



Inklings!

There are just enough new costumes here to satisfy the curiosity that weeks of anticipation have whetted. So come and see them while you may, for pretty clothes, like good news, go fast.

HILLS DEPT STORE

COAL MINING FATALITIES ARE 1950

One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty People Lost Their Lives During Last Year.

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Reports received by the United States bureau of mines from state mine inspectors indicate that fatalities in the coal industry during 1922 were 1,950. This is a tentative figure based on actual reports received during the year and an estimate for December based upon the reports of that month.

The fatalities in 1922 represent a reduction of 23 fatalities from the total for 1921, 1,973, with not more than a few days of the year. In relation to the quantity of coal produced, the accident rate will be actually higher than for the previous year, the report said.

In summarization of the year's record, bureau statisticians point out that from the first of April to the last of August a large part of the industry was closed down on account of a miners' strike; the production of fresh-mined anthracite was completely stopped; and the output of soft coal was cut in half. This stoppage naturally eliminated the accidents that would have occurred had the mines been in operation. The net result, therefore, was that the five-month period of the strike showed an abnormally low number of fatal accidents, and this reduction will, of course, be reflected in the total number of fatalities for the year.

The reduction in loss of life, despite the strike, was not as large as it might have been because of the large number of lives lost during the strike to mine explosions. The outstanding feature of the year was what the bureau

officials call "major" disasters, accidents in which at least five lives were lost. There were thirteen of these during the year, eleven of which were explosions which together cost the lives of 261 men. During 1922 there were only five major accidents, with a loss of 24 lives. Only three of these were mine explosions and they resulted in only 21 deaths. The largest killed 11 men; the largest during the past year exacted 37 lives, while another took 77.

On the basis of number of fatalities per million tons of coal mined, the death rate from gas and dust explosions in 1922 was only .253, while for the first eleven months of 1922 it was .721, more than three times the rate for the previous year.

The records of the past six or seven years had furnished grounds for the hope that the coal mining industry was no longer to experience the terrible explosions of gas and dust which formed so distressing a part of the industry's record in earlier years, the statisticians declared. For many years the bureau of mines

and other agencies have been investigating the causes of these explosions and have been endeavoring to find ways, not only to stop them altogether, but also when they occur to stop them from traveling through the entire mine, destroying everything in their path.

Proper ventilation to prevent dangerous accumulation of gas; wetting the mine to allay dust; the use of rock dust to obstruct the progress of explosions; and other safety measures have been investigated and devised. Yet in the face of what would seem to be adequate knowledge of the subject, and sometimes apparently in spite of intelligent precau-

tion, an explosion occurs, causing the loss of many lives and bringing destruction to property.

However, the grave loss of lives in the mines is not entirely attributable to explosions, it was declared. Less than 10 per cent of the fatalities are caused by explosions; nearly 50 per cent result from rock and coal falls. The carelessness of the miners themselves and their disinclination to give time to take precautions against the falls are given as reasons for that fact. Such accidents usually claim their victims one or two at a time and they are attended by none of the spectacular features that characterize a large explosion. But it is found at the end of the year that if falls of rock and coal could have been estimated, nearly half of the lives lost in mine accidents could have been saved.

The loss during the seven months of 1922 resulted in 787 deaths, or at a rate of 1,930 per million tons, as compared with a rate of 2,012 for 1921. An examination of mining records over a long period discloses little if any improvement in the record of this class of mine accidents.

"For this lack of improvement," the report stated, "it is perhaps fair to place the larger part of the responsibility upon the miners themselves. They are continually at the working place where most of the falls occur, and are best able to observe the conditions under which they work and to tell when rocks should be taken down or props put up. A mine's natural desire, however, to increase his

Wenatchee Railroad To Begin Work Soon

WENATCHEE, Wash., Feb. 5.—That the Wenatchee Southern Railway company will soon have a certificate of necessity and convenience to construct its proposed line along the Columbia river south to Kennewick, is the opinion of A. N. Corbin, attorney with A. N. Teal of Portland, Ore., for the Wenatchee Southern, who returned here recently from Washington, D. C.

Mr. Corbin reported that 11 of the 12 members of the interstate-commerce-commission heard the ar-

gument of the Wenatchee line. Both Senator Wesley Jones and Senator Miles Pollock appeared before the committee in favor of the road, said Mr. Corbin, who added that a number of other men prominent in state and national politics also were present and expressed approval of the project.

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 - 1/2 teaspoon Mazola
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