

Thousands of Accidents Kill and Injure Child Toilers In Three States

Washington, D. C., Sept. 18.—Seven thousand four hundred and seventy-eight industrial accidents to young workers under 21 years of age occurred in one year in three States, according to a study just completed by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor.

Thirty-eight of these accidents resulted in death and 920 in partial disablement for life.

Wisconsin, Massachusetts and New Jersey were the states included in the study. The cases of industrial accidents to minors were only those in which compensation had been paid; that is, in Wisconsin, accidents causing disability of more than seven days' duration; in Massachusetts and New Jersey, accidents causing disability of more than ten days' duration.

The smallest number of accidents and the lowest accident rate occurred in the case of children under 16. Each of the states studied had attempted to protect children of this age by prohibiting

them from employment in certain occupations, chiefly in the operation of the more dangerous machinery, which is the source of greatest industrial hazard to the young worker.

Children of 16 and 17 were prohibited from some employments in Massachusetts and Wisconsin but in all three states were permitted to operate many of the dangerous machines.

Accident figures reflected this difference in legal protection. Power-working machinery caused a larger percentage of the accidents to the 16 and 17 year olds than to children under 16—protected by law—or to young workers between 18 and 21—better able to protect themselves.

Accidents were also more serious to the 16 and 17 year group than to either the younger or older workers. Of the injuries to workers under 16, 10.7 per cent resulted in death or partial disablement for life. For those 16 and 17 years old who were injured the rate was 13.4 per cent

killed or permanently disabled; for the group 18-21 years the rate was 12.7 per cent.

BROTHERHOOD AND MINERS FIGHT OVER UNION

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and the men have been involved in a strike in the same manner as exists at the properties of other coal companies in West Virginia.

There has never been a day since the first of April when your mines could not have started immediately if you had but attached your signature to an agreement based upon the Jacksonville policy. You are evidently familiar with this policy inasmuch as you refer to it in your communication. In order to be perfectly clear about the matter I will say that the Jacksonville policy means an agreement for three years with no reduction in wages.

You refer to the cost of production at your West Virginia properties. Your company occupies no different position in this matter than any other of the thousands of coal companies which have agreements with our organization. The United Mine Workers can not be responsible for problems of management in which they

have no voice. The question of efficient management and low cost production to enable you to remain in the market with competing coal companies is one that must be dealt with by your corporation. It is a problem that forever confronts one who elects to become a coal operator.

I have paid particular attention to the statement contained in one of the concluding paragraphs of your letter to the effect that you knew of no one doing as much as I to support the Coal Operators Association in their fight against our union in that field. I scarcely expected to see such a stereotyped statement from the pen of a trade unionist. I hear it every day from the coal operators in various parts of the country, and I will be fair enough to presume that you were speaking as a coal operator and not as a trade unionist. It must be interesting to have such a dual personality! You doubtless mean that the employes of the Coal River Collieries must accept a reduction in wages. In this respect you are, therefore, supporting the claims which have been made by the West Virginia representatives of your corporation ever since April 1st. I regret that your position is such that I must disagree with you, and yet it is true that I have disagreed with many people in this country and that precise subject.

An international convention of the United Mine Workers of America, with more than 2,000 delegates participating, has defined the wage policies of our organization, and I can not deviate therefrom at the pleasure of the Coal River Collieries any more than at the request of other coal companies which have made similar demands.

Stripped of all subsidiary issues, the question that remains is whether the Coal River Collieries will make an agreement with the United Mine Workers of America on the basis of the Jacksonville settlement. There need be no equivocation of any character. For nearly five months you have closed the four mines of this company and maintained them in idleness rather than make such an agreement. For nearly five months the United Mine Workers of America has been obliged to provide food and other assistance for your striking employes. Will you settle or will you continue to fight?

If you elect to terminate this strike I shall be glad indeed to meet you at once to arrange the details. If you elect to continue the fight, it is obvious that such a meeting would accomplish nothing. I shall await your reply.

Yours fraternally,
JOHN L. LEWIS
President.

Stone Stops.
Warren S. Stone, Chairman,
Board of Directors,
Coal River Collieries,
Cleveland, Ohio.
I have no reply to my letter of August twenty-seventh. In that communication I asked whether Coal River Collieries would make agreement with United Mine Workers of America on basis of Jacksonville settlement. For five

months your corporation has joined with other coal operators in West Virginia in attempt to starve your employes into acceptance of a wage reduction. Please advise me at once whether it is your intention to terminate this fight.

JOHN L. LEWIS

La Follette Leads In Newspaper Poll

Hearst's string of daily newspapers are taking a secret poll of presidential preferences in the fifteen cities where published. Ballots are cast by mail, in office buildings, railway stations, in factories and in theaters. The result at close of the tenth day shows La Follette leading Coolidge by 1,327 votes, and with more than double the vote cast for Davis. Cities and totals are as follows:

	La Fol-	Cool-	Davis
	ette	idge	
New York	2,814	3,627	1,832
Baltimore	835	979	834
Chicago	6,681	8,199	4,137
Rochester	928	1,761	511
Milwaukee	1,940	539	137
Seattle	2,008	1,819	252
Boston	252	310	132
Washington	472	203	148
S. Francisco	4,108	3,433	690
Los Angeles	7,274	5,202	1,314
Fort Worth	96	101	310
Syracuse	250	234	94
Albany	69	153	86
Atlanta	433	263	1,312
San Antonio	478	486	907
Totals	28,636	27,309	12,696

SEES FISH FAMINE.

Atlantic City, Sept. 18.—Addressing the United States Fisheries Association here, Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, urged action against "blind and reckless" destruction of fish and shellfish in inland waters. He pointed out that salmon on the Atlantic coast have disappeared as a food supply and they have diminished one-half on the Pacific coast. In 40 years, he said, the sturgeon fisheries of the great lakes have decreased 98 per cent. The shad yield has decreased 70 per cent. In 20 years the Chesapeake oyster fisheries output has decreased 50 per cent.

Mr. Hoover pointed out that the waters of the ocean and inland waters are not an inexhaustible supply for the present and for all future time.

"Nothing is inexhaustible when matched against the mechanical genius of man," he said.

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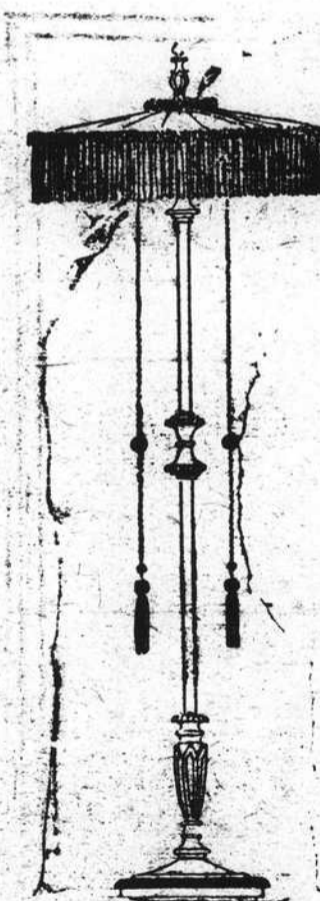
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