

BABSON DISCUSSES NEXT WINTER'S COAL

WELLESLEY HILLS, Mass., Mar. 31.—Roger W. Babson, statistician and business authority, has some very decided views on the coal situation—and he has a solution.

"Within another week the coal famine should be over. If the weather runs according to the almanac, everyone will be able to get all the coal he needs after April 1st."

But is the coal problem settled? "Absolutely not," says Babson. W. H. Babson, the statistician who demands that the coal problem be solved this spring when it can be solved and not wait until next winter when it will be too late to do anything but rush around feverishly to try to get enough coal to tide us through the zero weather.

"We are like the man who had a leak in his roof," says Mr. Babson. "When it wasn't raining it didn't need fixing. When it was raining he couldn't fix it. As a result we have repeated the same mistake, we talk by the coal dealers in the summer, strike, and in the winter the usual shortage. The attached table will give you a picture of the situation as it is. You will note that there hasn't been a single year in which strikes and lockouts have not caused loss in coal production which meant higher costs to the consumer."

Year	No. of men on strike	Total working days lost	Average No. of days lost per man
1900	121,375	4,878,102	37
1901	131,000	733,892	35
1902	129,593	16,672,217	83
1903	47,431	1,341,031	28
1904	77,661	3,382,839	44
1905	37,542	796,725	21
1906	372,543	19,391,348	52
1907	72,540	462,392	14
1908	145,145	5,449,938	38
1909	25,534	731,650	29
1910	218,493	19,250,524	88
1911	41,413	883,737	24
1912	311,056	12,527,735	40
1913	135,295	2,049,412	23
1914	161,726	11,013,467	68
1915	67,190	2,467,431	37
1916	170,628	3,344,586	20
1917	160,240	2,348,399	15
1918	79,395	508,528	6
1919	446,436	15,683,567	35
1920	276,841	1,849,660	42
1921	103,201	3,032,101	29
1922	618,530	86,218,090	139
1923	Famine		

done so very well. In every single instance on record it has taken most of the heating and has merely appointed a commission to patch up the quarrel between the other two parties. After being mauled and bled and robbed by a half dozen operators and a few thousand miners, the hundred million consumers have begged congress to appoint a commission, simply because the thing always had been done, and it is assumed that it must always be done.

"I personally do not know about what went on inside the commission meetings. One can only judge by results, and it is evident that little or nothing has been accomplished."

"In 1897, for instance, a compromise was made between operators and miners, on September 3rd. Wages were increased 20 per cent and miners and operators agreed to meet in January 1898 for the purpose of forming a wage scale and making an annual contract. The strike was very successful from the miners' point of view."

"In 1902 through the mediation of President Roosevelt the strike was settled on October 23rd with the understanding that questions in dispute would be submitted to a commission. A 10 per cent increase in wages and a reduction of hours were granted to the miners."

"In 1908 the strike was finally settled through agreement between operators and miners themselves. Not through a third party."

"On April 1st, 1910, 300,000 miners went out. The agreements were submitted to the miners and rejected. The strike was finally settled on September 8th of that year. A slight increase was granted and certain other concessions. The miners' union paid out \$574,000 in strike benefits and miners were idle from April 1st to August 8th."

"A conference was called on October 16th, 1915 in an effort to prevent a strike, but the operators refused to negotiate as long as the strike order was in force. The miners' contract which really did not expire until April 1920, was disregarded. The president's appeal to the strikers failed. The attorney general issued an order restraining union officials from putting the strike into effect. This failed. An injunction demanded that the officers rescind the strike order, the order was rescinded but the miners went on strike November 1st, just the same. On December 10th an offer from the president direct to the miners granted 14 per cent immediate increase and question of further increase to be determined by the commission."

"The story from the public's point of view has been the same in all these cases—exorbitant prices, poor quality, suffering and no end of inconvenience."

"After studying this record, and after having shivered through a five-day winter, one may feel a little skeptical as to what our present coal commission is going to accomplish. So far it seems to be running true to form. Last September a commission was appointed by the president to investigate and find all the facts that would have a bearing on the solution of the coal problem. In a report to congress on January 15th of this year, it took care not to commit itself to any definite recommendations. It did find that one fundamental cause for instability in bituminous coal mining was surplus of both mines and miners."

"The other findings of the commission indicate that it is really analyzing the problem, but it looks as though it must suffer the fate of most such commissions."

"Now there are three of us in this coal problem. Both miners and operators have been loud in proclaiming their rights and in demanding that their particular schemes be enforced. I should like to propose a platform for the most important

"It now looks as though history were going to repeat itself again. We are threatened with another coal strike this spring."

"If it is allowed to go into effect, it will spell another shortage and more suffering next year."

"Six such serious tie-ups in the last twenty-five years are a plenty and it is possible that we may arrive at the solution of the problem by analyzing the cause of these several tie-ups. In studying them, I find that they are surprisingly alike. In each case miners and operators have had what they thought was a real grievance and real difference. In each case the government has attempted to deal with the problem by appointing a commission."

"In 1897 the public sympathy was largely with the miners who had a just grievance. As we got down to 1922, however, we find the miners becoming quite able to take care of themselves. There is little choice between the miners and operators as to which was the aggressor, and in which the aggressor. Both now have powerful fighting machines and both apparently are actuated by the same motive—to get all they can for themselves and to give as little as they can. The third party in argument, the great consuming public, has not

member in this argument—the general public."

"The operators' arguments boil down to the contents of the present method. It is apparently just as profitable to do business half of the year at twice the profit and take the execution for the other six months as it is to work the year round at a normal profit."

"The miners' plan is ingenious and well calculated insofar as the welfare of the miner is concerned. They would have the government buy all the miners at a figure which they set at \$4,000,000,000 and would then have the government carry on operations and sell coal to the public."

"The scheme involves much machinery for scientific determination of costs, price fixings, and similar other activities. Mine wages would become a political issue which would be very fine for the miners. In addition to this fact, such a plan would eliminate competition and all necessity for progress and economy in the industry. Coal, to be sure, might be sold to the public at a lower price, only to leave a huge deficit which must be made up in increased taxes. In the final accounting it probably would cost you and I just as much or more than it does at present. No government can operate a business as efficiently as a private owner. Hence, from the consumer's standpoint, the proposition to have the people buy the coal mines is not attractive. They already have had enough of government operation in connection with the railroads, the building and operation of ships, and the various other interests in which the government took a hand during the war."

The Problem.

"What the consumer is interested in is getting coal at a fair price when he needs it. Everyone who has studied the coal problem will agree that the seat of the trouble lies in the fact that competition has been suggested out of the industry. The reason all of these troubles arise is because the natural laws which govern other lines of business have been blocked. On the one hand they have been thwarted through the organization of labor; on the other hand by the combination of the owners. This, moreover, is the principal argument against government purchase of the coal mines for such a plan, instead of increasing competition would be entirely. The real problem, therefore, is to employ government authority only so far as it is necessary to make the industry subject to economic laws—the law of supply and demand, and the law of competition."

The Public's Solution.

"How then can we put competition into the coal business? The first step must be to secure from the government a board or commission which will have the authority to act as a referee for the public in all arguments arising within the industry. It must be empowered by the federal government to enforce its rulings. As a second step, the mines should be divided into two parts which will be approximately equal as far as their producing capacity is concerned. Then by public decree, if you please, let the mines in one half be operated as union mines under a closed shop agreement, but let the mines in the other half be kept on an open shop basis. Then let the two groups show by their own operation which plan is the better."

"The operators claim that the more efficient mines are the open shop mines, whereas the miners claim that the most efficient plan is the closed shop and the tight union. The public does not know which is right, but it does know that when either group secure complete control it becomes inefficient, careless, and arrogant. So long as there is real and fair competition, both sides are kept on their toes. If it is really true that the open shop plan is more efficient than the closed shop, then

the open shop mines will gradually get the greater part of the country's business. The only way to keep the miners can demonstrate that their plan is the better."

"An interstate commerce commission has helped greatly in solving our transportation problems and insuring service for the public. A similar body as referee with power to enforce its rulings would do much to insure real competition and, therefore, good service in the coal industry."

RECORDS LICENSE AFTER 49 YEARS

(By Associated Press)
MISSOULA, Mont., Mar. 31.—Marriage license of Edgar S. Paxson, early day cowboy artist of Montana whose paintings of frontier scenes decorate the walls and ceilings of the Montana capital at Helena, has been received here for recording.

The license, dated 1874, was made out to Paxson and Laura M. Johnson, both of East Hamburg, N. Y. Mr. Paxson, after serving with "Buffalo Bill" Cody as a scout in several Indian campaigns, came to Missoula and lived here until his death three years ago.

The purpose of having the 49 year old license recorded now was not explained in the letter requesting that it be put on record.

Who, do you suppose, is the master genius who sees that "Push" is always put on the doors that ought to pull, and that "Pull" always shines forth from the doors that ought to push?

We Offer

Lots 5 and 6, block 2, Acme Addition, on which there is a good three-room house and barn. Lawn, some trees. This is a good place for anyone wanting such a home will do well to see this place. Price, \$300.00. Terms, \$400.00 cash, balance \$25.00 per month.

Another home in this same block. Lots 7 and 8, block 3, Acme Addition. House had six rooms and bath. There is a garage, a fair lawn, good trees, and the property is a bargain at the price of \$1800.00. It will take \$500 cash, balance \$25.00 per month.

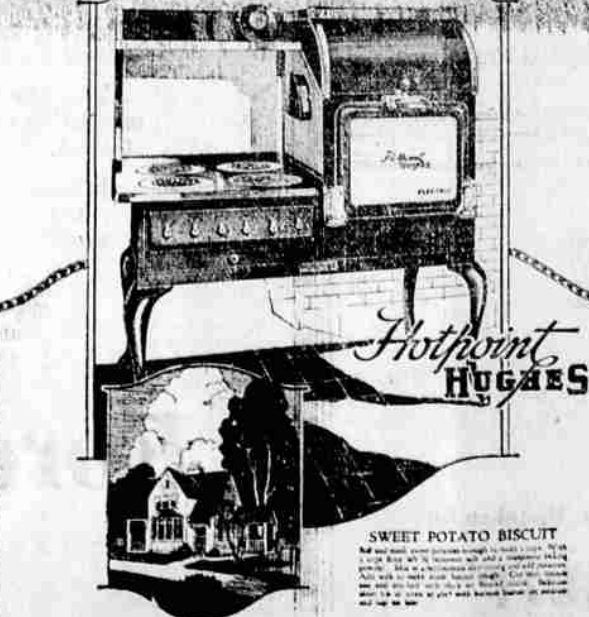
A four-room house with the house-hold goods now in home. It is connected with sewer. Has cellar. Three blocks from railroad shops. A good small home. Price for all, \$1600.00. You can buy on \$200.00 cash, \$25.00 per month on the balance.

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Just this one convenience has saved many hours during the day for American Housewives all over the country.

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The advertisement is one of a series carrying a new recipe. They are valuable. Call them out and save for reference.

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THE HOME GARDEN

Now is the time to begin looking around for seed boxes to start seeds for the earliest crops if you have not already provided them. The most convenient boxes are known as "flats," usually made by cutting an ordinary soap box in two and placing a bottom on the top half. These flats should be from three to four inches deep, with holes bored in the bottom at six-inch intervals to provide drainage. These holes should be covered with broken crockery or flower pots, so that the soil will not leak through.

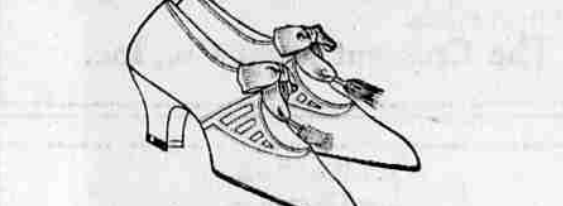
For seed raising in the ordinary window of a living room or warm kitchen these flats may be too wide. In this case the cigar box is a very convenient seed box. Empty cigar boxes usually can be secured for the asking at retail tobacco dealers. It

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The three most vital units in the economical and satisfactory operation of motors are the Piston Rings, Pistons and Piston Pins, all of which we carry in stock, and with our cylinder grinding equipment we are able to give you a very complete piston assembling service.

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EASTER time is candy time. You will want to remember your loved ones with a nice box of chocolates—our Easter Package.

This special Easter Package—Owyhee Tasties, is beautiful. A pretty white box is tucked under the ribbon which adds an Easter air of refinement to it.

The inside of the package is filled with the same choice variety of delicious chocolates that has endeared it to many candy lovers.

There are many other attractive Owyhee Packages that will make appropriate Easter gifts.

At All Good Dealers

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eight plants of large growing plants like cactus, pears, cucumbers, or melons, and the plants may be allowed to remain until ready to transplant into the open provided only the seeds are spaced in the pot when planted so they will not crowd for some time after germination.

Panels of glass to cover flats, cigar boxes and pots are to be recommended, although not essential. The glass prevents too rapid evaporation and controls the danger of the seeds drying out. Paper cut to fit or cloths which may be kept moistened may be used to cover the seed boxes, watching carefully until germination begins, when they should be removed at once. The seed boxes need not be exposed to the light until the seedlings begin to prick through.

\$250,000 PIPE LINE.
(By Associated Press)

OAKLAND, Calif., Mar. 31.—A new \$250,000 pipe line wharf is being completed in the Estuary here. The wharf extends 225 feet from the quay and is designed to carry fuel oil to the ships in the harbor.

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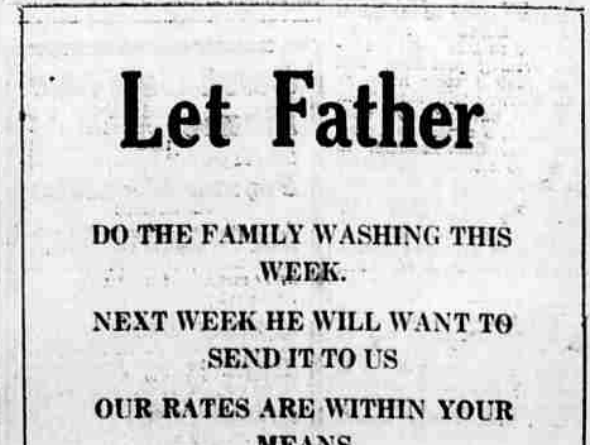
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