

COAL OUTPUT IS HIGH; MANY IDLE

150,000 Union Miners Out of Work Despite Heavy Production

By Clinton Coffin
(Associated Press Staff Writer)
WASHINGTON (AP)—Although national coal production on the basis of latest estimates is running close to record height, possibly 150,000 union coal miners are unemployed and the outlook for their return to regular employment is far from bright.

Over much of the central coal producing territory in the United States an aftermath of protracted strikes and sharp disagreement over union wage scales has proven to be complete shut-down of coal mines, while steady development of new sources of supply and efficient transportation conditions has maintained a supply which for months now has met or exceeded demand.

11 Million Tons in Week

In a recent six day week more than 11,000,000 tons of soft coal were mined and shipped. Sagging market prices have indicated that there was no demand anywhere in the United States this quantity did not meet effectively.

Studies of present production made for the United States bureau of mines by F. G. Tryon show that a steady shift of production from north to south has characterized recent history in the industry.

Both the government and industrial observers agree that the prime factor operating has been the long drawn out wage controversy between miners and operators, but few expect that the once-dominant northern union organization will be re-established within any length of time now foreseen.

In a typical week Illinois, which still is a strong union center, produced 1,217,000 tons of coal, while in the corresponding week of 1928 it produced 1,790,000 tons, and in the same week of 1929 its production was 1,671,000.

Indiana's Record

Indiana, another firm union state produced in a like week 344,000 tons, whereas for 1928 the weekly output was 674,000. Ohio, which in one week of 1929 mined 764,000 tons, in the week of November 24,

1928, mined 422,000 tons. In Pennsylvania, where the operations are largely non-union and open shop today, output has been gradually crawling up, reaching 2,165,000 tons a week last year. The figure for 1926 was 2,431,000 tons.

What has replaced this fallen union district production is clearly shown by the study of figures for the single district of southern West Virginia, where the weekly output is now running to 2,182,000 tons from territory that in 1923 was producing 1,304,000 tons. Similar figures on a smaller scale can be produced from Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia.

The significant fact is that all the Southern territory has shown steady expansion of output from mines that have never had union contracts since development, and that the quantity available has more than sufficed to meet the deficiency occasioned by Northern shut-downs.

In Illinois the union got temporary operating contracts, but of the state's 100,000 miners, scarcely 60,000 are able now to get semi-regular employment, since the markets do not enable mines to operate.

Even less success has been met in re-establishing the Ohio and Indiana producers, though in western territory, counting Iowa, Kansas, and the strong union state of Wyoming, more or less agreement has been attained. Scales are considerably below the \$7.50 level cited, and even at the lower figure, the Northern producers have been unable to restore their old output levels.

Increased Facilities

In Southern territory, railroads and operators alike have increased facilities, better methods and taken a surer grip on markets. Also, coal is not the king that it used to be, with hydro and central power plant installation and interchange, and with oil fuel relentlessly competing.

The verdict anticipated some years ago was expressed in the phrase—"too many mines and too many miners," and the struggle for survival has so far worked its chief hardship on the Northern industry. Only the prospects of a greatly enhanced coal demand, not now in sight, could re-open the full production of the Northern territory.

In making mayonnaise, the vinegar which has been poured over pickles, beets, or cucumbers, instead of fresh vinegar adds a pleasant flavor to salads.

OUT OUR WAY

By Williams



THE TUMBLE SEAT. J.R. WILLIAMS

Over the Valley

(Continued From Page 7)
author, Kenneth Blanchard.
Hiram Penstroke, Wellington Armstrong's confidential man, Jack Parsons.
James, Armstrong's butler, Fred Davis.
Mrs. Wellington Armstrong, Esther Witty.
Jemmy, Josiah's wife, Mae Smith.
Gladys Armstrong, Dorothy Gettings.
Edith LeBlanc, Genevieve Crum.

Starts For Wallowa

Miss Ruth Hershey who has been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Spockhart in La Grande while recuperating from a recent operation started yesterday for her home in Wallowa. She returned to La Grande last evening however when the bus driver, not able to see anything in the storm which was on out in the valley, got off the road. She continued her trip home this morning.

TALE OF TWO DOGS

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Two dogs died here in peculiar fashion on the same day. One, found asphyxiated, was believed to have opened a gas jet by wagging his tail. The other died of a broken neck when his child master dropped him to the floor.

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Honey Pure Strained 10 -LB. PAIL... \$1.23	Syrup Safeway Brand. Cane and Maple. 5 -LB. CAN... 89c 10 -LB. CAN... \$1.49	Matches Safeway Brand. Carton 18c
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