

This Is Crucial Month For Business Recovery Effort; Strikes Loom

By SAM DAWSON
 NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (AP)—September is likely to tell whether the business recovery effort is to be knocked galley-west by costly battles between labor and management.

The steel dispute comes to the showdown point in two weeks. And John L. Lewis gives another twist to the screws, calling for a two-day week in the coal mines next week. The nation's coal stocks, estimated to be dropping at the rate of a million tons a week, will be sliced 3 1/2 million tons that week.

Strike threats still hang over the auto, electric appliance and rubber industries. One big rubber company, B. F. Goodrich, is already

struck. In these, and other industries, labor and management are reported holding off contract decisions to see which way the steel stalemate will be resolved. Not only is there the strike threat, but also the question of what wage increases might do to prices, sales volume, and company profit and loss sheets—and purchasing power.

The steel dispute will come to a head over the second week-end in September. The president's fact-finding board is expected to make its recommendations September 10. The unions have set September 14 as the strike deadline. In the few days in between, the steel companies and the union must decide what they'll do about the board's suggestions.

Unless another truce extends the strike deadline, observers fear the time will be too short for the two parties to reach an agreement. The union has asked wage and pension concessions adding up to 30 cents an hour. Some think the board may suggest that it be cut about in third.

Strikes in the first postwar years merely added to the inflationary spiral by aggravating shortages of goods in great demand, and boosting prices.

This fall, however, strikes are more likely to deepen the recession. In most industries finished goods inventories are high enough to take care of consumer demand for some time. But the loss of purchasing power by workers in struck industries will hit retailers hard, and mushroom out all through the economy.

For example, the railroads that serve the coal fields are already hit by the three-day week which Lewis decreed July 1. Freight traffic is down and rail employees have been laid off.

Labor leaders in other industries deny that they are just waiting to see what happens in steel and coal before pushing this year's fourth-round bargaining to a conclusion.

But many on the management side of the table believe that when the steel pattern takes shape in a couple of weeks, and Lewis' tactics and chances become clearer, the die will have been cast for peace or war this fall in the key industries. Until that is known, the trend of business in general will be in doubt.

River Claims Mother, Three Small Children

SPOKANE, Wash., Sept. 1 (AP)—A 46-year-old mother and three young children were drowned Tuesday night in the Spokane river.

Officers could only speculate on the cause of the drownings. When the bodies were found a six-year-old girl still was clutching her mother's hair.

The victims were Mrs. Mabel G. Ashby and her children, Ruth, 7; Sharon Ray, 6, and Robert, 3.

Walter F. Ashby, the husband and father, was fishing 300 yards downstream. He arrived on the scene just as officers were recovering the bodies.

Dr. A. E. Lien, coroner, said the mother and children were having a picnic on the river bank while Ashby and an older boy were fishing.

Lien said he believed one of the children must have slipped into the river and that the others were carried off trying in a rescue attempt.

He said there were no witnesses. Ray O. Riddle, another fisherman, first discovered the tragedy when he saw the bodies floating downstream.

Overtime Suit OK'd By Court

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 1 (AP)—A federal court has approved an overtime pay suit against the Bow River Lumber Company, Cottage Grove, Ore., although the company is now out of business.

The U.S. circuit court of appeals ordered the suit to go to trial. It was filed by William R. McComb, administrator of the department of labor's wage-hour division. The suit involved overtime claims of some of 98 employees who worked more than 40 hours weekly without receiving extra time pay.



MISSING—Mrs. Mimi Boomhower, 48, (above), widow of Frank Boomhower, inventor and African big game hunter, has been missing since August 18, from her suburban Los Angeles home. She frequently wore jewels worth a small fortune and police fear she may have met with foul play.

Lions Seek Frolic Talent

Klamath people who have singing, dancing or dramatic talent will be offered the chance to take part in the second annual Lions' Fun Frolic, scheduled for September 27, 28 and 29 in the Pelican theater.

The show will be directed by a professional director under contract with Geller Productions of Hollywood, but all talent will be local.

Those interested in trying out for the production are invited to a "talent party" to be held at the Willard hotel, September 7.

Rehearsal times will be announced later, and will be held at Klamath Union high school.

Pioneer Farmer Suffers Injury

PIONEER COMMUNITY, Sept. 1.—W. L. Frain, Pioneer Community farmer, is suffering from leg injuries received when he was caught in the power take-off of a tractor Tuesday afternoon.

Frain's overalls became entangled in the tractor, which was being operated by Buz Smith, employed by Frain to cut hay.

The injured man was rushed to Klamath Valley hospital where he was found to be suffering from a broken left leg and bad bruises on the right leg. He will probably be released from the hospital later today and will return to his home to recuperate.

The ice cap covering Greenland is estimated to be 5000 feet thick.

Acreage Bill Protection For Wheat Growers

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 (AP)—President Truman has signed a bill providing machinery to protect wheat growers in areas where there have been rapid expansions of wheat acreage in recent years.

It also provides a method for southern and western farmers to cut cotton acreage, to prevent sharp drops in cotton prices in the years ahead. And it provides protection for new peanut growers.

The new law says the acreage allotment of wheat for the 1950 crop for any farm shall not be less than the larger of—

1. 50 per cent of (A) the acreage on the farm seeded for the production of wheat in 1949, and (B) any other acreage seeded for the production of wheat in 1948 which was fallowed and from which no crop was harvested in the calendar year 1949, or

2. 50 per cent of (A) the acreage on the farm seeded for the production of wheat in 1948, and (B) any other acreage seeded for the production of wheat in 1947 which was fallowed and from which no crop was harvested in the calendar year 1948.

These figures would be the farmer's base and his cut below this would be equivalent to the reduction in the national acreage allotment below average plantings during the past 10 years, or seven per cent.

In event the national allotment in any subsequent year is reduced below 2,100,000 the allotment for any state will be reduced in the same ratio as the national allotment is reduced below 2,100,000.

About one-sixth of the total U. S. fur production is obtained from animals raised in captivity.



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