

# TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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## FUTILE LEGISLATION.

What's the matter with Kansas? was the query propounded years ago by the versatile humorist, Will Hays. The Jay-hawkers are always doing something that nobody else would think of doing and through this system of experiments have frequently brought the state into ridicule if not contempt. The latest illustration of this short-sighted statesmanship is found in the enactment of a law which was guaranteed to be a sure antidote for strikes and labor disturbances. The first effect was to provoke a challenge from the coal miners who boldly walked out in defiance of the new law which prohibits strikes and all industrial disturbances. The law said there could be no strikes and the miners rejoined in the most emphatic way by declaring a strike right off the nest. Now it remains for the state to demonstrate its capacity for enforcement of legislation which is said to be the most revolutionary step ever taken by a law-making body to curb a powerful element of the population. The new statute provides for a court of industrial relations having jurisdiction over essential industries vested with public interest. The bill affects food, clothing, fuel and transportation, prohibits lockouts or strikes in these industries and provides severe penalties for conspiracy to promote strikes or interfere with production. It also provides that the court can fix wages and settle industrial disputes in these industries and serve as a court of arbitration to consider disputes in industries listed as essentials. The force of public opinion was largely with the lawmakers, most of whom suffered from the fuel strike of the holiday season as the measure was passed by both houses by large majorities. Kansas may be able to put the law across and, should it do so, the fact will cause other states to follow suit. It must be remembered that Kansas was the only state of the union that devised ways and means of fighting the coal strike with a certain measure of success by placing the coal mines under a state receivership, with volunteer miners under protection of state troops. The miners have thrown down the gauntlet and it remains to be seen what the state is going to do in the way of punishing infraction of the new law which would make a man work whether he wanted to or not. President Wilson and the most conservative minds of the nation have decided that there is no law to prevent a man from ceasing work. That is his right as an American citizen and the issue may not come without the strikers interfere with others who are willing to take their places. In any event the experiment will be watched with deep interest and the outcome may decide other states on the best form of treatment for industrial disturbances.

## HOOVER ON THE SAFETY VALVE.

Herbert Hoover doesn't know whether to say to his friends that he is a candidate for the presidency or not. Constructive statesmen believe he will let things simmer along and, when they get to the boiling point, if they do, he will declare himself. His friends from all over the country are urging him to come out in the open about his candidacy but he is indisposed to do anything that savors of seeking the presidency. One of the anachronisms of the campaign which is yet in its infancy is the doubt expressed by both sides as to the political affiliation of the shrinking candidate who is claimed by both republicans and democrats as the one man whose name would swing a vast independent vote. Mr. Hoover is not at all sanguine of the result. He knows enough about politics to realize that the candidate must be either a republican or democrat and that there cannot be any straddling of party platforms. While the Hoover platform is before the public it will be time for the Hoover clubs over the country to demonstrate to the party leaders that Mr. Hoover has a great popular following and that it will be worth while for the party leaders to pay some attention to him. Meanwhile Mr. Hoover is sitting on the lid of his own presidential boom.

## HUMANIZING EMPLOYMENT.

The action of three mining companies of the Tonopah district to stabilize employment by incorporating an insurance contract in their personnel is a feature whose adoption is highly pleasing. The only criticism is that the measure came at a late hour but then, it must be conceded, that corporations and employers in general are taking a more liberal view of the question of treating employees with more consideration than the mere delivery of a certain amount of labor for a stated stipend. It has been demonstrated pretty conclusively that where there is a frequent turnover of labor units efficiency is reduced and the employer has to reckon on the loss of breaking in new men to vacant positions. The men who work in a mill, factory or mine year in and year out acquire a knowledge of operations that cannot be estimated in cold dollars and cents. Nevertheless the employer finds that he is not getting 100 per cent return on his labor investment which militates sensibly against the cost per ton production. The old slave driving habit encouraged by archaic methods no longer finds favor with employers who realize that the worker does not always inject into his daily toil the elements that go to make efficiency. The display of human interest finds ready response from subordinates who respond with alacrity to a kind word or to the request of the boss who goes about his stations calling every man by his first name and displaying a familiarity with what he is supposed to do and with what he accomplishes. Driving has been banished from the mines of Nevada and the most profitable properties today are those which are conducted on modern principles with perfect understanding between the employer and employees. The insurance system is not new in Nevada although it is not known that any mine operators have ever adopted it for it has been effectually demonstrated by the Nevada-California Power company which began the innovation by insuring its employees of six months standing for the sum of \$1500 without assessing any part of the policy charge against the beneficiaries. This provision is distinct from the regular accident insurance carried by the majority of labor employees in Nevada and the face value of the policy is payable to the heirs of deceased employees without any deductions. Recently the power company increased the individual

policies from \$1500 to \$2000. This action should carry with it endorsement of the investment which insures the worker's family a certain capital in the event of death depriving them of their bread-winner. Should death be due to accident the beneficiaries receive the stipulated amount from the state in addition to the life policy placed and maintained at the expense of the employer.

## TRADE RIVALRY IN CAUCASUS

(Correspondence Associated Press)

LONDON, Jan. 27.—A lively competition for trans-Caucasian trade appears to have sprung up among the American, British and Italian

interest working there. The British consul at Batum in a report published in the Board of Trade Journal states that members of the American relief committees are busily engaged in opening up trade with America. The British still lead in importations, he asserts.

The consul states that "hitherto little else but flour and clothing for distribution to Armenian refugees and persons of other nationalities in distress have reached this

country from the United States, but the attention which is being paid to the trans-Caucasian by American interests points to an appreciable increase in American trade in the near future."

The Italian mission, as part of its campaign, has established a fortnightly service of passenger and cargo steamers between Trieste and Batum. The route takes the boats through the northern Black sea and stops are made at Caucasian ports.

The Bonanza covers Nevada and surrounding states like a blanket. Use its columns.

After testing steel underframes on its cars for several years an English railroad has returned to iron ones, as they are said to be less liable to corrosion.

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