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COAL SITUATION IS NOW CRITICAL

War-Time Restrictions Again Put on Use of Fuel by the Government.

CITY COMMISSIONERS ACT

Ask Alma Dealers Not to Sell More Than Ton at a Time and Only Where Needed.

With war time coal restrictions again clamped on through the United States fuel administration, and a big coal shortage as a result of the strike, which made necessary the move by the government, there is every indication that the entire country will be in the throes of a coal shortage within the next few weeks that will be far more severe than the one of two years ago.

As a result of the clamping on of the coal lid by the government, which was announced Tuesday, and in view of the extreme shortage of coal in Alma, the city commission Tuesday evening passed resolutions looking towards the equalizing of the delivery of coal here, so that every one would have the same opportunities in obtaining fuel during the crisis.

The action taken by the commission was to the effect that the several dealers of the city should not furnish coal in quantities of more than one ton to any one house, and then only in case that there was less than one week's supply on hand. The resolution also asked that the dealers refuse to fill back orders unless there was less than a week's supply of coal on hand in the house.

The order from the commission will be a welcome one for the dealers, without question, as there is no doubt but what they have been endeavoring to handle the little coal in the city in an equitable manner, but as one dealer stated Tuesday, it is hard to refuse a man coal, who has been a customer for years, and also a user of other commodities that they handle. It means that the dealer will have a real excuse in not furnishing coal to even his best friends, unless their bins are depleted, in view of the action on the part of the city, and will leave such people no argument because of past dealings.

The action on the part of the city officials is certain to be popular with the people of the city, and is certain to find favor with all people of the city who are fair-minded, as it will have much to do in the making of an equal distribution of fuel during the coal strike, when coal is certain to be a hard thing to obtain in quantities by any of the dealers.

PLEA IS GUILTY

Alma Spencer Made Plea of Guilty in Circuit Court.

Alma Spencer of Detroit, arrested about a year ago for stealing from the D. W. Robinson stores in this city, made a plea of guilty, in Circuit court last week, before Judge E. J. Moines.

The case has been of considerable interest in Alma and in fact throughout the state, as the Michigan Retail Drygoods Association stood behind Mr. Robinson in the prosecution, as the association had determined to eliminate this class of people as far as possible. Alma merchants, who have in the past suffered from light ones, watched the case closely.

Upon her plea of guilty the Spencer woman was ordered to pay Mr. Robinson \$150.00 for the goods which were taken from his store, and was placed on probation by the judge, and is also to pay the costs of prosecution.

Because of this case, which from the amount of goods taken was a serious matter, and because of numerous other thefts from Alma stores, the merchants of the city are determined that shoplifting must cease, and it is certain that those who are detected in the future will find that the coils of the law will encircle them.

It was stated yesterday by a prominent Alma merchant that store detectives will be at work here during the holiday season, who will make it a point to watch the crowds in the stores, and suspicious actions on the part of shoplifters, will be certain to bring trained eyes in their direction.

TWO TONS OF BACON

Mayor Murphy and John C. Chick returned yesterday from Detroit, where they purchased government foodstuffs and other goods for the next sale of government goods that the city will conduct. Among other things which are to be offered for sale will be two hundred army blankets, two cases of army shoes, and a considerable amount of foodstuffs. The date of the sale to be held here has not yet been announced and because of the failure of the carload of goods to arrive in time for the former sale on the day for which it was advertised, the city officials will not announce the dates until the goods have arrived here.

Best candies. DeLuxe.—77-4c

Record want ads pay.

TAKES UP WORK

Sidney Evey Has Taken Up Duties As New County Treasurer.

On Monday, December 1, Sidney Evey of Summer, assumed charge of his new work as treasurer for the county of Gratiot, succeeding Willard C. Folkert, who recently resigned because of ill health.

The retiring county treasurer has proven highly efficient in his work and will leave a large circle of friends from among those with whom he has had dealings, while connected with this office. Mr. Folkert will remain in the office of the county treasurer for a short time so as to be able to render such aid and advice as may be needed at the outset by Mr. Evey.

The new county treasurer is well known throughout Gratiot county as a hustler of merit, and his many friends believe that he will prove a highly capable successor to Mr. Folkert. Mr. Evey, who has been the supervisor from Summer township, was a candidate for the nomination for county treasurer on the Republican ticket at the primaries nearly two years ago.

RESERVATIONS WERE

HIGHLY IMPORTANT

Had for Object the Safeguarding of American Interests Wherever Possible.

While nearly every one knows that the peace treaty failed in the Senate because of being voted down, after the reservation had failed, few perhaps know just what these reservations were, and still smaller the number who have had the opportunity to study them, and decide for themselves, whether the Republican majority in the Senate was right in its belief, or whether that administration forces were correct in their stand.

The failure of the treaty to obtain ratification, came when it was submitted to the Senate with the reservations attached. Later it was offered again with the reservations and again failed, and then the original treaty, without the reservations went to defeat, one lone Republican voting for it in this way, while seven Democrats voted with the majority Republicans.

Opinion indicates that the treaty would not agree to certain reservations that had been made, the administration forces standing behind Wilson to a sufficient extent to keep the treaty, with its reservations, from obtaining the needed two-thirds vote.

The reservations which are passed by the Senate and attached to the proposed treaty are highly interesting and contain food for much thought and deliberation, not only from Republicans, but from members of all parties. Following are the reservations:

Preamble: United States not to be bound by treaty until at least three of the other four big allied powers agree in writing to recognize the reservations attached to the treaty by the Senate.

1. United States, in case of withdrawing from the league of nations, is to be sole judge of whether it has fulfilled its obligations; and notice of withdrawal may be given by concurrent resolution of Congress.

2. United States assumes no obligation to preserve territorial integrity or political independence of any other country or to interfere in disputes between nations or to use its military forces in any such foreign cause unless Congress specifically authorizes it. (This reservation had to do with the much discussed Article Ten.)

3. United States is to accept no mandate for the governing of any territory under the league unless Congress approves.

4. United States reserves the right to decide what questions are within its domestic jurisdiction, including immigration, labor, coastwise traffic, traffic in women and children and dangerous drugs, etc.

5. The United States will not submit to arbitration any question affecting "the long established policy known as the Monroe Doctrine; and said doctrine is to be interpreted by the United States alone and is hereby declared to be wholly outside the jurisdiction of the league." (The largest vote was given this reservation of any, and marked a big desertion in Democratic ranks.)

6. The United States reserves full liberty of action with respect to any controversy which may arise between China and Japan regarding Shanghai.

7. No persons are permitted to represent the United States in the assembly and council of the league, or on other commissions, courts, tribunals, or conferences in such capacities with out being authorized thereto by Congress and unless their appointment is confirmed by the Senate.

8. The reparations commission is not to interfere with trade between this country and Germany unless Congress approves of it.

9. The United States is not obligated to contribute funds for the league or any agency of it unless Congress appropriates such funds.

10. If the United States agrees to any limitation of armament under the league plan it reserves the right

BANK IS TO BE ENLARGED

Stockholders of First State Bank Have Decided to Enlarge Building.

VOTE TO DOUBLE CAPITAL

Remarkable Growth of Institution Has Made Necessary This Action.

At a special meeting of the stockholders of the First State Bank, held in the directors room of the institution last evening, the directors were authorized to take the needed steps to double the capital stock of the bank, and the stockholders also recommended that the directors take steps to remodel and enlarge the bank to suit present and future needs, as thought best by the directors.

The present capital of the bank is \$50,000, and the action of the stockholders at the meeting last night, when the needed steps have been taken by the board of directors, will make the capital \$100,000.00. This will be the second increase in capital stock in five years, as in December of 1914, the stock of the bank was increased from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

The sale of the new stock was authorized at \$500.00 per share, and the proceeds from this are to be added to the capital and to the surplus, and thus the institution will have a working capital of \$200,000.

Out of the five hundred shares, which represent the \$50,000 of the capital stock of the bank, 478 were represented at the meeting last night. As a two-thirds vote of the stockholders is needed for capital stock changes such as this, a good representation of the stock was needed to increase the capital.

The first definite statement regarding the enlargement and remodeling of the bank, about which there has been some persistent rumors of recent weeks, was made this morning by Carl H. Washburn, cashier of the institution, who made the statement that the stockholders had recommended that the bank be enlarged and remodeled, according to the best judgment of the board of directors, after a close survey of present needs and the prospects for the future has been made.

Asked if any plans had been decided upon, Mr. Washburn stated that while some sketches were on hand, nothing definite had been done in this regard. To what extent the bank will be enlarged in size will not be known until the directors take some action on the various plans, which it is expected will be submitted to them. It is rumored, however, that when the building is enlarged that it will extend nearly twenty-five feet more to the west, bringing the building clear to the alley.

It is expected that the enlarging of the structure will be so done as to give a larger working room for the employees of the institution, as well as to provide one or two more windows, so that the desires of the bank's patrons can be more rapidly and satisfactorily taken care of.

GROCERY IS SOLD

The Charles Sullivan grocery on West Superior street has been sold by Mr. Sullivan to Charles Smith, former clerk for the L. N. Baker grocery, and Eckert's Eastern market. Mr. Smith who has already taken possession of the Sullivan store has had years of experience in the grocery business and is expected to prove a highly capable successor to the retiring proprietor.

to increase its armament when threatened with invasion or engaged in war.

11. The United States refuses to be bound by any commercial boycott declared by the league and reserves the right to trade with a boycotted nation.

12. Preserves property rights of American citizens which may be infringed by treaty provisions.

13. Changed the labor plan, so that the United States takes part in any conferences or tribunals which assume to dispose of labor or industrial questions, it should only be done with the sanction of Congress; and that the representatives of this country should be provided for by law, and not left to union leaders or others with no legal status, and under no oath or obligation to the people.

14. The United States will not necessarily be bound by any decision of the league in which any member of the league has cast more than one vote. (This was aimed at the provision in the league of nations which permitted Great Britain and her dominions six votes, and would equalize the power of the two nations over league matters.)

A close study of the reservations can leave little doubt in the mind but what every one was passed for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the country in some particular manner, and those who have a copy of the original treaty will find it highly instructive to study the two together.

FIRE FRIDAY

European Cafe Closed Temporarily Following Fire in Kitchen.

A fire which broke out in the kitchen of the European cafe early last Friday morning, badly damaged this popular place, causing a loss that is estimated at about \$2,500 from fire, smoke and water.

It is not known to a certainty just how the fire started. Mr. Bonabus of the cafe left the kitchen for a moment, and hearing a loud noise from the rear of the cafe started for the kitchen, only to find it a mass of flames.

The fire department was quickly summoned to the scene, and two streams of water were thrown upon the fire, which had gained a good headway, but a brilliant fight on the part of the firemen quickly brought the flames under control, and kept the blaze confined to the rear of the building.

A heavy smoke from the fire damaged the upstairs rooms, and the dining room of the cafe badly, while water which was poured upon the fire ruined or injured some of the stock in the basement.

It is the intention of Nick Bardaville & Company, owners of the European cafe, to repair the building just as quickly as possible and re-open the doors, which were closed pending the insurance adjustments.

LYCEUM COURSE TO BEGIN ON MONDAY

Frederick Kendall Bangs, Noted American Humorist Will Appear Here.

The first number on the Lyceum-Chautauqua course for the winter season will be held Monday evening at the First Methodist Episcopal church on Prospect avenue, when Frederick Kendall Bangs appears here to entertain the holders of the lyceum course tickets.

John K. Bangs is considered to be in the very front rank of American humorists, and it is certain that the lyceum audience will listen to one of the finest attractions that is to be had here this year.

He has for years been a noted author, editor and lecturer, and has appeared on many lyceum and chautauqua platforms in all parts of the country, and is considered one of the favorites of the platform.

Of late Mr. Bangs has been in Europe, and it is expected that during the entertainment Monday evening much of interest acquired in his trip to that war-stricken continent, will be brought out.

Following this entertainment will come the oratorio on Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Professor Hosmer of Alma College. This entertainment, for which outside artists are being secured as soloists, will be held at the Presbyterian church, and will be the final attraction before the holidays.

There are still a number of unsold tickets that are available for those who are desirous of attending the lyceum course and such people are urged to make their purchases immediately and secure their reserved seats. Tickets can still be obtained from the drug stores and the banks.

PIPES WERE FROZEN

Seven Outlet Pipes at Gas Plant Froze and Cut Gas Supply.

The freezing of seven outlet pipes at the plant of the Gratiot county Gas company last week, caused a cessation of gas to users of the product of the company for some hours during the latter part of the week, causing great inconvenience to householders, not only in Alma, but in the other towns that are being supplied by the company.

The seven outlet pipes had been provided by the company, with a view of eliminating the chance of such a freeze up, and for a time it was thought that a main had broken out in the country and gas was shut off to the other communities while the pipe lines were carefully gone over.

Finally it was discovered that the outlets were frozen, and the gas was entirely shut off and the pipes thawed out. In some way water had gotten into the outlet pipes, causing the freeze up.

That people, who depended entirely upon the gas for cooking, were highly inconvenienced, is evidenced by some of the makeshifts that were reported. A story is told of one Alma woman, who Saturday noon cooked meat for the family dinner in the furnace, that is used to furnish heat for the house. It is reliably reported that early one morning, toward the last of the week, Mayor Murphy, unable to secure gas, used a makeshift on which to get his breakfast. In fact he will admit if closely questioned that he endeavored to boil his coffee on an electric toaster.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

On account of the extra Christmas advertising, all advertisers are urged to have copy in the office by Tuesday night. This foresight will help all concerned, and give advertiser a better arrangement of space. Please co-operate in this matter.

Best ice cream. DeLuxe.—77-4c

FORDNEY STRONG ON AMERICANISM

Chairman of Ways and Means Committee Spoke at the Gratiot Club.

SPOKE ON PEACE TREATY

Other Important Matters, Including Pending Legislation Were Taken Up by Him.

Matters of National importance were taken up Friday evening by the Honorable Joseph W. Fordney, congressman of the eighth district, and chairman of the ways and means committee in the lower house of congress, in his address to the members of the Gratiot club. It held a vital interest for the large audience that greeted the lawmaker, and followed his address with the greatest of interest. So strong was the impression that Mr. Fordney created that he was made an honorably member of the club.

Following the introduction to the members of the club by E. L. Smith, president of the organization, Congressman Fordney stated that there was no place under the stars and stripes for members of the I. W. W., for anarchy, or for Bolshevism, and questioned as to why some of the radical leaders who had been sent to Ellis Island had not been deported. He spoke of the congressional investigation, which is now sifting this affair to the bottom, with a view of promulgating such corrective measures as may be needed.

The great cost of the war in lives and in money, to the United States and to the world was taken up briefly, and a glowing tribute to the bravery of the American soldiers, was given when he told of a speech by a Frenchman recently, in which the great work of the Americans in driving the Germans out of the Argonne was given. The Frenchman had stated that the work of the American soldiers in that district never done on any battle field in any war.

The peace treaty and the league of nations was taken up, but details could not be given in the address. Mr. Fordney stated that he was sorry that the treaty had failed, but that had he been in the senate, he could not have voted for it because of the fact that the league of nations was to his mind unconstitutional, as it placed the war making power with the league, and not with congress, as is done by the constitution. He said that the treaty would probably be taken up again very soon, and that if it did not then pass, congress undoubtedly would adopt the Lodge resolution declaring the war at an end. It was his hope, he said, that this would come quickly, so that the country might sooner get back to normal conditions.

Mr. Fordney expressed himself as against legislating to regulate prices, and lower costs, as this could only come about through greater production to meet the demands. He gave it as his opinion that high prices would prevail for some time yet, as there was evidently no immediate prospect of production increasing sufficiently to meet the demands for products.

The need of protective legislation to take care of the produce raisers, who constitute about one-third of the people of the country, who must not only feed themselves, but the other two-thirds; and to protect new industries, and prevent unfair foreign competition, was also brought out.

In giving his audience an idea of the great cost of the world war to the United States, Congressman Fordney stated that during the past two years one and one-half as much money had been spent by the government, as had been spent during all the previous years of the nation's life.

The need of doing something for the returned soldiers was emphasized strongly, and a bill that Mr. Fordney recently introduced to this end was spoken of. It will carry a bonus of \$1.00 per day for each day that each man was in the service, and it was Mr. Fordney's estimate that two billion dollars would do this.

In bringing his address to a close Mr. Fordney took up the matter of government ownership of railroads, telephone and telegraph lines, etc., and stated that he was very much opposed to government ownership, following a deep study of the question. He told of the great financial losses that the government had sustained through the taking over of the railroads, telegraph and cable service, and steamship lines during the war.

Immediately following the close of the address a motion was made and unanimously carried, making J. W. Fordney, congressman of the eighth district, the first honorary member of the Gratiot club.

Previous to the address by Mr. Fordney E. L. Smith, the newly elected president of the club, was introduced by the retiring president, H. M. Crooks, in a few well chosen words.

HEAVY WIND

Wind Storm Saturday Night Did Considerable Damage.

The wind storm of Saturday night, which followed closely on the heels of a heavy rain, is reported to have done considerable damage here, although no great amount of damage was done at any one place, or any concern, excepting perhaps the Central Michigan Light & Power company, which sustained a big loss from light wires, which were blown down.

The blowing down of light wires plunged the city in darkness for a time late Saturday night, and it was not until late Sunday that all of these wires were repaired and full service resumed, it is reported.

The greater part of the other damage done consisted in shingles being torn from houses, trees being uprooted, and large limbs of trees broken off. A few small sheds were also blown over.

In the country districts of the county, where the heavy wind got a better sweep at sheds and trees, a considerable amount of damage was done.

PURITY BRAND MILK

COMPANY CHANGES

Concern Has Been Re-organized Under the Name of the Alma Creamery Co.

The Purity Brand Milk company of this city has been re-organized and is re-opened under the name of the Alma Creamery company, and is in a better position to do business under approved sanitary conditions than ever before.

In re-organizing the company, the plant has been modernized in every possible way, so that milk may be handled at the lowest possible cost, and yet handled under highly sanitary conditions, thus conforming with the requirements of the pure food and drug department, which has ruled that milk should be clarified and sterilized.

The management of the Alma Creamery company sets forth the fact that the tuberculosis workers have traced this disease to milk in some cases, and that sterilization of the milk kills all germs.

The company has also added up-to-date ice cream making machinery, and has secured a first-class ice cream man to take charge of this part of the plant. He is Mr. Wm. Cheyboygan, who has had considerable experience in this work.

David E. Burns, manager of the re-organized company, states that the company will sell milk to the dealers of the city, and that the milk from this company will be handled by Ellison's Grocery, Eichenberg's Grocery, Powell's Grocery, J. A. Bartley, Mrs. Hughes, and the Leahy Grocery.

NEW MACHINERY

Alma Record Has Installed New Press With a Miller Feeder.

During the past few days a new press has been installed in the offices of The Alma Record, which is operated by a Miller Press Feeder, which was first conceived in the mind of H. A. Miller, when the Miller Saw-Tremmer company, now of Pittsburgh, was located in this city.

The press feeder, which is attached to a 12 by 18 Gordon, is the first of its kind in use in the county, and gives to The Record two self-feeding job presses, which aid in relieving overhead expense, and thus have considerable to do with keeping costs low. One man will now be able to take care of the work on the two presses, which without the feeders, would require the services of two men.

The Miller feeder operates with mechanical perfection, feeding paper into the press so that every sheet has exactly the same margin. It makes possible great accuracy where duplicate and triplicate work is desired. The Miller feeder will take a sheet of paper from the very thinnest stocks to heavy cardboard.

The Record has also recently installed a new job folding machine, in view of being able to meet all demands for this class of work, a need that has been growing in view of the varied work that the office produces.

The owners invite Alma people to call at the office and inspect the new Miller feeder, and its other high grade machinery and equipment, which is designed and in use with a view of giving the best possible service in the shortest possible time.

WEATHER SUMMARY

Following is the weather summary for November as reported by P. M. Smith, local observer. The mean maximum temperature for the month was 43 degrees and the mean minimum was 28 degrees. The maximum was 57 degrees on the 17, and the minimum was 14 degrees on the 15th.

The total precipitation for the month was 2.48 inches, the greatest in twenty-four hours being 1.62 in. on the 29th. The total snowfall for the month was one inch. There were five clear days during the month, eight partly cloudy and seventeen cloudy.

Don't miss "The Brute Breaker," Idlehour, Friday—adv.

FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS

Senator Newberry and One Hundred and Thirty-Four Aids Stand Trial.

A. F. CRAWFORD INCLUDED

Gratiot County Republican Committeeman is Among the Number of Those Indicted.

The grand jury, which has been sitting in Judge Sessions United States district court at Grand Rapids for some weeks probing the affairs connected with the campaign of United States Senator Truman H. Newberry, reported Saturday with indictments against Newberry and one hundred and thirty-four of his campaign workers, including at least one prominent Republican from Gratiot county.

The indictments which contain sweeping charges of corruption and conspiracy, as well as using the mails to defraud, came as a surprise to most people of the state, in spite of the persistent rumors which had been afloat as to the money expenditures during the Newberry campaign.

The most surprising part of the indictments, however, was the prominent men that it had brought under the spotlight to stand trial on the charges returned by the grand jury. Among the best known of the politicians against whom indictments were returned are:

United States Senator Truman H. Newberry of Detroit.

John S. Newberry of Detroit, a brother of the Senator.

Paul H. King of Detroit, a former receiver of the Pere Marquette, who was manager of the Newberry campaign.

Allen A. Tempieton, well known Detroit manufacturer, who was president of the Newberry committee.

J. B. Bradley of Eaton Rapids, former candidate for governor.

In addition to these men there are one hundred and thirty others in various parts of the state, only a few of whom are known at the present time, but it is believed that for the greater part they will include smaller politicians of the state, who are influential in their own communities. Included among this latter list is Alfred P. Crawford of Breckenridge, prominent Gratiot county banker, and for years one of the strongest Republican politicians in the county. Crawford stood mute, and a plea of not guilty was entered for him. He furnished the \$1,000 bond which the court set, and will stand trial.

So far as is known at the present time Crawford is the only Gratiot county resident to have been indicted by the grand jury. He took an active part in the campaign for Newberry, having directed the campaign in Gratiot in behalf of the Republican candidates.

Two men appeared before Judge Sessions and made a plea of guilty to some of the counts against them, and were released on bond.

The fact that the men have been indicted does not mean that they are guilty by any means, but that there is, in the minds of the members of the grand jury, sufficient evidence on which to ask their trial on the charges made, and they must continue to stand as innocent men until convicted at their trials, which are expected to be rushed just as rapidly as is possible.

SERIES OF SERMONS

Sunday Evening Sermons at the Presbyterian Church.

All the world is looking today for the best principles by which to secure a more perfect social order. The present leaders in Russia, dissatisfied with principles used heretofore, have adopted a small manifesto written by Karl Marx some fifty years ago as the fundamental law upon which to build a so-called Bolshevist society. Other men in other lands bring forward other basic laws of varying character. Few seem to remember that one of the great gifts to the world made by God through Jesus Christ was such a perfect law of such a perfect society.

Long before the Master's birth it was prophesied that the Messiah when he came would give his people the perfect law; and Jesus took care to fulfill this prophecy. What he says is contained in three short chapters of Matthew. The paragraphs are so arranged as to be capable of division into various articles like those of a Constitution of to-day, such for instance as "Article I—Memberships; Article II—Function of Members; Article III—Standards to be Attained; etc."

In these days of reconstruction no study should prove of greater value to people generally than the consideration of these words of Christ. It was announced last Sunday that the sermons in the Presbyterian church for the next few Sunday evenings will have to do with such a study. The series should be a help to many.

Record want ads pay.