

**COAL INDEPENDENTS ACCUSED OF GOUGING**

Massachusetts Fuel Administrator Says \$17,000,000 Is Exact of New York.

**CITES MINE FIGURES**

Railroad Director Declares There's No Shortage, but a 'Coal Panic.'

Testifying at the public hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Reconstruction and Production in the Engineering Societies Building, Eugene C. Hultman of Quincy, Mass., fuel administrator of Massachusetts, declared yesterday that the people of New York State are being "taxed" about \$17,000,000 annually in the exactions of independent anthracite dealers selling fuel at prices much higher than the so-called company coal produced by companies affiliated with the railroads. He estimated that New England is paying a similar sum, and protested against the dumping of large amounts of independent coal in New England States. Company coal prices, he said, averaged \$8 a ton f. o. b. at the mine, while the price demanded by independents was in excess of \$14.

Mr. Hultman said that 40 per cent. of the coal being marketed in Massachusetts is handled by independent dealers, as compared with 25 to 30 per cent. in the past. And this in face of general recognition that the product from independent mines throughout the country is said to be about 25 per cent. of the total tonnage, more than 70 per cent. being produced by the companies closely associated with the railroads.

Asked to describe independent coal dealers, the fuel administrator replied that he might be arrested for saying what he thought of them, but added that they seemed in the main to be jobbers, mostly existent on paper, and taking from each of their transactions from 50 cents to \$1 a ton.

In one exhibit which he presented and read into the minutes were listed ten New York dealers who he said had sold to retailers in Massachusetts at prices ranging from \$10 to \$15.50 a ton at the mines since October 1, 1920.

**No Shortage, Only Coal Panic.**

William H. Williams, senior vice-president of the Hudson Coal Company, of 26 Liberty street, a vice-president in the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company and director in more than a dozen other railroads, condemned the complaints from New England and newspaper stories for contributing to a panicky situation. His testimony in some respects conflicted directly with that given by Mr. Hultman. Speaking generally, he said:

"I believe that there is no shortage of coal, but there may be a coal panic, and the gentleman from Massachusetts is doing much to create a panic. If the people who have their coal would stop buying the price would break over night."

He declared that much confusion had been caused by investigators and newspapers in not distinguishing between anthracite and bituminous coal in their discussions, and cited statistics to show that his company had allotted more than its estimate for Massachusetts from April 1 to December 1 of this year. Although short about 9,000 tons in sup-

plying Brooklyn, Mr. Williams said that his company had supplied more than its anticipated quota to New York city. Asked by District Attorney Harry E. Lewis of Brooklyn, assisting at the hearing, if the company operators had organized, Mr. Williams declared that the association was principally to handle labor problems, and that prices were not discussed at meetings. He admitted that more control of the sales organizations of the large companies might help correct present tendencies, but he did not advocate going as far as exercising control of retailers.

**Prices at the Mine.**

L. R. Schumaker of the East Boston Coal Company of Kingston, Pa., told the committee that his company sold to retailers in New England and Canada at prices ranging from \$5.75 a ton in May to \$15 in September and thereafter. He was visibly disturbed while on the stand and frequently replied in hasty terms. He said that he was loathe to disclose the profits made by his company last year because he feared that the committee might think him and his associates poor business men. When pressed on this point by Mr. Lewis, he said that the "book profits were \$2,400 in 1919 and that the company had paid an income tax of \$2,000." He was unable to give further details before adjournment was taken.

The next hearing will be in Washington. At the conclusion of the session, yesterday Senator William M. Calder, the chairman, said:

"The facts brought out to-day were as expected. It seems that coal has been sold at the mines at extortionate prices, and the committee propose to go fully into the matter and lay bare the facts."

**WIFE IN BOY'S GARB SHADOWED HUSBAND**

Magistrate Fines Her \$1 and Orders Her Home.

Mrs. Gertrude Capan, 22 years old, was fined \$1 yesterday when she admitted to Magistrate Robert C. Ten Eyck in Essex Market Court that she had put on boy's knickerbockers, a white shirt and wide collar and a mackinaw as a disguise to trail her husband.

The costume of Mrs. Capan attracted the attention of Detective James A. Knapp when he was riding in a Second avenue elevated train. The knicks, ending at the knee, revealed far too shapely a leg for a youth, the detective decided. He took Mrs. Capan off the train at the First street station.

In court Mrs. Capan said her husband had left the house with an air of mystery, and she had determined to follow him. It did not develop that Capan was on the train Mrs. Capan had taken. Magistrate Ten Eyck sent her home in a taxicab to change her clothes as one of the conditions of the sentence. The Capans live at 203 East Ninety-fifth street.

**INDUSTRY DEPRESSED; IDLENESS NOT SERIOUS**

A report on the employment situation based on telegraphic advices from offices in forty-five States was issued yesterday by the National Industrial Conference Board in effect that an industrial depression was taking place but no serious unemployment has yet developed.

Conditions in New England were most unfavorable because of the decreased operation of textile mills. In the Eastern States generally employment is declining but is still above pre-war levels, and on the Pacific coast normal prevails, except in States where logging is a principal industry, where there is a labor surplus.

In the Middle West a severe depression was reported at automobile centres, but elsewhere conditions were normal. Varying conditions were reported from the South.

*"And thou, Delay, art but an idle Knave Whose only task is to announce Regret. Medoubtsif thou haste'en prepared thy Grave. But now begone—for Duty doth approach."*  
—Boyle.

There are some things that can not be neglected without being followed by reproach.

But more important still is the greater wisdom of selecting a burial place before grief thwarts judgment.

For judgment will more truly gauge the permanence of a burial place and will more certainly decide on Kensico—the Permanent Burial Park.

Know at once what you must know in the future.

Write today for "Cemetery History" with Photographs of Kensico.



**The Kensico Cemetery**  
America's Burial Park  
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**Make Your Xmas Shopping A Pleasure**

Do your Christmas Shopping early. Avoid the crowded trains and trolleys. Carry your purchases home with you. Shop this year by Automobile. Any of the reliable auto-renting Companies, whose advertisements appear in

**THE NEW YORK HERALD**

Can serve you with a handsome touring Car or limousine, at reasonable charge. Consult them and solve your shopping Problem. See next to last page daily or section Two on Sunday.

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have been made in the remaining stock of

**Sumptuous Fur Garments**  
fashioned in the latest mode, of Ermine, Mink, Broadtail, Mole, Karakul and Hudson Seal (dyed muskrat); also in

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**A Limited Number of French Seal Coats**  
(seal-dyed coney; dyed abroad) have been marked at the very special price of

**\$95.00**

**French Seal Muffs**  
to match these Coats at **\$21.00**

Fur Department, Third Floor (Madison Avenue section)

**Monday Sales of Timely Interest**

Three Thousand Yards of

**39-inch Chiffon Velvet**

of beautiful quality, in black, brown, taupe and navy blue

extraordinarily priced at

**\$3.90 per yard**  
(First Floor)

**French Filet Lace Window Panels**

(hand-made; imported this season) offering remarkable values at **\$17.50, 19.50, 22.00 to 45.00 each**

A supplemental offering will comprise a number of

**Decorative Lace Pieces**

at appreciable price reductions  
Excellent gift suggestions, these  
(Fourth Floor)

**A Quantity of All-wool Fabrics**

in appropriate lengths for Suits, Coats and Skirts (boxed, if desired, for Christmas presentation)

at attractively low prices

This offering comprises only this season's materials—all new and fresh. Among them are sports suitings, plaids, broadcloths, and plain and embroidered serges, velours and tricotines.  
(First Floor)

**Women's Silk Undergarments**

the greater part of them a new purchase and all of them desirable for holiday gifts, at prices representing exceptionally good values

- Nightrobes . . . \$4.95, 6.50
  - Envelopes . . . 3.95, 4.85, 5.90
  - Bloomers and Drawers . . . 2.95, 3.95
  - Camisoles . . . 95c., 1.65, 1.90
- Prices over \$5.00 are subject to tax  
(Second Floor)

**Women's and Misses' Sweaters**

(suggesting attractive and practical Christmas gifts); including the following selection from stock

at greatly reduced prices

- Wool Sweaters . . . at \$4.75, 9.75, 15.00, 24.50
- Silk Sweaters . . . 27.50, 32.50

Also a number of Silk Shawls, in Persian designs; reduced to \$10.50  
(Third Floor)

**Women's Petticoats**

Of silk jersey, edged with fringe; specially priced at **\$6.25**

Of white cotton material; including a shadow-proof model, paneled back and front; at the specially reduced price of **\$2.90**  
(Second Floor)

**TOY TALK**

Christmas News from Best & Co.'s

**Lilliputia**

Joseph Wants to Be a Painter.

—One of the heroes of "Jane, Joseph and John," a new book by Ralph Bergengren, declares it is lovely stuff.

He says—  
"Let those who will The hammer ply And others make The sawdust fly— It is all The same to me If I can A painter be.  
Paint I think Is lovely stuff, If I ever Had enough I would go Aroung and sing While I painted Everything."

PAINTS, BRUSHES, AND THINGS TO PAINT—IN THE GAME ROOM— .25 to 15.00



The piggy's most particular About his food and bunk, But the elephant won't go with us Unless we take his trunk.  
Noah's ark, with a roof that does duty as a lid. All of Noah's animals inside. 2.00

Frank Gicker, jr., forgot to tell Santy about the pencele sharpener.

Dear Santa—  
Last time I saw you at Best's I forgot to tell you I wanted a pencele sharpener. I am a very good boy and I hope you will bring me that electric train I spoke to you about.  
Santa says he will, Frank!



If I were real and not a toy I know I'd find a lot of joy In chasing that insipid mouse Up and down around the house.  
(More Toy Talk on Monday)

**Best & Co.**  
Fifth Avenue at 35th Street, N.Y.



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