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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

SOME FACTS ABOUT COAL

Many people, observing the apparently endless labor troubles that beset the soft coal industry, may have come to the conclusion that the miners are an overworked lot, laboring long hours at starvation wages.

So some facts recently released by the National Coal Association are deserving of widespread recognition.

In August, the average weekly earnings of bituminous coal miners was \$62.37—a higher average weekly earnings figure than reported by any other industry in the United States. It was 161.18 per cent higher than in 1933.

The rise in the cost of living between 1933 and August, 1946, on the other hand, was 44.6 per cent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The coal miners' hourly earnings in August averaged \$1.467—an increase of 65.8 per cent over 1941. So, whether wages are figured on a weekly or an hourly basis, it is apparent that they have far outrun rises in the cost of living.

It has been said that the miners must work a 54-hour week—because some mines work six days a week—some weeks. But very few miners work all of the six days. In June, for example, for which government figures are available, the average work week was 42.9 hours.

Again, one hour of the nine-hour work day is spent, theoretically at least, in traveling back and forth to the working place. That means that while the miner actually works only eight hours, he gets paid for nine.

Lastly, the standard work week in the industry is now 35 hours—and

all time worked over 35 hours is paid for at the rate of one and one-half.

These are facts—and they will come as real news to millions of people. They indicate that the United Mine Workers' leadership is not so much concerned with wages and hours as it is with ruthless and limitless domination of a great industry.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

In the recent elections the vote of the people on measures should receive as close scrutiny as the vote on candidates for office. That vote revealed a strong, nationwide demand for economy in government, for policies which will aid, not hamper, the expansion of industry, and against the entry of government into activities which are properly within the domain of private enterprise.

A good example is found in Oregon. On the ballot in eight counties were measures for establishing People's Utility Districts (PUDs) which would take over the function of providing electric service in their respective areas. The cost, of course, would be borne by the taxpayers. The PUDs would be administered by politicians and local business men without experience in the power business. All eight of the proposals were voted down—by majorities ranging from six-to-five to three-to-one.

Oregon, like many other states, has now had considerable experience with public ownership, and this vote reflects the disillusionment which has followed such socialistic experiments. Existing PUDs and similar activities have generally distinguished themselves by measurably reducing the quality of service—with no significant change in the bill to the consumer. As the Oregon Voter puts it, "Our citizens are learning that possible savings for the average householder are too minute to affect his pocketbook. . . PUD setups do not attract substantial industries. On the contrary, they tend to repel them. The owners of free enterprise . . . wish to do business with business-managed concerns—not with politically controlled agencies."

Here is the voice of the people on a question of national significance.

Livestock Men of Western Counties To Meet in Salem

The future of Oregon's livestock industry in a market free from price control will occupy the attention of the Western Oregon Livestock association at its annual meeting in Salem in December 12 and 13.

The program for the session was announced this week by R. C. Burkhardt, Lebanon, association president. Speakers scheduled include C. A. Sprague, ex-governor of Oregon; M. E. Knickerbocker, head of the division of animal industries of the state department of agriculture; Nelson Rogers, state forester; Walter Holt, secretary and manager of the Pacific International Livestock exposition; Leo Spitzbart, manager of the Oregon state fair; Ernie Williams, president of the Portland Union Stockyards; and E. L. Potter, head of the department of agricultural economics at O.S.C.

The following six committees will be appointed to draft reports for presentation at the business session. It was announced by H. A. Lindgren, O.S.C., extension animal husbandman and association secretary; Legislative, range and pasture, wild life livestock disease control, transportation and marketing, and swine production.

Headquarters for the meeting will be the chamber of commerce rooms at 147 North Liberty street, Salem. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. on December 12 and conclude with a banquet in the Marion hotel Friday evening, December 13. The business meeting and election of officers will take place Friday afternoon.

Lindgren stated that 10 active

county livestock associations in western Oregon are participating in the event. Membership in the Western Oregon Livestock association is at an all-time high, with a total of 500 producers of cattle, sheep, hogs, and horses enrolled.

The 19 counties now having livestock association are Clatsop, Columbia, Polk, Marion, Linn, Benton, Lane, Douglas, Coos and Curry. A county unit is being organized in Yamhill county.

Mr. J. H. Rohl left Wednesday morning for Copco, California, where he expects to be for several weeks.

NOTICE OF STREET AND ALLEY VACATION

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Central Point did, on the 2nd day of December 1946, by ordinance, initiate proceedings to vacate the alley, part of alley and street in the City of Central Point described as follows:

The easterly and westerly alley in Blocks 22 and 19 of the City of Central Point from a point 165 feet westerly from the westerly line of Second Street westerly to the northerly line and southerly alley in said Block 19 and the northerly and southerly alley in said Block 19 between Cedar Street and Bush Street

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Guy Tex, Recorder.

41—Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26

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