

# The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME"

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WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 7, 1920.

## THE AMERICAN'S CREED.

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

## PRAISEWORTHY STAND.

PUBLIC spirited West Virginians of all walks and interests will join in congratulating the delegates from this state to the United Mine Workers of America convention at Columbus upon their support of the international officers of the Mine Workers in the stand they took with regard to President Wilson's plan for ending the soft coal strike.

The history of the United Mine Workers during the past twelve months is a fine example of the kind of havoc radicals can work in this country when they become influential in a large labor organization controlling one of the basic industries. Before any one suspected that it could happen the miners' union, which had been successfully carrying out collective bargaining for a quarter of a century, was in the hands of radicals who had some sort of an understanding with extremist mine workers' leaders on the other side of the Atlantic. It soon became apparent that the American element in the union either would have to fight the radicals with their own weapons or abandon control of the organization, one of the strongest and most important in the country, to alien influences.

Fortunately none of the men at International headquarters are the quaking kind and the struggle within the organization began. The result was costly to the mine operators, to the men themselves and doubly costly to the consumers, but thanks to the fact that they kept their heads and understood the value of patience, the officers won out. It was a tight squeeze, however, and even yet the alien radicals and the gang which would like to seize control of the organization on any terms would upset them if it were possible. What that would mean probably would not develop until the new officers began deliberately to betray the American coal industry in pursuance of the understanding which some of them certainly have with the nationalization element among the miners of Great Britain and continental Europe.

It is of the highest value, therefore, for such important bodies as the West Virginia miners to stand up and declare that they approve heartily of the course pursued by Acting President Lewis and Secretary-Treasurer Greer. Here in the state there never has been the slightest question of the loyalty and intelligence of the miners. The action of their representatives at Columbus is a double assurance that they are not only Americans at heart, but thoroughly alive to the necessity of standing on the labor movement with moderation and in accordance with the laws.

## "HOUSES WANTED."

BACK in 1916 the supply of houses just about kept up with the demand. Population was increasing at the usual rate of 12 per cent a year. New building was replacing old and increasing the total supply at about the same rate.

During 1917-18 everybody was busy "winning the war."

Practically all builders not in active service were working in cantonments, munition plants and factories. Construction on houses fell off to about one-third the usual figure. We didn't notice the shortage at the time because several million men were at war, which left plenty of room for the rest.

January, 1919, found us with these four million men coming back into civil life, marriages, and the accumulation of two or three years, came all at once. Three years' supply of houses were needed at once. Instead of having them we are short 2,000,000 homes that would normally have been built during 1917-18.

At the same time the dollar has shrunk and construction costs have sky-rocketed. Bricks, for instance, cost six times as much as they did in 1914. Builders have postponed their plans to wait for prices to come down.

Here we have an unusually large demand and 2,000,000 less homes than the ordinary supply. The natural thing has happened. The basic law of supply and demand—the law that fixes prices—has raised rents. The country over they have risen on an average of 28 per cent.

The only thing that can bring rents down is this same basic law. If the balance is to swing the other way—if the hand is to point to lower rents—supply must out-wager demand.

We are all here and we've got to live somewhere, so there isn't much chance of cutting down the demand. The only answer is to build. Invest your savings in a place you can call your own. True, costs are high, but rents are also high and there is little prospect of them coming down for some time to come.

## SECRETARY LANE'S CONFERENCE.

IN one of the first of the annual reports issued by the Department of the Interior after Secretary Lane became the head of it a strong stand was taken against what very pertinently was called the economic crime growing out of the waste of natural gas. Mr. Lane has never let the matter slip entirely from his mind, not even when the country was in the war and there were many other things to think about, and now he has called a conference of governors and scientists for the purpose of examining into the matter and, if possible, formulating plans for a reduction in the losses in which some real progress is likely to be made.

The bigger companies engaged in the production and distribution of natural gas have been giving a great deal of thought to conservation in recent years. With the price up to where it is now it costs them real money to lose gas. What is even worse, every cubic foot of gas that is wasted makes the position of the companies more difficult at a time when the demand for service is much larger than they can meet. It may be doubted, therefore, that even such a conference as Secretary Lane proposes will result in much improvement right there.

Nevertheless the conference will be a good thing, for the simple reason that it will focus the interest of the consumers over the entire territory served with natural gas upon the gas situation, and if the proceedings of the gathering are skillfully directed the attention of many people ought to be turned upon the great waste of this precious fuel at the point of consumption. If the statement of yesterday is true that 80 per cent of the gas delivered to domestic consumers is wasted, anything that will make them save gas ought to be a great help to the whole gas situation.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Philadelphia group of the Pennsylvania Bankers' association last night, Governor Sprout, of Pennsylvania, expressed regret that there are as yet no federal laws which would enable the Department of Justice to reach the renegade Americans who give countenance to doctrines which would destroy the Republic. In spirit most red blooded Americans share this view, but this is a matter upon which it is not easy to legislate. It is all right to punish the renegades, but it is quite another matter to destroy the right of free speech and the other liberties which are guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. In the end the best method of dealing with the people who have adopted the maudlin political doctrines of the Russian theorists is for sane Americans to ostracize them.

Advances of fifty cents a ton by Chicago retail dealers and prospective advances of the same kind in Cleveland give a new angle to the coal price matter which former Fuel Administrator Garfield did not figure on. The dealers say the cost of handling coal has gone up so much that they are doing business at a loss, and the Cleveland Fair Price committee which has made an investigation declares that this is so. And it probably is. At all events the movement in the two cities mentioned brings out as never before the fact that Dr. Garfield was dealing entirely in theories and made little or no attempt to ascertain actual conditions in the coal trade.

Official reports indicate that at least 1,000 people were killed outright and twice that number injured in the Vera Cruz center by the Mexican earthquake of early this week. To a world accustomed to huge casualty lists that may not seem very bad, but it must be remembered that in order to kill and injure that many people an earthquake must do an immense amount of property damage. The indications are that the Mexican disturbance will rank as one of the great earthquakes.

The distillers are trying to work out some plan by which they can get compensation for the 60,000,000 gallons of whiskey which is in bond and which at present represents a dead loss of millions of dollars. They are largely responsible themselves for the fact that they have this liquor, for the way for them to get rid of it was provided in the war time prohibition act, but no one wants them to suffer heavy financial loss, and if a way can be worked out to let them export the liquor or redistill it into alcohol useful in the arts there probably will be no great opposition on the part of the public.

## Mrs. Harriet Roach Dies in 83rd Year

Mrs. Harriet Roach, widow of John Roach, died at her home on Locust avenue yesterday after an illness with a complication of diseases. She was 83 years of age and was a native of Webster county but had resided here for several years. She is survived by five sons and three daughters.

Short funeral services held at the residence yesterday evening at 8 p. m. were conducted by the Rev. W. J. Eddy, pastor of the First Baptist church. This morning the body was taken to Webster for burial. She was a member of the Webster Baptist church.

**LEY COMPANY MAN DIES HERE.**  
Tony Lucas, an Italian employed by the Fred T. Ley construction company died last night at Cook hospital. The body was prepared for burial at the Jones undertaking establishment but no funeral arrangements have been made at this time.

## OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

(BY CONDO)

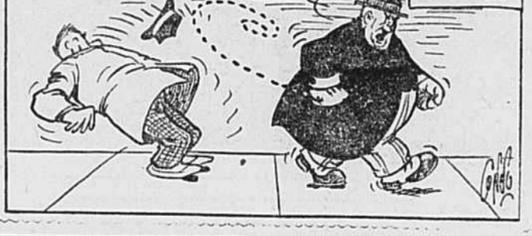
—AND I BELIEVE A MAN OUGHT TO HAVE A RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING HE THINKS!!  
YES, SIR!!



—I TELL YOU I'M FOR FREE SPEECH, FIRST, LAST AND ALL THE TIME!!



ANYONE CAN SEE THAT!! NOW IF YOU COULD ONLY THINK!!!



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FAIRMONT, Jan. 6.—(Editor The West Virginian)—Someone in your issue yesterday complained of insufficient heat in street cars. It is true some of the cars have been cold during the recent severe weather, particularly the 15-as-you-enter cars where both front and rear doors are frequently opened at the same time.

This is not due to any attempt at economy by the Company. All heaters in the cars have been on at full capacity. Last winter the amount of heat in all street cars was reduced under orders of the Federal Fuel Administration. There are no such regulations this winter.

When a street car is built the electric heater capacity is determined by the size of the car and there is, therefore, as much heat in the street cars in Fairmont as there is in any other city of the same temperature where the cars are electrically heated.

A street car is a means of short distance transportation, and the average number of minutes it is, therefore, not expected to be as warm as one's home or a steam railroad train designed for a long distance travel. If a street car electrically heated were to operate in the few days of zero weather, it would be impossible to control the heat and keep it from being uncomfortably hot for several months of the year.

This company appreciates the good will of the public and the fair treatment it receives from the public; for that reason this explanation is made. MONONGAHELA VALLEY TRACTION COMPANY.

## Editorial Comment on Current Subjects

WEST VIRGINIA'S "GRAND OLD MAN."  
From the Wheeling Intelligencer.  
The Morgantown New Dominion notes the election of Dr. I. C. White as president of the Geological Institute of America, and makes the selection the occasion for a reproduction of a short biography of White. The Intelligencer commends the distinguished West Virginian as a well-earned honor.

His work as a geologist has taken him all over the world, and his profound knowledge of this science has been recognized by foreign governments and by international scientific organizations. White West Virginians rejoice in this wide recognition of the achievements of one of their distinguished fellow citizens, those who know Dr. White intimately, appreciate most, perhaps the intense interest which he has always taken in things that make for the welfare and the happiness of the people of West Virginia.

**HAMBURGER AND LUNCHES**  
"Best in Fairmont"  
Served With Music.  
Hauck's on Draught Drop in Day or Night  
BERGO NO. 1  
304 Water St.

than those of any other single man in the scientific world.  
Dr. White will probably resent being called an old man. Yet he was born in 1848 and has, therefore, passed the seventieth year of his age. He is still, however, young in spirit and vigorous in body. But the Intelligencer feels sure that it voices the sentiments of thousands of citizens of this state when it expresses the hope that this "grand old man of West Virginia" will be spared for many years to enjoy the honors which he richly deserves and to continue a life of the highest usefulness.

## EAST SIDE NEWS

**East Side Schools.**  
The East Side schools have started off splendidly this week after the holiday vacation. Both teachers and pupils are beginning the work with renewed energy. The buildings have all been put in excellent shape and made comfortable and sanitary. The teachers have all arrived and on duty but Miss Dilgard, music supervisor, who is expected this evening from her home at Gorman, Prof. Ford, of the high school faculty, who spent his vacation in Florida, is expected in a few days. Mrs. James Clinton is substituting for him until his return.

**Aid Society.**  
The Ladies' Aid society of the Palatine Baptist church will meet Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. J. D. Summers in Diamond street. A full attendance is desired.

**Interesting Meeting.**  
A most interesting meeting of the Foreign Missionary society of the Diamond street church was held Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Fred A. Baker, in Wiley street. Rev. J. C. Buckley conducted the devotions and gave a most instructive and interesting talk on "The Women of Sauria." Considerable business was brought before the society and discussed.

**Returned Home.**  
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Criser, who have been here with their daughter, Mrs. Jesse Rex, since Christmas, returned to Keyser Tuesday. Mr. Criser, who has been ill since coming to Fairmont, is much better.

**Pleasant Meeting.**  
A most pleasing meeting of the Young Woman's Mission Circle of the Palatine Baptist church was held with Mrs. Stella Brown at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lute Brown Monday evening. A chapter in the Mission Study book was read and discussed proving most interesting to all present. The place of the next meeting has not yet been announced.

**Personals.**  
Charles Robinson, of Winchester, was in the city Tuesday.  
Mrs. E. A. Wilson is recovering from a few days' severe illness.  
Miss Virginia Helmick is still quite ill at her home in Diamond street.  
The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ford is quite sick.

In many London houses horseshoes, covered with red cloth, were hung over the beds to keep the occupants from suffering from nightmares.

**SAY TO YOU DOCTOR:**  
"Doctor, my faith in your ability warrants me in believing that my illness will be truthfully understood, properly treated and my recovery certain. May I not ask you also for your co-operation towards the preparation of the drugs that may enter your prescriptions? May I suggest that your prescriptions go to Crane's Drug Store for filling because there I am assured, through the recommendation which others have given, that drugs of the highest quality only are used and that knowledge and experience employed, that care is exercised that medicines may be right, active and safe. With all the advantages of fine drugs, and work that this drug store is able to give will also have a further advantage of appreciating economy through the renown of this store to sell the best of all drugs at the lowest of all prices."

**CRANE'S Drug Store**  
SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNTS  
There's a child, perhaps, you wish to send to college; a home you mean to buy, a trip you want to take—and there's a safe and easy way to gain your desires.  
Open a Special Account with us. Deposit a little weekly or monthly. Soon with the interest we allow the amount required will be ready for your purpose.  
Let us show you how.  
**THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL BANK**  
Capital \$200,000.00

**Courtneys' Store**  
Honest Values 108-110 Main St.  
Announcing The Arrival of Dahlia Hats

**New Spring Millinery**  
You'll Be Proud To Wear

Styles are not only new, but they are distinctive, exclusive and modestly priced. A new hat will add greatly to your winter suit. You are invited to inspect them.

With this showing of New Spring Millinery we also offer you your choice of all Winter Hats at **HALF PRICE**

**Dahlia Hats**  
Now on Display as Pictured in January Vogue.

Truthful Advertising **Courtneys' Store** Dependable Merchandise

**RUFF STUFF**  
Did you come to work on your ear this morning?  
Living in a town that reminds visitors of cities in Switzerland is all right in summer time, but it is a different thing on a morning like this.  
Of course if they had had the forethought to provide themselves with a shingle the folks of the hills could have come to work in a hurry.  
Lacking the shingle some of 'em came to work on something that was quite handy.  
According to a dispatch from New York a woman over there has sold her husband for \$5,000.  
Plenty of Fairmont matrons when they hear of this will promptly stamp the transaction as the most flagrant instance of profiteering on record.  
They completed a murder trial over

In New York in a few hours yesterday.  
But just when we were about to conclude that the New York courts had turned over a new leaf on New Year day we learned the fact that the man on trial was a negro.  
He was convicted, of course, but that does not prove anything in particular—especially nothing which indicates that murder trials are to be shortened over there.  
The ice on the streets and sidewalks this morning was very thin.  
But it was just as hard as thick ice when you hit it on the way down.  
And the oftener you hit it the harder it seemed.  
But at that it was plain to be seen that the stenogs and other female office and store help were having the time of their young lives as they slid to work.  
Mme. Poincaré, wife of the French president, is expected by the government to spend \$30,000 a year on her wardrobe.