,097.

In two states, namely California and New York, the figures given in cover only the first 11 months of the registration year ending February 28, 1921. The total registrations for the year will therefore exceed 9,300,000 cars and receipts will probably reach $100,000,000.

It thus appears that there is now one motor vehicle for about every 11 persons, and that receipts from registrations and licenses amount to more than one-fifth of the total annual expenditure for all roads and bridges in the United States. The gain in registrations over 1919 amounts to 2,114,870, which is the greatest increase ever recorded in a single year. This expansion is considered remarkable in view of the adverse business conditions during the latter part of the year.

Receipts from registrations and licenses showed a gain of $34,443,842, or 53 per cent over 1919, the greatest increase ever recorded in a single year. The registrations include in a few cases, notably in Maryland and the District of Columbia, duplicate registrations, but these do not materially affect the grand total.

The race for supremacy between New York and Ohio in the number of motor vehicles is again in New York's favor. The mid-year registrations last summer showed Ohio leading, but during 11 months of the registration year New York scored 683,919 motor vehicles and Ohio ran second with 620,600 for the entire year. Pennsylvania occupies third place with 570,164 cars; Illinois, fourth, 568,914; California, fifth, 568,892; Iowa sixth, 437,030; Texas, seventh, 427,693; Michigan, eighth, 412,717.

As California figures are for 11 months, the chances are that the total for the year will equal or exceed that for Illinois, and possibly of Pennsylvania.

In receipts from registrations, New York leads with $8,817,709. Pennsylvania comes second with $8,090,873; Iowa, third, $7,487,830; Ohio, fourth, $6,400,000; Illinois, fifth, $5,780,612; California, sixth, $5,554,265; Michigan, seventh, $5,494,486.

North Carolina reports 140,860, of which 127,405 are passenger cars and 13,455 are commercial cars. There are 1,418 motorcycles registered. The total receipts from license is $1,785,000.

South Carolina registered approximately 85,618 cars for passenger use and 9,200 for commercial use, total of 82,818. There are 908 motorcycles and total receipts from motor vehicles are $527,868.

FIVE NEGRO PRISONERS BREAK DECREPIT JAIL

Cumberland County's Prison Not Very Tight

(Special to The Star)

FAYETTEVILLE, Feb. 24.—Five negro prisoners, Norman Thompson, John Williams, Louis Dunn and Dave McIver, awaiting trial on a charge of burglary, and Albert Ray, recently bound over from the recorder's court for automobile theft, escaped from Cumberland county's decrepit jail early Wednesday morning after sawing through the top of a cage on the third floor and digging a hole in the back wall. Ray was recaptured shortly after the delivery, but the other negroes are still at large.

Ray's capture was effected in a peculiar manner. When the jailer learned about 5:30 o'clock that the prisoners had flown, he telephoned immediately to Sheriff N. H. McGeachy and Deputy Sheriff Al J. Pate. A few minutes later the sheriff was speeding in his car towards Pate's home on the western outskirts of the city to pick up the deputy and start the man-hunt. As Pate emerged from his house he saw the negro Ray coming up the road. He called to the fugitive, and on Ray's failure to halt, fired on him, when the negro turned and ran down the road into the arms of the sheriff.

The prisoners reached the ground after cutting their way through the wall of the jail, by dropping to the roof of a passageway that leads from the main building to the kitchen.

The ease with which the five men, awaiting trial on serious offenses, made their escape from the county prison, is another illustration of the necessity for a new jail, which has been demonstrated times without number in the past and has become such a crying need that the immediate erection of a new jail and courthouse within one building has been determined on, it is said, by a committee appointed by the county commissioners and the bar association. The committee, however, has not yet made its report.

Thompson, Dunn, Williams and McIver, all young negroes, were arrested in connection with the robbery of William Breece's grocery store on Ramsey street some time ago. Ray is charged with stealing an automobile belonging to John Robinson, colored, which he abandoned near Wade when his gasoline gave out.

TAKE STEPS TO FORM TIME MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION

(Special to The Star)

ROCKY MOUNT, Feb. 24.—Representatives of 47 supply firms and time merchants from Nash and Edgecombe and several adjoining counties, met at the chamber of commerce rooms here last night and took definite steps towards organizing a state association of time merchants. While permanent officers and an executive committee were chosen last night, definite organization will be completed at another meeting to be held here next Tuesday night following a session of the executive committee that afternoon.

Last night's meeting had been called as the outcome of a preliminary session of Nash county merchants some time ago when the scheme of a state organization was broached and the machinery put in motion to perfect such a plan. The meeting was opened with an outline of the proposed plan, its absolute necessity to aid the merchants to solving their present problems, and the benefits to be derived from co-operation and uniform action. These matters were discussed by Secretary Norman Y. Chambliss, of the local chamber of commerce; M. C. Braswell, W. R. Griffin, Mr. Carter, B. J. Alford and H. C. Joyner.

BRITISH ARE PLANNING TO CLIMB UP MOUNT EVEREST

LONDON, Feb. 4.—(Correspondence Associated Press).—The Royal Geographical society is pushing forward its plans for the conquest of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, the summit of which no white man has ever reached. The main attempt will be made next year.

Sir Francis Younghusband, the president of the society, has announced that Col. Howard Bury, who had traveled much in Asia, had been chosen to lead this year's expedition, with Harold Raeburn in charge of the actual reconnaissance of the mountain. This will be in preparation for the real attempt next year to reach the summit.

Sir Francis said that the society had the utmost confidence that Colonel Bury would conduct the expedition in such a way as to preserve the present good-will of the Tibetans, friendly relations with whom was regarded as of the utmost importance.

Mr. Raeburn is the most experienced mountaineer in the Alpine club now available and has just returned from a reconnaissance of Kankehanjunga, a mountain in the Himalayas with an altitude of 28,146 feet, nd it is hoped that he will be able to leave England about the middle of March.

The society is also hoping to secure the services next year of Brigadier-General Bruce, the originator of the idea of ascending the mountain.

VAST NATURAL WATERPOWER RESOURCES TO BE UTILIZED

SANTIAGO, Chile, Jan. 21.—(Correspondence Associated Press).—Vast natural waterpower resources in the central provinces of Chile are to be put to use to generate electricity for Santiago, Valparaiso and neighboring cities and towns. A company, capitalized at $3,250,000, has been formed for the purpose and work already has been started on a hydro-electric plant on the Colorado river, near Santiago, where it is expected 18,000 horsepower can be developed. The project is backed largely by Chilean capital.

Basis for the promotion of the company was the need of more power by both the Valparaiso and Santiago street railways and by mining and industrial enterprises. Until recently no waterpower concessions in Chile were granted by the president of the republic for more than 35 years, but the latest concessions are said to be perpetual.

BRITISH CENSUS WORK STARTS IN APRIL, COSTING MILLIONS

LONDON, Feb. 4.—(Correspondence Associated Press).—Details of the decennial census of the British Isles were announced here recently by S. P. Vivian, the new registrar-general, showing that the enumeration of the people, which is to begin April, will cost approximately from 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 pounds and require a staff of 400 workers in the London headquarters alone to deal with the schedules. There will be 38,000 enumeration districts with a separate enumerator for every two or three hundred households.

"The war has cut clean across every branch of our national life," said Registrar-General Vivian. "It has broken up and redistributed all local populations. It has violently upset all birth, marriage, and death rates. It has altered the whole occupational and industrial configuration of the country and completely changed many of the customs, habits and conditions of the people. There is hardly a single question upon which we can look back to the results of the last census for guidance."

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