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FACTS BROUGHT OUT IN SOFT COAL INVESTIGATION

THE PUBLIC MAY PREPARE TO PAY MORE FOR THEIR COAL IN NEAR FUTURE.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The senate coal investigating committee, resuming to-day its inquiry into the administration strike settlement agreement, was told by Tracy W. Guthrie, president of the Hillman Coal and Coke Company, that one clause in the proposition advanced by President Wilson and accepted by the miners would "bring about an increase in the miners' wages at least doubling the 14 per cent which Dr. Harry A. Garfield, resigned fuel administrator, thought justified."

When the senate committee was pursuing its inquiry, the railroad administration withdrew the last semblance of the restrictions on fuel resulting from the strike and began delivering coal to original consignees instead of distributing it to points of greatest need. It rescinded the embargo on the movement of fuel out of the west, and the orders reducing the amount of coal permitted to go to coking ovens.

Delay Naming Commission.
At the White House to-day, it was said that President Wilson would not appoint the commission provided in the strike settlement proposal, until Attorney General Palmer returns from the west late this week.

The senatorial inquiry was reopened with the calling of R. V. Norris, engineer for the fuel administration, who was conducted by Senator Frelinghuysen, Republican, of New Jersey, chairman of the committee, and Senator Townsend, Republican, of Michigan, through a maze of statistics bearing on labor cost and prices of necessities.

"Secretary of Labor Wilson proposed that the miners be given an increase of 31.67 per cent," Mr. Norris explained, "because he based his calculations on the pay given pick miners. In 1917, when the coal mine wages were readjusted, the pick miners were getting the greatest amount, and the scales were balanced up by giving them a lesser increase than other classes of labor around the mines. This was necessary in order to induce men to do the other work."

"Dr. Garfield decided that a particular wage group ought not to serve now as a basis for calculation, and took his average wage of all workers. After arriving at that, he found that an addition of 14 per cent to their earnings would compensate them for the cost of living since the last adjustments were made."

Chairman Frelinghuysen asked if the witness approved of the creation of a commission composed of one miner, one mine operator and one representative of the public, with power to fix wages and prices.

Depend on Individuals.
"That would depend on the make-up of the individual," Norris returned, but I think at least a larger number ought to be named. It gives two interests a chance to combine against the third."

"About 20 per cent of miners are idle all the time, according to our experience with 23 mines," he told the committee. "That is, we have to have 120 names on the pay roll in order to get 100 men on the job as a constant factor. Miners like to celebrate all American holidays, and a lot of foreign ones. Then they have 'Mitchell day,' on April 1, in honor of the late John Mitchell. They have 'Rabbit day,' on November 10, when everybody adjourns to shoot a rabbit."

From mine accounts, he read the record of one miner who in 187 days of the present year earned \$3,070, or an average of \$15.50 per day. He paid \$72 rent for a "company house" during the period, and his fuel bill was \$5. Other records furnished showed earnings during the first nine months of 1919 ranging from \$1,400 to \$2,100 for pick and machine miners.

Senator Walcott, Democrat, of Delaware, drew out Mr. Guthrie's view of the claim double increase in miners' wages involved in the settlement by observing that Dr. Garfield's proposal was the same as that put forth by the President.

"As I read the memorandum given

out by Attorney General Palmer," Mr. Guthrie replied, "it is proposed to set up a commission with power to fix wage scales and coal prices. One of the things this commission is to do is to go back to the mine districts and settle what are known as internal differences, and disputes over differentials."

May Double 14 Per Cent.
"All previous agreements between the miners and operators have provided that these difficulties shall be compromised in a fashion that will not add to the cost of mining or lower the earnings of men. The government's proposal, as I view it, may result in twice the 14 per cent in miners' wages and mining costs that Dr. Garfield was willing to allow."

Senator Walcott, Democrat, of Delaware, inquired as to whether an actual settlement of the coal strike had yet been attained.

"You, as an operator, don't think you are bound by an agreement made at Indianapolis?" the senator asked.

"No, I don't," Guthrie replied. "That's right," Senator Walcott said. "There has been acceptance of the agreement there. Nor is there any power in the government to set up a commission which will fix wages and prices of coal. It can be merely advisory."

BAD FIRE SUNDAY AT BARIUM SPRINGS.

Statesville, Dec. 16.—About 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon, fire was discovered in the industrial building at Barium Springs orphanage. In some unknown way, the fire started in the attic of the building while the orphanage congregation was attending church and it made considerable headway before the alarm could be given. The Statesville fire department responded promptly to the call and able assistance was rendered by the people of Troutman and surrounding country. In spite of the heroic work of the firemen, the building was a complete loss from the top as far down as the second floor. The printing office was on the second floor and was greatly damaged, the extent of which cannot be accurately estimated at this time. The laundry, workshop and pumping station on the first floor of the same building was saved without loss. The estimate of the damage to the building and equipment is placed at approximately \$3,500, with \$2,500 insurance.

Lula is a Lula of a Cow.

New York, Dec. 15.—All records for the production of butter are believed to have been broken by the registered yearling Lula Alpea of Ashburn, which produced 13,669 pounds of milk from which 1,000 pounds of butter was made in the year ending November 1, according to an announcement made yesterday by the American Jersey Cattle Club. The butter produced from the cow's milk is 100 pounds in excess of her weight and is said to be five times as much as the average production from dairy cows. The milk tested 5.85 per cent butter fat, or more than 50 per cent above the amount required by law.

Lynch Two Negroes.

Huntington, W. Va., Dec. 15.—Two negroes, accused of murdering J. E. D. Meek, a resident of Island Creek, Logan county, were taken from a train at Chapmanville to-day and lynched, according to reports reaching here 'onight. The bodies were then thrown into Guandotte river, the reports say.

The river is in the Guyan coal field region, and Chapmanville is nearby. The negroes, E. D. Whitfield and Earl Whitney, were charged with killing Meek, a construction foreman for the Island Creek Colliery Company, during a quarrel at Monitor Logan county, Sunday night according to reports.

Kidnapped American Released.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The state department was notified officially to-day that Frederick Hugo, the American seized by bandits in the recent raid on Muzquiz, Mexico, has been released and had returned to Muzquiz. Conditions upon which he was set free were not stated in the message, but the department's announcement said it was supposed no ransom had been paid.

SWEEPS AWAY ALL HOPE OF A "WET" CHRISTMAS

THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT HOLDS WAR TIME PRO- HIBITION CONSTITUTIONAL.

Washington, Dec. 15.—By unanimous decision, constitutionality of the war-time prohibition act was sustained to-day by the Supreme court. The opinion, given by Associate Justice Brandeis, held in effect, however, that the war-invoked "dry" period still may be terminated by presidential proclamation of demobilization.

In rendering its opinion, the court, however, did not act on the validity of the Volstead prohibition enforcement act or on appeals involving the alcoholic content of beer, leaving those cases to future opinions which may be handed down next Monday before the court recesses for the Christmas holidays.

To-day's decision practically swept away all hopes of a "wet" Christmas as the possibilities of the war-time act being repealed before constitutional prohibition becomes effective one month from tomorrow were considered remote.

The cases decided were those of the Kentucky Distilleries and Warehouse Company, of Louisville, Ky., and Drytoos, Blum & Co., of New York, instituted for the purpose of compelling the government to release whiskey from bond. In both cases, the court denied contentions of Elihu Root and other attorneys for the distillers that the act, in violation of the constitution, takes private property without just compensation, that the period of the war emergency for which the act was passed had terminated, that the law was an interference with the state police powers and an undue exercise of the war powers of Congress.

Congress did not intend for the war-time act to terminate on the conclusion of the war but at the end of the period of demobilization in the view of the court, which held that the "conclusion of the war clearly did not mean cessation of hostilities."

"Congress, therefore, provided," the opinion added, "that the time when the act ceased to be operative should be fixed by the President's ascertaining and proclaiming the date when demobilization had terminated."

Had the President on October 28 last, when he vetoed the Volstead act, believed that demobilization had terminated, the court said "he would doubtless have issued then a proclamation to that effect, for he had manifested a strong conviction that restriction upon the sale of liquor should end."

The war-time act, the court also held, is not confiscatory, asserting that more than nine months were given distillers to dispose of their stocks, which time the court believed to be adequate. The act also was not repealed, the court held, by the prohibition constitutional amendment, which, it asserted, is binding not only in peace but also in war times.

Whiskey Owners Jolted in Kentucky.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 15.—Kentucky distillers and more than 300 Louisville former saloon keepers were jolted by to-day's decision of the Supreme court holding war-time prohibition constitutional. The distillers, it was estimated, had 39,000,000 gallons of whiskey in Kentucky bonded warehouses, 9,500,000 gallons of it in Louisville alone, ordinarily worth at wholesale \$400,000,000.

Below Zero in Boston.

Boston, Dec. 17.—The coldest weather of the winter was reported throughout New England tonight. In Boston the mercury fell at midnight to two below zero and thermometers in the suburbs registered 10 below. At Augusta, Me., 18 below was reported. Portland experienced a temperature of six below and Manchester, N. H., 10 below.

RE-OPENING OF TREATY INDICATED IN SENATE

THE SUBJECT BOBS UP IN THE SENATE DURING DEBATE ON RAILROADS.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Expressions that seemed to point toward a reopening of the peace treaty fight within a few weeks were voiced on the senate floor today when the subject bobbed up in the midst of the consideration of the railroad bill.

The symposium of views that went into the record during the brief debate included opinions from virtually all factions of the divided senate membership, but they all struck a note of conciliation. Differing widely in their suggestions for a solution, they stood together on the general proposition that politics ought to be forgotten and that the senate, acting independent of executive opinion, ought to do something promptly to end suspense and establish a state of peace.

The discussion reflected the trend of negotiations which have been in progress privately among senators for an agreement that would get the question finally out of the way. There was increased activity in that direction during the day and some of the leaders predicted some formal action early in the new year.

DEMOCRATS WIN OUT IN THE NINTH DISTRICT.

Charlotte, Dec. 16.—Incomplete returns received here tonight indicate that Clyde R. Hoey, of Shelby, Democratic nominee for Congress in the ninth district, has been elected by a majority of at least 1,500. Over long distance telephone tonight, Mr. Hoey expressed the belief that his majority would be at least 2,000, probably reaching 2,500.

Charlotte, Dec. 17.—Revised reports received from several mountain counties of the ninth congressional election tonight reduce to less than 1,500 the majority of Clyde R. Hoey, elected yesterday over John M. Morehead to succeed E. Yates Webb in Congress. Burke county, which was reported last night as having given Hoey a majority of 78 votes, gave Morehead a majority ranging from 100 to 125, according to a long distance telephone message tonight from Robert Claywell, chairman of the board of elections, who said, however, that complete returns would not be received before tomorrow.

On the face of complete official returns from a majority of the counties and incomplete returns from the others, Hoey's majority ranged from 1,071 to 1,477.

Good Chance For a Farmer.

New York, Dec. 15.—A thousand acres of the richest farming land in the historic Euphrates valley in Turkish Armenia has been offered to "any American farmer who will cultivate it by modern American methods," and teach his neighbors how to do likewise on their adjoining properties, it was announced by the Near East relief here tonight. Farmers in the valley have pooled parcels of their land in one big tract, which they have agreed to turn over to the new comer on the single provision that he instruct them by practical example, it was added.

Hurricane in Texas.

Laredo, Texas, Dec. 17.—Two persons were killed and great property damage was done at Tampico by a hurricane Sunday morning, according to Excelsior, of Mexico City. Some parts of the town were practically destroyed, it was said.

Intermarriage Forbidden.

Mexico City, Dec. 17.—Intermarriage between Mexican women and Chinese is forbidden in the state of Sonora in a recent decree issued by Governor Adolfo de la Huerta who wishes to discourage a present practice.

Some Hog, This.

Rutherfordton, Dec. 16.—Leander Harrison, of near Bostic, sold a hog at the meat market in Forest City, for \$134.62. It weighed 621 pounds and brought 21 cents per pound cleaned.

DURHAM FARMERS WILL HANDLE OWN TOBACCO.

Durham, Dec. 15.—The Durham County Farmers' Union is preparing to launch out in the tobacco warehouse business on the Durham market. It is given out that they have purchased the large Banner warehouse, on Watkins street, from the Durham Development Company, and will operate the same the coming tobacco season.

It is stated that a corporation inside of the union will be formed, and capitalized at \$80,000. Shares have been placed on the market at \$50 per share, and that already 600 shares have been taken, only members of the union being allowed to hold shares.

The board of directors, already selected to manage the affair, is composed of A. M. Carpenter, W. H. Wilkins, J. V. Markham, L. H. Terry, W. L. Saunders and W. M. May.

During the season of 1917-1918 the county union made \$2,587.96 as their part of the profits derived from a local warehouse under contract with it. At the beginning of the present tobacco season the union was unable to rent a suitable house on account of the increased rates offered them. They, however, did rent a small house and conduct the business, but the building was too small for their operations, hence their negotiations and purchase of the Banner warehouse. Just what their profits for the present season will be is not yet determined.

GOVERNMENT TO BRING BODIES FROM FRANCE.

Washington, Dec. 16.—In announcing to-day that the government alone must handle the problem of bringing back the bodies of the American soldier dead from France, the war department gives a general answer to thousands of requests that have come to it and members of Congress from bereaved relatives.

Since the armistice was signed all members of the North Carolina delegation, for instance, have received letters from the state asking first for information as to plans for bringing home the soldier dead and then requesting that pressure be brought to expedite the return. Requests also have come from parents in all sections to the country that they be permitted to go to France, disinter the body of a son and bring it home at the expense of the family involved.

To-day the war department announced that "individual requests of this character will uniformly be refused." The government alone, the statement says, is in position to bring the bodies home and no matter how wealthy a grief-stricken parent may be the war department will pay the expenses and the official program must work itself out.

The department says the granting of individual permits for such removal would interfere with orderly arrangements and also with negotiations under way with the French government. The consent of the French government is required before there is a general removal of American bodies from French soil.

Another reason given for government control of the entire tragic undertaking is that there should be no unfair discrimination against those relatives who are of limited financial means.

Three Plantations Bring \$1,650,000.

New Orleans, Dec. 16.—Plantations in three states were sold here to-day to Earl Brewer, former governor of Mississippi and two others by the owners, Richardson and Mayland Planting Company, this city, for \$1,650,000. The transaction included 15,000 acres of cotton growing land.

Women to Fight H. C. L.

Washington, Dec. 16.—An army of 4,000,000 women, representing ten national organizations, has been organized by the saving division of the treasury department to enter the fight against the high cost of living.

Columbus would have never discovered America if the strikers aboard his ships had been better organized.—The National Tribune, Washington, D. C.

FATE OF TREATY NOW DEPENDS ON REPUBLICANS

PRESIDENT DECLARES HE HAS "NO COMPROMISE OR CON- CESSIONS IN MIND."

Washington, Dec. 15.—President Wilson to-day intervened in the peace treaty dilemma with an announcement that he had "no compromise or concessions of any kind in mind," would make no move toward the treaty's disposition and would continue to hold the Republican members of the senate responsible for results and conditions attending delay.

The President's position regarded as peculiarly significant in view of the recent discussion in the senate of a compromise, was set forth in the following statement issued to-day from the White House:

"It was learned from the highest authority at the executive offices to-day that the hope of the Republican leaders of the senate that the President would presently make some move which will relieve the situation with regard to the treaty is entirely without foundation; he has no compromise or concession of any kind in mind, but intends so far as he is concerned that the Republican leaders of the senate shall continue to bear the undivided responsibility for the fate of the treaty and the present condition of the world in consequence of that fate."

The White House statement apparently had no effect in changing the treaty situation. Democratic leaders, endorsing the President's view, declared that it did not preclude a senate compromise and that compromise efforts would proceed. Republican leaders reiterated that the President was responsible for the present status and must make the first move toward a solution. Senators hoping to kill the treaty alone expressed satisfaction.

On one point only, apparently, were all senate factions in harmony—namely that decisive action on the treaty probably would be deferred until next month, after the proposed holiday recess of Congress, planned to end January 5. Senate debate, probably centered about the White House statement is expected to be reopened tomorrow with fresh vigor. The Democratic compromise campaign also is to be pressed, according to Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, administration leader, but unless some unexpected development this week ensues, the leaders believe the final cannot be reached until next month.

Senator Hitchcock, commenting tonight on the White House statement, declared that the Democrats would continue efforts for compromising the reservations, and that the senate and not the President must act first.

"The President says the whole matter is in the hands of the senate and I agree with him," said Mr. Hitchcock. "The President says he has no compromise or concession to make. This is for the senate. We are ready to negotiate at anytime, and will continue to seek a compromise between the Lodge reservations and those I offered last November."

Senator Hitchcock declared positively that the Democrats never would consent to ratification with the league of nations and would not accept the plan offered yesterday by Senator Knox, Republican, of Pennsylvania, to ratify the peace terms and leave the league question for decision by the voters.

Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, and other prominent Republicans reserved public comment on the White House statement but the Republican viewpoint, indicated beyond doubt, was that the President must continue to be held responsible for the deadlock and until he acts the treaty must remain at a standstill probably until January at least.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, Republican member of the foreign relations committee and prominent among the treaty's implacable foes, in a statement tonight charged that large financial interests were engaged in propaganda favoring a senate compromise and also propose to keep the treaty and the league from being passed on by the people during the ensuing Presidential campaign.