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RAIL INEFFICIENCY THREATENS NATION WITH COAL FAMINE

By GILSON GARDNER. WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 11.—Owing to railway inefficiency, the coal famine is becoming worse. Car shortage, instead of being remedied, is increasing. The soft coal situation is now being watched by the government, and a report just made thru the geological survey is startling in its character; it verifies everything charged previously by W. B. Colver of the federal trade commission, who described the situation as menacing the war efficiency of the country.

Industries Threatened.

Because the railroads have been so eager to earn high-class freight rates they have robbed the coal mines of their cars and locomotives, with the result that while railroad earnings and dividends are greater than ever, the industries of the country are threatened with a tie-up and the homes of the country with a failure of their heating supply next winter. About ten days ago the situation was brought to the attention of President Wilson, who suggested that the railroads be brought under government control at once, so far as their coal carrying equipment is concerned, but the roads, speaking thru Willard and Harrison of the railroad committee of the council of national defense, begged that they be permitted to remedy the situation by voluntary action.

Situation Grows Worse.

Whatever they have done has failed. The report just made shows that on July 7 car shortage was responsible for 11 or 12 per cent of lost time and production at the soft coal mines; on July 15 the loss of time and production was about 15 per cent; and on July 21 it was about 17 per cent.

Instead of getting better, the situation has grown worse.

In Indiana the lost time jumped from 10 to 20 per cent in three weeks; in Ohio from 17 to 22 per cent; in Illinois the loss increased from 12 to 18 per cent; in Oklahoma and Arkansas, from 3 to 20 per cent, and so on thru the bituminous coal mining states. Pennsylvania alone held its own, losing 12 per cent steadily.

In the food bill, which has been slowly coming to legislative form, there is a section giving power to the federal trade commission to handle this coal situation. It looks now as if it were distinctly up to the federal trade commission to grapple with the situation, which is almost as menacing as a general strike.

NEW YORKERS TO BE RE-EXAMINED

NEW YORK, Aug. 11.—All 186 men exempted from military service by the local exemption board in District 99 will be re-examined by a new board, the members of which Governor Whitman is expected to name today.

District 99, which is in one of the most congested sections of the East Side, was expected to fill a quota of 213. Out of a total of 728 men examined, 517 were listed as physically qualified, 305 were rejected and 198 were held for re-examination. About 600 aliens remained to be examined when the members of the board were removed last night by order of President Wilson "because of irregularities."

ALIENS AND THE DRAFT

WHAT has struck the thoughtful American in connection with our war preparations is native and naturalized Americans are being made to bear their full part in fighting the country's battles, while the alien enjoys all our liberties and privileges and is subject to none of the duties. The draft applies to Americans born here or made citizens, and not to the man who did not think enough of the blessings he enjoyed here to cease being an alien.

Of course, no one wants alien enemies in our armies, and we are ready and willing to acknowledge international law forbids forcing natives of neutral countries to help fight our battles and thus take part in a quarrel from which their rulers have refrained.

But the same thing does not apply to the hundreds of thousands of aliens who are natives of countries at war with Germany. If they were at home at the present time they would be in the armies of France, England, Russia and Italy. It is, therefore, no more than right and just that they be compelled to do their part in this fight for democracy.

The McCumber resolution adopted by the United States senate looks to that consummation. It provides the president shall negotiate with the allies for consent to draft their nationals in our armies. The government has already started negotiations, and these should be pushed to a conclusion with utmost rapidity.

When millions of men of the allied countries are in the trenches and we are preparing to send millions of our own boys to battle, it should not be difficult to reach an agreement with the allies whereby another great course of manpower might be tapped for the common cause. Every able-bodied young Englishman, Frenchman, Russian and Italian in this country, not naturalized, should be available for military purposes.

We can't afford to ship them across to their native lands, so they can join the home armies, but we can certainly make use of them in our own military bodies. By fighting with us they will also be fighting for their native lands. They will be fighting the kaiser. They will be doing their bit. They will not be in the position of specially favored slackers, protected in their immunity from service both by America and the allies. They will not be left here to take the pick of the jobs, while real Americans are doing the fighting. They will not remain here to do all the prospering, while other men make all the sacrifices.

Their place is on the firing line. America wants them there alongside her own sons. And the aliens, doubtless, want them there, too. The allies could not hold a rod in pickle for the slacker at home and, at the same time, encourage and protect the slacker abroad.

THE NEW PEACE MOVEMENT

THE new peace movement again emphasizes the old saw about the strange bedfellows made by politics. Here are a few of the elements playing the game the kaiser backs:

High finance—which wants to quit while the quitting is good; wants to get out of the game still gorged with bonds and war profits, before war taxation strips them away.

Prussian militarism—which wants peace before the war brings an end to militarism and forces an international league and limitation of armaments.

The conscientious cowards—who fear the trenches.

The Germanized Marxian socialists—who want peace because their philosophy of class hatred and appeal to the lower human instincts is threatened by the ethical triumph of democratic justice in the war.

The German socialism is the complement of the German upper class, "might makes right" philosophy. Both spring from the same economic and philosophical roots, and have more in common than either has with the democracy of western Europe, springing from Anglo-Saxon political development, the French revolution and individualist democracy.

The Russian extremists—influenced partly by socialist dogmas and partly by German money; also infected with Orientalism and the non-resistance philosophy of Tolstoy and other religious mystics.

The munitions interests—who want armaments perpetuated after the war, which can only be done if an inconclusive peace is established.

The liquor and vice interests—who fear the extinction of their business under stress of war-time economy.

The general reactionary—who loathes the increased measures of social control over capital and production and distribution brought about by the war.

The professional alien politician and publisher—who fears the advance of Americanization.

The professional peace advocate—who must earn his salary by keeping up the talk.

The peace fanatic—who sees war as the only evil and hates the nation which resists oppression more than he hates the oppressor.

There are others, but the catalog, despite its variety, reveals a striking similarity of motive.

Special interest or selfishness is the keynote of all. Against them is arrayed the great mass of the world's peoples, who realize that now or never is the time to rid this world of tyrants and the wars which are the stock in trade of tyrants.

KANSAS CITY WALKS, ACCOUNT OF STRIKE

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 11.—Kansas City got to work as best it could today, the fourth day of the complete

CHICHESTER'S PILLS THE DIAMOND BRAND. Medical Ask Your Druggist. Sold by Druggists Everywhere.

stop of all streetcar traffic, which has resulted from a strike of employees of the Kansas City Railways company the operating organization. The men, according to their spokesman, have struck because it was alleged their demands for the right to organize had been ignored.

JOHN A. PERL, UNDERTAKER, Lady Assistant, 25 SOUTH BARTLETT, Phone M. 27 and 47-J-3. Automobile Hearse Service. Ambulance Service. Corner.

GOLD OUTPUT OF STATE SHOWS DECREASE FOR 1917

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—Altho the receipts from Oregon at the mint and smelters at San Francisco show a falling off in output of gold for that state of some \$75,000 for the first five months of 1917, as compared with the corresponding period of 1916, it is not an indication according to Chas. G. Yale of the United States Geological Survey, department of the interior, that the mines, as a whole, are less prosperous this year than last. It may be stated, as confirming this opinion, that aside from the increase in gold and silver in 1916, as compared with 1915, the copper output of the state increased 794 per cent, so that the total metal yield of Oregon in 1916 increased \$929,969 or 47 per cent, as compared with 1915. A steady increase of copper yield is apparent in 1917, and the placer mines are also increasing their gold yield, altho the deep mines are not producing so much gold as in 1916. As the copper output is augmented, so is that of silver.

There are not many changes to be noted in the mining situation in southwestern Oregon in 1917. The old Blanco, a beach-sand deposits in Curry county, between Port Orford and Langlois is being equipped with new machinery to treat 500 tons of gold-platinum sand daily. The Nellie Wright mine, near Gold Hill, Jackson county, was recently sold to Salt Lake men, who are installing compressors and drills. The mine has a 25-ton Beers mill. The Cheney, Simmons, Ray and Haft group of quartz claims, in the same county, have been sold to Sacramento, California people, who are starting a new 1200-foot adit.

In Josephine county the Grayback copper group, in Waldo district, has been leased to owners of the California-Oregon Coast R. R., who also own the Queen of Bronze and the smelter at Takilma, and development work on a large scale has commenced. The Queen of Bronze is this year working 60 men and producing a good grade of copper ore. It is expected that several of the old mines in Bohemia district, near Cottage Grove, will be reopened this year. The Columbia Gold Mines Company, at Sumpter, Baker county, for some years a large producer and having an extensive reduction plant, was closed down permanently at the end of 1916 and this partly accounts for the reduction in gold output in Oregon for the first five months of this year. In Canyon district, Grant county, the Empire Gold Dredge Company began operations in 1916, and has continued during 1917 with successful results, making the third dredge operating in Oregon. There is considerable activity in the hydraulic mines of the state, particularly in Baker, Grant, Jackson and Josephine counties.

BRITISH SLOWLY GAINING GROUND BELGIAN COAST

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 11.—A dispatch from Flanders to the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin, under date of August 9, describes three heavy British attacks on that day, resulting in the forcing and crossing of the Steenbeke river at a point where the railroad from Boesinghe and Langemark crossed the creek. It says that in consequence of better weather the artillery bombardment flamed up along the whole army front. This and other preparation indicate that a renewal of the general attack is impending.

In the coast section the British attacked at 2 a. m., August 9, after drum fire preparation, but according to the Vossische Zeitung's version, they did not succeed in ejecting the Germans.

Farther to the south the British were more successful. Here two hours of drumfire was the prelude to violent infantry attacks between Draabank and Saint Julien. The chief effort was concentrated south Steenbeke.

FREE NAVIGATION SCHOOLS OPENED PACIFIC COAST

BOSTON, Aug. 11.—The United States shipping board recruiting service, the headquarters of which are in this city, today announced the completion of arrangements for opening free navigation schools on the Pacific coast. The schools will be at San Pedro, San Francisco, Portland, Astoria and Seattle. In a few weeks, it was stated, all the thirty schools authorized by congress will be training deck officers for the new merchant marine. By September 1, according to officials, the capacity of the navigation schools will be about 700 deck officers a month.

The present capacity of the engineering schools in Boston, Hoboken, Baltimore, Cleveland, Chicago, New Orleans and Seattle is 450 students a month.

of Boesinghe and Langemark railway, where the British established themselves on the west bank of the Steenbeke.

SPAHN REFUSES TO BE CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION

BERLIN, Aug. 10.—Is the Catholic centrist party receding from its attitude toward parliamentary reforms? This query has been suggested by the decision of Dr. Peter Spahn, leader of the party in the reichstag, not to seek re-election to the reichstag, to which he has been forced since accepting the post of Prussian minister of justice. With that appointment his mandate in the reichstag automatically expired by constitutional provision, but that he is privileged to go before the voters and seek re-election.

In a section of the press and in his own party, it was taken for granted, he would continue as party leader in the reichstag, as his re-election was positively assured. Germany; organ of the centrist party, is now authorized to announce that Dr. Spahn will not be a candidate.

Dr. Schiffer, one of the national liberal leaders, who has been appointed under-secretary of the imperial finance ministry, also will not seek re-election to the reichstag.

Electricity in War-Time is a Necessary Convenience

Everybody is searching for ways to save time and labor to give to the nation. Women, especially, are anxious to help. "What can I do?" is heard on every side.

In your efforts to be useful to your country in these war-days, do not overlook the fact that electricity in your home will save you long hours of needless energy and real dollars of unnecessary expense. Electricity for lighting, sewing, washing, ironing, cleaning, cooking will do for the house-

hold what the telephone, telegraph, cash register and adding machine have done for factory, store or office.

Women everywhere may best heed the call to service for their country by doing what they can to eliminate useless, unnecessarily expensive and tiresome drudgery from their homes.

STOP AND THINK!

THE BEST WAY IS TO DO IT ELECTRICALLY.

California-Oregon Power Company Phone 168 216 W. Main St. Medford, Oregon



Good Farming Now Means Wealth

Farm products have never been so high as now, and the future, even the many, many years of reconstruction following the world war, holds forth no hope of cheap food for the consumer. Let us carefully consider our every opportunity, both present and future, and wisely decide to

Become Producers Instead of Consumers

To start with, a couple of cows, a few pigs and chickens and a good big garden and family orchard on a few acres of productive, well tilled land will make an independent living and will cost but comparatively little on a real good homestead. As you bring more land under cultivation your products will bring you a big cash price, whether it be grain or livestock or small farm produce. We wish to impress upon you that you are about to witness in the near future one of the

Greatest Government Land Openings in All History

Millions of acres of railway land has been forfeited, known as the O. & C. grant. Some of it is good, some poor, some rough and mountainous, but to our absolute knowledge there are many thousands of acres that we have personally cruised very carefully that constitute some of the best agricultural lands of all Oregon, often adjoining improved farms, near towns, etc.

THE FINDING AND ACCURATE SHOWING OF THIS BEST LAND NOW IS OUR BUSINESS Call and see us for particulars of our club plan and auto excursion of inspection.

NO LOCATION FEE—TOTAL COST \$35.00—MONEY BACK IF MISREPRESENTED

And money talks. Do not deceive yourself or let others discourage you and ruin your opportunity.

Nine-tenths of all wisdom consists of being wise in time, says Roosevelt. Act now. Investigate. We know the facts. See for yourself. Later on it will certainly be too late. Let us tell you all about this splendid opportunity which none of us can ever see again.

See The Oregon Homestead Cruisers

at the Office of J. C. Barnes, 102 West Main Street, Medford, Ore. or D. W. Hodgson, Austin Hotel Block, Ashland, Ore.