

# MINERS BILL UP IN BRITISH HOUSE

### Minimum Wage Measure, Designed to End Strike, Passes First Reading.

## PREMIER ASQUITH OPPOSES

### Proposed Act Is for Three Years and Provides for Settlement of Pay Question by District Boards of Trade.

LONDON, March 19.—The coal miners' minimum wage bill, designed to put an end to the coal strike, passed its first reading in the House of Commons tonight. The bill is backed by Premier Asquith, Foreign Secretary Grey, Chancellor Lloyd-George, and Sydney Buxton, president of the Board of Trade. It consists of six clauses and a schedule defining 21 districts, the country being divided for the purpose of the bill.

As outlined by the Prime Minister, the bill provides a "reasonable minimum wage" for the miners and safeguards for the owners, these to be arranged by district boards. The minimum will be paid from the date of resumption of work. The enactment is for three years.

**Boards Will Decide.**

An important clause provides that if within a fortnight any district lacks a recognized district board, the Board of Trade may appoint any person to act in place of the local body. There is nothing in the bill to prevent a recurrence of the strike should the miners be dissatisfied with a district board's decision.

District boards will frame regulations and conditions for assuring the regularity and efficiency of the work in the mines, and workmen failing to comply with these conditions and regulations are not to be entitled to the fixed minimum wage.

The bill does not contain any penal provisions for either side and does not compel an owner to open his mine nor the workmen to descend into the pit. Workmen who are not satisfied with the minimum wage will be able to recover in the courts.

**Need of Bill Seen.**

Premier Asquith said that he introduced the bill with great reluctance, but that it was absolutely imperative in the interests of the country. The government only resorted to legislation when all hope of a settlement by agreement between the employers and the miners had disappeared. He believed that after the passage of the bill and the establishment of the principle of a minimum wage by law, there would be no difficulty in settling the trouble.

Andrew Bonar Law, leader of the opposition in the House, said he would await the publication of the text of the bill before committing the opposition for or against it. He said his mistrust of the policy of the bill, however, was strong and that the government was conceivably far more serious than the disease.

**Other Trades Interested.**

The government's bill invited every other trade to amend the bill. The bill does not give promise of easy passage through Parliament. The opposition is dissatisfied by the absence of penal clauses for compulsory arbitration, and will move amendments with a view to remedy this.

Chancellor Lloyd-George said the government was confronted by the necessity of speedily terminating the strike, but that recourse to drastic methods would create a serious situation. He had been accepted by many owners and to prevent a national calamity, which would result from prostration of the strike, and to experiment with. Even though the remedy provided was only temporary, it gave the nation time to devise a more permanent solution of the problem.

**Labor Supporting Bill.**

J. Ramsey MacDonald, on behalf of the Labor party, regretted the necessity for the bill, but said the Labor members would give it their support if it were amended in regard to safeguards.

The inclusion of a workmen's schedule will be amended, he said. "There must be security that the district boards should have no power to reduce the existing rates of pay."

Mr. MacDonald thought the House ought to make it possible to get the bill through this week in a form tolerably satisfactory to all concerned.

Lord Robert Cecil, Conservative, characterized the government's bill as the climax of a great conspiracy on the part of a small band of revolutionaries to obtain dictatorial power over the industries of the country.

**Syndicates Are Accused.**

He charged members of the syndicates with purposely engineering the strike, and pointed out that the leader of the Labor party in the House of Commons had declared this was only the beginning of a campaign for a fixed minimum wage in all trades. The bill was an admission that the government yielded to pressure and it would produce a crop of fresh strikes.

At a meeting of the Miners' Federation tonight, much discontent was expressed at the indefiniteness of the minimum wage provisions. The government, however, is anxious to have the miners return to work Monday. Therefore every effort will be made to get the bill through. The House of Lords will hold a special sitting Saturday to carry the measure through the necessary stages. Charles Fenwick, Liberal member for Northumberland, who is a working collier, thinks it will be necessary to take a ballot of the men on the bill before work is resumed. If so, it will be impossible to reopen the mines Monday. It is announced that the North British Locomotive Works will be shut down tomorrow, throwing 3000 men out of work.

## WOMAN WINS DIVORCE SUIT

### Supreme Court Denies Charles D. Taylor's Petition.

SALEM, Or., March 19.—(Special.)—Minnie N. Taylor won in the final round of the divorce suit brought by Charles D. Taylor, when today the Supreme Court in an opinion by Chief Justice Eakin denied a petition for rehearing.

John Tuohy practically keeps his entire herd of 117,300 against the Columbia Steel Company. Justice McElrath, in an opinion by Chief Justice Eakin, denied a petition for rehearing.

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## RAILROAD BILL REFERRED

### Attorney-General to Rule on Oregon & California Line Measure.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 19.—The bill for innocent purchasers from the Oregon & California Railroad Company, which passed in the Senate and House last week, has been referred to the Attorney-General for a report. When he submits his view on the bill will be taken up by the public lands committee of both bodies and efforts be made to secure an early report. It is understood on reliable authority that the report of the Attorney-General will be favorable to the plan proposed, and in that event the committee will be expected to report favorably.

B. D. its chairman in charge of the Government's forfeiture suit against the railroad company, is in Washington and probably will be designated by the Attorney-General to appear before the committee to set forth extensively the Government's view of this legislation. There is a possibility that the bill may be called up in committee tomorrow, but more likely it will come up one week later.

## OIL DECISION IS CITED

### Packers' Combination Not "Unreasonable" One, Is Contention.

CHICAGO, March 19.—The Supreme Court's "unreasonable" ruling, given in the Standard Oil decision, was cited today in favor of the 18 Chicago packers on trial, charged with violation of the Sherman law, when the defense Attorney Buckingham read the Supreme Court's decision that the restriction of trade complained of must be "unreasonable and public injury shown to constitute a violation of the Sherman law, and declared that the Government had not attempted to show that the public had been injured by the alleged combination or that the profits of the defendants had been exorbitant.

## WARRANTS HANG OVER COAL FIELDS

### Whether There Will Be Peace in Bituminous Mines May Be Decided Today.

CLEVELAND, O., March 19.—Whether there will be war or peace in the bituminous fields at the expiration of the present contracts on March 21 will be known, it was said today, by the end of the first session of the conference of operators and miners of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois here tomorrow.

Three hundred and six thousand bituminous miners in the United States and Canada will abide by the result of the conference. If a strike is called nearly 500,000 men will quit work on April 1, when it is predicted the anthracite miners also will walk out.

Briefly, the situation is this: The operators demand a wage decrease. The miners demand a wage increase. The best either party hopes for is a compromise.

Representatives of the operators, eight from each of the four states, met here today in preliminary conference. If the agreement is not renewed, work will stop automatically April 1, but any action of the miners' representatives must be favored in a referendum vote by the miners before it becomes legal.

**NAVY COAL SUPPLY IS SHORT**

Mediation Between Miners and Owners to Be Sought.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The possibility of a coal strike are causing anxiety at the Navy Department and Secretary Meyer will confer tomorrow with representatives of some of the bituminous coal companies which supply the Navy.

The Interstate Commerce Commission decided today to appoint a sub-committee to consider and report Representative Lee's bill to extend the government arbitration and mediation act to apply to coal mine owners and operators.

Representative Lee believes the bill would avert the threatened strike of anthracite miners.

**SUSPENSION SEEMS CERTAIN**

Illinois Coal Operators Are Exceedingly Gloomy Over Prospects.

CHICAGO, March 19.—Announcement was made by the Illinois Coal Operators' Association today that it would be practically impossible for the miners and operators in the bituminous fields to reach a new agreement by April 1, and that a suspension on that date was certain.

It was said that even if the miners and operators of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois at their conference at Cleveland tomorrow decide to come to an amicable arrangement, it will be impossible to draw up the terms of a two-year agreement by the first of the month and that therefore a suspension of business, if not a strike, was inevitable.

C. E. McLaughlin, secretary of the association, declared that 200,000 miners in the four states alone would be affected.

As at least six other states—Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa and Michigan—use the agreement as the basis for their contracts, Mr. McLaughlin said, practically the entire bituminous coal field, with 400,000 men involved, would face a suspension of business.

H. M. Taylor, president of the association, before leaving Chicago for Cleveland to attend the conference in Cleveland, said the union was asking for a 10 per cent increase in pay with reduction of working hours which would amount to another 10 per cent increase in the wage cost. He said the operators were determined not to yield to these demands.

## SCARE SUBSIDIES IN GOTHAM

### Belief Held Anthracite Operators and Miners Will Get Together.

NEW YORK, March 19.—There was a subsidence of the anthracite strike scare today, and in consequence there was a falling off in the pressing demand for hard coal from frightened consumers.

The belief is gaining ground that an agreement will be reached and that if there is a suspension of work April 1, it will not last long. The operators say they are ready to confer with the men on any reasonable proposition.

The situation, from all angles, therefore, is not so gloomy as it was. There also are reports from the hard coal region that the miners' officials are ready to meet the operators half way.

## SPECULATORS ARE HIT

### Men Who Have Bought Up Orchard Bonds Meet With Check.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 19.—(Special.)—An effective block to the wholesale speculation, which has been going on in Seattle during the past month on Orchard bonds, was placed by the company's attorneys today. The \$5,000,000 campaign, headed by W. E. DeLam and his associates, was placed by Trustee Louis P. Sichel, yesterday, when he declined to enter any claims for those bonds except at the actual price paid for them.

Word came to the trustee that bonds in the Columbia River Orchard Company, Washington Orchard, Irrigation & Fruit Company, and other concerns involved in the DeLam deals were being offered on the street as low as 25 cents on the \$100, and were being snapped up rapidly.

At the same time a well-known Seattle real estate dealer came to Sichel with \$2000 worth of bonds, which he had bought for \$2.50, and boasted that he would enter his claim for the full amount. Trustee Sichel practically threw him out of the office, and after a little quite investigation decided to stop the speculation without further delay.

As a result those bondholders who were not already told what was paid for the bonds in either cash or property will be required to make such statement upon oath as the amount spent rather than the value of the

# WAR CLOUDS HANG OVER COAL FIELDS

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## COMPROMISE ONLY HOPE

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## BANKS OF PORTLAND AD

### NO DECREASES SHOWN IN DEPOSITS THROUGHOUT STATE.

SALEM, Or., March 19.—(Special.)—While deposits in the banks throughout the state from showing an increase of \$4,201,288.73 and total deposits of \$118,875,635.82, at the close of business February 28, 1912, according to a statement completed by Superintendent of Banks Wright today, it remained for the banks of Portland to keep the deposits of the banks throughout the state from showing a decrease.

The comparative figures are between January 7, 1911, and February 29, 1912. The increase in deposits in Portland banks was \$4,621,729. The figure of \$4,201,288.73 for the entire state, includes the banks of Portland. Thus it is shown that exclusive of the Portland banks, if a statement were prepared that the banks outside of Portland would show a decrease of \$430,443.86. This is probably accounted for by the fact that this time of the year large sums of money are being sent into Portland by the stores of the state for purchases from Portland wholesale and jobbing houses.

The entire showing of banks of Oregon as a whole is considered as exceedingly satisfactory and flattering, however, loans and discounts show an increase of \$3,225,021.93. The loans and discounts for 1912 are \$7,780,066.93 and for 1911 were \$7,452,045.23.

Overdrafts have shown a decided decrease throughout the state, but among the banks of Portland there was a slight increase. The decrease in the accounts that were overdrafted totaled \$484,846. The total overdrafts for the last report were \$429,224.78 and for the prior report were \$425,173.42. Issuance of warnings by the various banks that overdrafts would not be tolerated in the future, is taken largely as the reason for this decrease and it is believed that similar decrease will be shown in future reports as in many places the rule is being rigidly followed.

Cash on hands and due from banks shows a total of \$14,874,843.25 for the last report as against \$10,556,832.59 of the preceding report, making an increase of \$4,318,010.66.

The increase in deposits shows a most highly satisfactory one by the banking department and indicates ever increasing prosperity on the part of the banks of the state. The apparent decrease shown in bank deposits outside of Portland is small proportionate to the amount of deposits carried and with the explanation of the condition which is sending money into Portland just at the time when many merchants are stocking up for their summer business, it is not considered surprising.

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First—have two separate pairs of glasses—that's a nuisance.

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Third—wear Kryptoks—two distinct lenses in one solid, unbroken piece of glass—no unsightly lines to annoy you—this is the only right way.

We take care of your eyes in the way of less changes for one year from date of purchase. No extra charge for this service.

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## THOMPSON'S KRYPTOK

### Without Lines in the Lens We Grind More Kryptok Lenses Than Any Other Concern in Oregon

If you need two pairs of glasses—reading and distance glasses—you can do only one of three things.

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