

COAL MINE OPERATIONS

SHOULD TO BE CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT.

Hon. John Minto, of Salep, Expresses His Views on a Problem of Interest.

Editor The Astorian: Being a visitor in your city, and known to some of your citizens as having a long-ago knowledge of American rule of the lower Columbia, I have frequently been asked my views of the future value of your resources and possible means of enhancing and developing them.

The first in order of time is the salmon interest. Of this it may be said, the results attained by hatcheries point to the probability that the present value may not only be maintained, but increased.

The second resource, that of forest products, can be increased and greatly prolonged, by more economical means of harvesting and use. Each species should be applied only to its best use; the refuse of the logging should be utilized for fuel, and all debris be carefully burned so as to remove it from becoming a dangerous conductor of forest fires. Natural forest resources may be greatly prolonged by the substitution of coal for wood as fuel, and gravel, sand and cement for sidewalks and cellars. Health preservation in cities and towns favor their substitution for wood. The substitution of coal for wood as fuel is so imperative as to make the former the foremost of public utilities justifying the use of sovereign power over its supply and use.

The recent miners' strike, the public suffering from which has justified the intervention of the president of the United States and appropriation of public money by congress providing for payment of a commission to settle differences between the laboring miners and mine operators, points to the necessity of separating the coal value from the surface value of the land from which food and other crops can be taken annually by means of labor.

The recent contest between extortionate and obstinate mine operators and the well nigh helpless and ignorant mine workers, has shown that owners and operators of coal mines have a power of life and death over their laborers, and over consumers, which ought not to be continued. Not only that, but they hold the means of stopping the use of steam power, and preventing the means of national defense, by denying coal supply to war ships. The use of coal has become a neces-

sity of life to millions; to the freedom of commerce, and to defensive warfare; and this to such an extent as to create a new public policy, that of reserving coal measures, and working them under humane rules, so as to insure a permanent supply of coal for distributive commerce and national defense, leaving the working miners as secure of health, comfort and mental freedom as are soldiers, sailors and engineers. The reservation of growing forests, which has recently become a public policy, would be greatly aided; though this dwindles into insignificance when compared with an assured supply of coal. The timber reserve policy was initiated by its friends' showing that when the nation was young congress created a forest reserve in Florida in order to secure a supply of live oak, the supposed best timber for warships. But now the best warship is a steel box fitted with steel machinery, to move all of which coal is an absolute necessity; and the same is true of the chief agents of commerce—steamships and railroad trains.

Mr. Editor, the foregoing is rather general than local in its aim, but is written by one who in early youth and manhood learned all that the present commission will learn of the oppressive power of the mine operators over the mineworkers, and left the anthracite mines in order to attain the free life of an Oregonian, who wishes well to every interest of this state, from the top of the highest mountain to three leagues at sea, and who now would be pleased beyond his power to say, could he see trainloads of coal arriving from mines at Nehalem, or elsewhere in Oregon, to a distributive point in your city.

JOHN MINTO.

WEST SIDE NOTES.

A. Sifert spent the holidays in Portland.

Miss E. V. Hess is spending her vacation in Portland.

Herman Cables and family went to Portland for the holidays.

F. H. Mudd and family have moved back to Hammond for the winter.

Malcolm Grider was at home for the holidays. He returned to Portland on Saturday.

Mr. Pete Nelson is spending the Christmas holidays with his family at Skipanon.

Miss Polly Dawson came home from Astoria on Wednesday and will remain during the Xmas vacation.

Miss Hess had a Christmas tree and exercises in her schoolhouse Wednesday afternoon for her schoolars.

Ed King made a short visit to his sisters, Mrs. Harmon and Mrs. Malderman, during the week. On Saturday

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The best waterproof garments in the world. Made from the best materials and warranted waterproof. Made to stand the roughest work and weather. Look for the trade mark. If your dealer does not have them, write for catalogue to E. J. Kelley and Packing Co., Inc., Box 77, Boston. H. M. SAWYER & SON, Sole Mfrs., East Cambridge, Mass.

evening a pleasant little party was given for him in Warren's hall.

Mrs. D. E. Pease has so far recovered from her recent serious illness that she is able to take short walks out of doors.

The storm of the past week was very severe but no damage has been reported other than a few hats lost and umbrellas broken.

The Christmas tree at the Methodist church was a pleasant affair for the children. Santa Claus made a visit and had a good word and gift for everyone.

The old Clatsop Literary society has been revived this winter, and meets every Saturday evening in the town hall. Quite an interest is manifested and soon it will have gained its old time popularity. The proceeds derived will still be used in adding books to the library which now consists of about 200 volumes.

PERSONAL MENTION

F. P. Kendall spent yesterday in the city.

S. Danaiger is in the city from San Francisco.

Miss Eva Parker visited the city yesterday from Skipanon.

Ed Lowe returned last night from a brief visit to Portland.

J. W. Reith was in the city yesterday from the Lewis and Clark.

R. V. Jones, the A. & C. R. R. station agent, has returned to the city.

Ray McIntire and A. Sifert of the west side were Astoria visitors yesterday.

H. L. Bransford who has been at Tokeland on business has returned to the city.

Miss Irene and Miss Alma Johnson are the guests of Miss Eva Parker in Skipanon.

Mrs. McGregor is in the city from Aberdeen, the guest of her son William McGregor.

A. J. Stuart of Aberdeen was in the city yesterday. Mr. Stuart formerly resided here, and is a nephew of William McGregor.

Misses Carol and Mabel Jeffers leave this morning for Kalama, Wash., where they will visit during the balance of their holidays.

BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

You will find the best 15c meal in the city at the Rising Sun Restaurant.

Arrived! A car of the best Wyoming stove coal. \$8 per ton. Phone 661. S. Elmore & Co.

WANTED 5 YOUNG MEN from Astoria to at once prepare for Positions in the Government Service. Apply to Inter-State Corres. Inst. Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Roslyn coal lasts longer, is cleaner and makes less trouble with stoves and chimney flues than any other coal on the market. George W. Sanborn, agent. Telephone 1411.

Plumbing, tinning, gas and steam fitting at lowest rates and in workmanlike manner. Orders promptly executed. Shop, No. 485, Bond street JOHN A. MONTGOMERY.

Office Constructing Quartermaster,

Astoria, Ore., Dec. 10, 1902.—Sealed proposals, in triplicate, will be received at this office until 10 o'clock a. m., January 8, 1903, and then opened for repairs to wharf at Fort Columbia, Wash. Plans and specifications may be seen and further information obtained here. Right is reserved to accept or reject any or all proposals. Envelopes should be marked "Proposals for repairs to wharf at Fort Columbia, Wash." and addressed to Geo. L. Goodale, Capt., and Quar. Mr. U. S. Army.

G. W. Barr, Dentist
Manell Building.
578 Commercial St., Astoria, Ore.
TELEPHONE RED 898.

Dr. T. L. Ball
DENTIST.
524 Commercial Street Astoria, Ore.

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Our Great Special Sale
HAS NOW COMMENCED, and will continue for 10 days. ON FRIDAY and SATURDAY, January 2 and 3, we will sell

HEATING STOVES
at prices never before named in Astoria. Our stock is large. Come and select during these days. Watch our announcement for next week.

H. H. ZAPP, - - - The House Furnisher

SHANAHAN'S

Fourteenth Annual Clearance Sale

OF

Dry Goods and Men's Furnishings Begins Monday, December 29, 1902, Lasting 30 Days.

3 spools Clark O. N. T. Cotton	10c
10c Towels, large size	5c
\$10.00 Men's Suits All sizes	\$6.98
75c Boned Corsets Grey and black	49c
35c Corset Waists will be sold for	23c
50 Pieces 12 1-2 c Flannel per yard	8c

Fur Collarettes and Animal Scarfs at Nominal Prices.	
75c White Laundered Shirts for	49c
\$1.50 Lace Curtains 3 1-2 yards long	98c
75c White Crochet Bed Spreads at	59c
LADIES JACKETS	
All sizes for	\$1.49
Bleached Muslin at	4c

25c Pillow Cases 40x36	11c
\$1.00 Mohawk Sheets 52x30	59c
25c Sheetling 5x4	16c
Mill Ends and Remnants at Factory Cost.	
\$1.00 White Walton Blankets 10x4	69c
75c Grey Rambler Blankets 10x4	59c

7 1-2 c Amoskeag Gingham at	5c
2 1-2 c Basting Cotton for	1c
10c Ladies' Stockings for	8c
25c Ladies' Wool Hose for	19c
25c Heavy Fleece Underwear (ladies')	23c
BOYS SUITS for	\$1.98

Mackintoshes AT COST

Dress Goods of all kinds -- AT COST --

Muslin Underwear AT COST

Sale Lasts 30 days.

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