URGES CURBING DEVELOPMENT

Russell Sage Foundation in a Report Declares Mines in Coal Fields Are too Highly Developed.

(By Associated Press)

NEW YORK, Apr. 20.—The Russell Sage Foundation, in a lengthy report on "The Coal Miners' Insecurity," made public today, holds that no satisfactory agreement of a permanent nature on wage rates can be reached between miners and operators in the bituminous coal industry until steps have been taken to curb what the report describes as "the over-development of many more mines than are required to supply the country's needs." This over-development, the report declares, has resulted in giving an average of only 214 days of employment annually to the 600,000 men employed in the industry, thus nullifying the advantages of wage increases.

In giving out the report, the Foundation states that it investigated the coal situation in connection with its study of human relations in industry, and that it has analyzed data on irregularity of production and employment in bituminous mining extending over a period of 32 years. These data, the report adds, include the most recent statistics on annual earnings and kindred subjects compiled by the United States Geological Survey, the National Coal Association, the United Mine Workers, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, and various state bureaus of mines.

A summary of the report as prepared by the Russell Sage Foundation says: "The bituminous coal mines have been open for work on an average of only 214 days a year in the 32 years from 1890 through 1921. If 304 days be regarded as a full working year, the lost days of employment and of mine operation have averaged 99 in a year. Only twice, and this during the war, did the miner reach the high mark when he had as few as 61 idle days in a year. In 11 of these 32 years the loss of working time, and consequently of wages, has averaged 100 days or more for the bituminous miner.

"Of these lost days, 37 per cent, according to the estimates of the United States Geological Survey, have been due to the over-development of soft coal mines. Mines now in operation could produce from 700,000,000 to 900,000,000 tons a year, according to various estimates of the President's Bituminous Coal Commission and statisticians of the Geological Survey, while the country can use approximately 500,000,000 tons.

"This average of capacity over production brings more men into the industry than are needed and makes employment intermittent and uncertain even when business in general is most prosperous. As the demand for soft coal has increased from a little over 100,000,000 tons to over 500,000,000 tons annually in the past three decades, the number of mines and the number of employes have increased, but the days of employment in a year have shown no appreciable increase, except temporarily during the period of the war. Increased demand and higher prices have resulted in opening new mines, enlarging others, and employing more miners, rather than in giving more regular employment to men in the mines already open.

"Seasonal variations in demand, according to the Geological Survey, account for 47 per cent of the lost days in bituminous mining. In the period from 1913 to 1922, the production of coal in the month of greatest output exceeded production in the month of least output by 11,000,000 to 16,000,000 tons or more and was never less than 6,000,000 tons. Seasonal fluctuations result in keeping more men and more capital in the industry to be equipped for the annual peak of demand than would be needed if work were more evenly distributed throughout the year. This excess of numbers employed tends in turn to make employment irregular and uncertain. Nevertheless, even the elimination of seasonal variations would not make employment regular so long as so many mines are operated.

"To offset periods of idleness and lack of earnings, the bituminous miners are forced to seek higher rates of pay. But these higher rates do not give the miner a living wage throughout the year when he has the opportunity to earn wages on few days in the year. In 1922, the United Mine Workers reported to the Bituminous Coal Commission that in the year of greatest regularity of employment, 1918, the average annual earnings of their members in the Central Competitive Field varied from $2,364 in Ohio to a maximum of $3,063 in western Pennsylvania. Had they been able to work 304 days a year their earnings with these rates might have reached a maximum of $3,800. Data derived from the United State Census indicate that in 1919 the average annual earnings of miners in the same area varied from $1,062 in Indiana to a maximum of $1,518 in Pennsylvania. The general average increase of 27 per cent granted by the Bituminous Coal Commission in 1919, would have increased these earnings but employment been no more irregular than in the past. Even in the comparatively prosperous year of 1920, however, the days of operation at the mines were 9 per cent less than in 1918, while in 1921 the opportunity for employment decreased 23 per cent as compared with 1920, and 32 per cent as compared with 1918. Thus, irregular employment has nullified the advantage of increased rates of pay.

"Estimates of the cost of living prepared by Professor W. F. Ogburn, of Columbia University, to be presented by the United Mine Workers to the Bituminous Coal Commission, showed that in January, 1920, $1,693 was required for a budget to provide a 'minimum of subsistence' for a family of five. To provide a 'minimum of comfort' for families living in mining communities required, according to Professor Ogburn's estimate, an annual income of $2,244. Prices have decreased somewhat since these estimates, but even in the prosperous year of 1918 the miners' average annual earnings were not equal to the estimate 'minimum of subsistence,' except for a comparatively small group of machine miners employed every day that the mines were open.

"Facts about miners' earnings and the suffering which unemployment causes is their families can be understood only if conditions of life in a mining camp are known. In many mining communities the mine is the only place of employment. To find another job in dull periods means moving to another town. Moreover, a miner's family lacks the economic safeguards of life in a community with several varied industries in which other members of the family including wives and daughters, find work. For many coal miners this resource is lacking. The coal industry necessarily becomes responsible for insuring sufficient income to the men in the mines to maintain their families throughout the year.

"Over-development of the industry and lack of opportunity for the miners to earn wages regularly in the bituminous coal industry render precarious and difficult the lives of more than half a million miners and their wives and children. The adjustment of wage rates every two years is sure to produce conflict and bitterness until the equally important question of stability for the industry receives effective attention for operators and public. Greater security in employment must be made the foundation for better human relations in this industry.

"The miners in the soft coal industry might well ask for a guaranteed minimum of employment as the basic need, taking precedence over wage adjustments this year. The necessity for regarding a reasonable minimum of employment as a fixed charge upon the industry would probably make operators more reluctant to open new mines or to enlarge unduly those already open. To make employment regular is important not only for the standard of living of the miners' families but for the economic conduct of the industry. Capital, as well as men, is wastefully used when money and energy are invested on a scale to produce much more coal than is required. The public, the operator and investor and the coal miner, have a common interest in making bituminous mining efficient and economical."

CHALLENGE ON ELECTION MADE

(By Associated Press)

DUBLIN, Apr. 20.—Eamon De Valera will challenge the validity of the forthcoming Irish elections on the ground that the register of voters is defective. Both at the Dail sessions and in correspondence with President Griffith he has contended that the register is stale, including many names that ought to be removed and omitting many names that ought to be included.

His correspondence has demanded the immediate preparation of an up-to-date register but the demand was resisted on the ground that it would be certain to delay the elections which the Free Staters desire to hold at the earliest possible date. It is admitted that owing to the conditions of conflict that prevailed in Ireland last year the ordinary work of revising the register was not uniformly performed.

According to Mr. De Valera the errors affect tens of thousands of names. In the few districts where revision was carefully done the changes made amount roughly to about 16 per cent.

The deficiency concerns two classes in whom Mr. De Valera is specially interested. These are the young men who have come of age in the qualifying period and who are not, under the existing register, entitled to vote, and women under the age of 30 who reached that age during the qualifying period but are not yet on the register. The Republicans attach importance to the women's vote, which they believe to be favorable to them.

The reply of President Griffith while conceding that the register is not ideal, argues that it is quite as accurate as the register on which elections were carried out last year, and he charges that Mr. De Valera's insistence on a new register might delay our elections for 12 months.

Mr. De Valera rejoins that the new register is not so accurate as the old one, for the latter was at least uniform and the one now in force was corrected for some districts but not for others. He disputes the right of the Free Staters to go to the country on it and is said to be making plans to contest the elections if the prevailing government persists in delaying him.

Sulgrow and Constipation

"Prior to using Chamberlain's Tablets, I suffered dreadfully from indigestion. Nothing I ate agreed with me and I lost flesh and ran down in health. Chamberlain's Tablets strengthened my digestion and cured me of constipation," writes Mrs. Geo. Stroup, Solvay, N. Y. —Adv.

LOSTINE FULL OF BOOTLEGGERS

(Special to The Observer)

LOSTINE, Apr. 20.—The Neighborhood Club met last Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Kate Page.

There was a special Easter program at the Presbyterian church on Sunday at 11 a. m., following Sunday school, and an Easter sermon and several choir selections at 7:30 p. m.

S. P. Crow went to Enterprise on a business try on Wednesday.

The stereoscope views that were given in the Presbyterian church last Wednesday evening by Rev. Shields were much enjoyed by a good sized audience. There were nearly 70 views in all, of Africa, and while he was showing the slides on the canvas Miss Myrtle Mason read the descriptive lecture. Next week the views of Latin America will be shown.

Last Friday evening shortly after school was dismissed Judge Edgar Marvin's barn was discovered to be on fire. It was not seen in time to give the alarm and get the fire department in time to save any of the barn but they concentrated their efforts on the house, which was badly menaced, and it was not damaged seriously, except for some scorching to the wall on that side. It is not known how it caught fire but it is supposed to be caused by some boys being careless with matches or smoking, as it did not catch until after school was over for the day.

Mrs. Janet Hogan, of Enterprise, was down last week for a few days' visit with her brother, Fred Gray, and wife. Mrs. Gray accompanied her home on Thursday for a few day's visit with Mr. Gray's people in Enterprise.

Sheriff Rinehart was down last Thursday to get the moonshine still at the Harry Beidler place over on the mountain slope west of town. Harry Beidler was arrested in Enterprise last week with a suitcase of booze in his charge. It is the current report that one of his competitors in the illicit business was the one who put the sheriff wise. And we are sorry to have to admit that Lostine has more than their reasonable share of that class of men, who are either making the stuff for other distributors or making and selling it also, and the law-abiding class of citizens are certainly hoping some more of them fall into the hands of the law son—before they leave the country too, to go elsewhere to contaminate other communities with their nefarious business. When it comes to being unprincipled enough to sell it to minors or involve them in the various modes of making the stuff, it is time for good people to get busy and put a stop to it. The worst of it is that in nearly all communities there are some prominent people who are active in city or county affairs who are guilty of encouraging this illegal business, if not actually interested in its manufacture, and more and more of the boys and men are getting involved in it through their influence.

Goodman Brothers left last week with two bands of sheep, taking them to the range in the canyon. Clayton Goodman took his band to Vincent, and was assisted in driving them to the range by Joe Thompson and Roy Cook. Ralph Goodman took his band as far as the Victor place in the canyon and was assisted in driving them by Bert Hunter and Ira Litchfield, who will remain in charge of the herd, as Mr. Goodman will return the last of this week. These sheep belong to several owners, who have combined small herds into enough to employ a herder with each band. E. A. Allen, W. B. Hunter, Ham Brothers and Goodman Brothers are the chief owners of the sheep and report about one hundred per cent increase in lambs this year.

Wilford and Earnest Royster of Joseph were down for the week-end to visit the Geo. Moffit boys.

Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Candle entertained for Sunday dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Mack Cook and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hook and children.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Bridwell entertained Rev. Pointer and Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Poley and daughter, Margaret, for Sunday dinner. Mr. Pointer was the guest of Mr. Poley's folks during his stay in town.

C. V. Griffith and Mr. Esleb of La Grande came in last week and the city officials employed by Griffith for City Marshal to keep law and order here as there have been some serious complaints laid before the city council this winter against some of the boys of this community and it is hoped a law enforcing official will have the effect of quelling some of their propensities to lawlessness which has been going on for some time. We do not mean to imply it is only the boys who need watching, as there are boys grown tall who may need a little of it sometimes. Mr. Griffith is a young ex-service man and looks as if he knew all about police duty.

April has surely given us plenty of chilly weather and we would appreciate some warm sunny days. Let us hope for a change after the moon begins to wane, and Easter is passed.

Evan Allen left for La Grande on Tuesday for a few days' business trip.

Pearl Willets have moved into the Poley house recently vacated by W. P. Avery.

An important real estate deal took place here Tuesday when Chris Johnson and wife sold their dairy farm of 38 acres and home to Charles Bridwell and wife. Mr. Johnson takes the Bridwell town property of 12 lots and residence in the deal. The property he sold is at the south edge of town, with residence and a couple of acres inside the corporate limits, with city water and electric service, and he had just installed an electric milking machine and seperator last fall to lighten the labor of dairying, but decided this spring to give up the hard work for the remaining years of their lives, and will just have enough to do at their new home for good exercise, while Mr. Bridwell is one of our trifiest and most industrious young men, who has been dairying on a small scale for some time and will likely make a success of his new undertaking. Mrs. Bridwell is one of our best teachers in hte public school.

Rev. James Pointer filled the pulpit at the Evans church last Friday evening and at the Lostine Christian church Saturday evening at 7:30 and Sunday at 11 a. m. Mr. Pointer is a very earnest speaker and seems to be very well liked here. He will continue to fill the appointments every two weeks the same as this trip.

HOME FOR FILM STAR ASPIRANTS

(By Associated Press)

LOS ANGELES, Apr. 19. — A home for girl aspirants to film fame, to safeguard them from any pitfalls and snares while they are on the grade to cinema stardom and success is planned by the Hollywood Studio club, according to Miss Marion Hunter, its executive director. The club is composed of three hundred women engaged in motion picture work. It is proposed that operation of the home be under control of the Young Women's Christian association. There are more than five thousand girls in picture work at Hollywood, according to Miss Hunter, and thousands come who never get farther than the studio gates and need assistance, she says.

RAGS Wanted at The Observer.

STATEMENT

Of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, etc., Required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912,

of the La Grande Evening Observer, published daily, except Sunday, at La Grande, Oregon, for April 1, 1922.

State of Oregon }
ss.
County of Union }

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Bruce Dennis, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the publisher of the La Grande Evening Observer and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are:

Publisher, Bruce Dennis, La Grande, Oregon.

Editor, Bruce Dennis, La Grande, Oregon.

Managing Editor, Bruce Dennis, La Grande, Oregon.

Business Manager, Bruce Dennis, La Grande, Oregon.

2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.)

Bruce Dennis, La Grande, Oregon.

Florence J. Dennis, La Grande, Oregon.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

La Grande National Bank, La Grande, Oregon.

U. S. National Bank, La Grande, Oregon.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company, but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and that affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the six months preceding the date shown above is 2138.

(This information is required from daily publications only.)

BRUCE DENNIS, Publisher.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of April, 1922.

CHARLES H. REYNOLDS, Notary Public.

(My commission expires February 24, 1924.)

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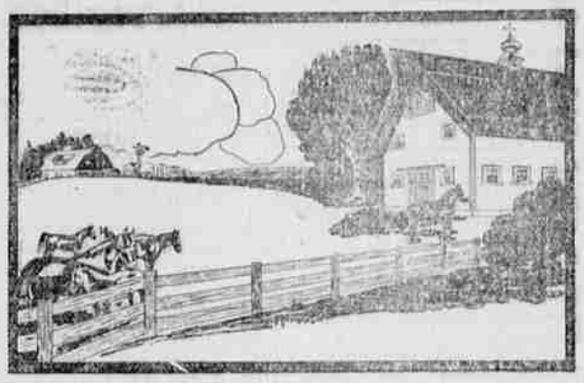

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