

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Special Correspondence to The Tribune Giving the High Light at the National Capital.

COAL INDUSTRY OVERDEVELOPED AT THIS TIME

Biggest Question Arises As Result of Too Many Mines and Miners In United States.

WASHINGTON—The studies already made by the United States coal commission all point to the fact that the bituminous coal mining industry is overdeveloped. "Too many soft coal mines and too many miners" describes the situation in plain English. In this coal mines more capital is invested and more miners are employed than are needed to produce the coal the country requires. This condition, of course, involves waste on a country-wide scale.

How great is the present inflation of the industry can not be stated exactly at this time but unquestionably the inflation is excessive. Estimates of the excessive mine capacity range from 30 to fully 60 per cent above the country's normal demand which for the last five years has averaged about 510 million tons a year. Figured on the basis of their actual output for the best week in 1918, the capacity of the soft coal mines was then 685 million tons. Since 1918, unfortunately, the mine capacity has been further enlarged, and another estimate of it can be made from the average daily output last year: 300 days' work at that rate would have resulted in 840 million tons being mined, or fully 60 per cent more than the normal needs of the country.

Must be Deflated

How to deflate the coal industry is one of many problems, before President Harding's coal commission, and its reports may be expected to present facts bearing on this question. It seems plain enough, however, that the industry should not be further inflated by opening new mines. The facts already presented furnish a valid argument against continuing to enlist new capital in the business, thereby opening new mines that are worse than unneeded, for they further spread and thus overtax car supply and shorten the possible working time of mines in the vicinity that are already well equipped to ship 50 to 100 per cent more coal than they ship now. Indeed, the ratings of mine capacity reported to the railroads for the purpose of obtaining cars would indicate that the bituminous mines of the country have a total annual capacity of not far from a billion tons, instead of the half billion tons needed.

Exceptions may possibly be made here and there to the ban which the investing public should put on coal mine development. A local market not well supplied with coal may warrant the opening of a near-by mine, which would thereby help to relieve the burden on transportation facilities, but it is believed that such exceptional conditions are rare. In the public land states of the west, unfortunately, the federal government itself has not been able to discourage coal mine development, for, under the leasing law, the lessee of government coal land is required to open the mine and to produce coal on a scale proportionate to the acreage leased. There seems to be no legal warrant for refusing a lease to a bona-fide applicant, even though the public interest does not seem to indicate the need of more coal. The result will be that the west will soon find its coal mines and coal miners as badly off as those in Indiana and Illinois, where the working time is too short to pay adequately either owners or workers.

Keep Money Away

If the public can appreciate the strength of the evidence already available on this subject of over development, refusal to invest in new coal mining ventures under present conditions will be recognized as both good business and good citizenship. It is plain enough that the country needs not more coal mines but more work for the coal mines we already have. One potent reason that coal is not cheaper to the consumer is that he is supporting a vast surplus of investment and capacity. The large excess capacity can not for long lower the price of coal, however, simply because that conditions of things is wasteful.

Hidden.

I pack my troubles in a little compass as I can for myself, and never let them annoy others.—Southey.

RAILROADS ARE TO HELP WITH COAL PROBLEM

Largest Consumers Use Half of Coal Mined; Mutual Questions Regime Solution.

WASHINGTON—About half the freight loaded on American railroads, according to an estimate made by a well-informed man experienced in both mining and transportation, is contributed by coal mines. This portion includes coal loaded at the mines and coke loaded at the ovens, both consigned to consumers all over the country, and coal loaded for the railroads themselves, as well as articles of mine equipment and supply loaded at industrial cents more or less distant from the coal mines. Even though this figure may later be shown, on fuller presentation of the facts, to be somewhat high, the big outstanding truth is that the coal mines and the railroads are co-partners on a large scale in the business of the country. This co-partnership, based on mutual interest—the railroads being the largest purchaser of coal and the mines being the largest customer of the railroads—gives special significance to a conference held recently between a representative committee of the American Railway Association and the United States Coal Commission.

The railroad men present at that conference showed their desire to cooperate in the work of fact-finding by suggesting subjects on which they could contribute statistical facts. The perennial topic of car shortage is only the introduction to the larger questions: What investment in railroad equipment is justified to meet the demands of an overdeveloped mining industry? What can the public afford to pay to accommodate its own seasonal demand for coal? The operating officials of the railroads can also point to the effect of seasonal movement of coal and other commodities on the cost of operation of their roads.

The coal operators are themselves not unmindful of the peak demand for transportation arising in part from the seasonal demand for coal. One large mining corporation in the middle west has several times made its annual appeal to its customers for early purchase of coal in the form of a full page reproduction of a photograph of two huge locomotives snow-bound on the track, with the simply legend "Lest you forget 1917-18." Such a reminder is pertinent every year, for the greater part of American public either forgets or has never learned the obvious connection between snow-clogged freight yards and delayed coal at the

NOTES OF THE LIBRARY.
Technical Books Worth While

Some of the new technical books at the city library are well worth scanning by those interested along special lines.

Among these is the "American Civil Engineer's Hand-book," by Mansfield Merriman, who is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and eighteen associate editors. It is a concise, compact volume of facts, formulas, tables and methods for ready reference.

In Annette's "Electrical Machinery" may be found a practical study course on installation, operation and maintenance—a valuable work for either amateur or expert.

The man who drives and tinkers with his own car will find some valuable information in Dyke's "Automobile," and in "Automobile Storage Battery—Its Care and Repair, Including Radio Batteries and Farm-lighting Batteries."

Star-gazers will be interested in the "New Heavens," by George Ellery Hale, who is the director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory. It is a brief treatise on modern astronomical developments and conclusions, including several of his articles running in Scribner's Magazine.

A glance over the shelves of books along special lines might surprise many who are seeking information for their particular needs.

Imagination Was at Work

Two men were reviewing the art exhibition at the Grand Central palace in New York. One looked at the work critically, but the other fidgeted about and seemed in a hurry to move on or backward or out. Finally his companion heeded his discomfiture. "Don't like the work, eh?" he asked. "No interest, what?" "I'm interested a bit," answered the fidgety one. "It's not the art I'm complaining of. It's this suit I've on. It's new and all that. Doesn't fit; uncomfortable; conspicuous; bosh!" His companion surveyed him. "Not at all," he said. "Imagination, pure imagination. Looks well, feels bad. That's all. If you don't want people to look at it, wear a top hat and tan shoes. There's always a way, old dear. Always a means, old top. Use your mind, old thing."

very time when coal is most needed. How much of this seasonal burden on the railroads can economically be avoided is one of the questions the American Railway association can help President Harding's coal commission to answer. Possibly the consuming public can itself also help in lowering the cost both of hauling coal and mining it.

VIOLIN PLAYING—

Classes for beginners and advanced violin students at College of Idaho

RAYMOND R. PITTINGER
Violinist Teacher

Punchettes

by Rev. M.A. MATTHEWS
D.D., LL.D.



The Bad Citizenship of Good Citizens

The country is not suffering from bad citizens. No country ever suffered from such. Our country is suffering from bad citizenship of good citizens. Communities, states and nations have no better government than the negligent citizen produces. The responsibility for bad government rests upon the negligent citizen, the absentee from the ballot box, and the man who is dodging his civic duty.

The business man and the banker use every possible means to escape jury duty. They are traitors to good government. You hear business men professional men say that they are not interested in politics. They are undesirable citizens. It is impossible for a taxpayer, a home owner, an honest man to stay out of politics. Because of his neglect to perform his duty he increases the taxes of all the people.

What is politics? It is the science of government. The science of good government.

Then, every man, woman and child ought to be forced to study the science of government. And every man ought to be a practical, commonsense, courageous, everlasting politician. When men get so pious, so good and so busy that they cannot afford to perform their plain political and civic duties they become a curse to society, a menace to government, a burden to the taxpayer and a blight on citizenship.

The average non-active man is a consummate coward and it is his infamous cowardice that has plunged this country into innumerable errors. Out of the cowardice of such men we have filled the legislatures and the congress of the United States with spineless men; consequently, we legislate under the whip lash of a party master or we fail to legislate because of timidity and cowardice.

The common public is unrepresented suffers untold burdens because of the bad citizenship of good citizens.

Manipulating a Blanket.
Learning how to manage a blanket that is a little short at one end and not quite long enough at the other, with similar deficiencies in width, is one of the first things the young soldier should be taught. If he is not taught it, he will probably have an experience like that of a western recruit who says that in his first week in camp he lost a great deal of sleep at night. When he lay on his back his stomach was cold; when he turned over his back was cold; when he pulled the blanket up around his shoulders he got cold feet, and when his feet were under the blanket his neck was uncomfortable. A veteran's recipe may, however, be worth considering. He says the only way to manipulate an army blanket, on a cold night, is to pull your knees up to your chin, lie face downward, and hold the four corners of the blanket in your teeth.—Christian Science Monitor.

\$1 SALES \$1

**Friday and Saturday
December 22 and 23**

On these last two shopping days before Christmas we will make radical reductions on all Gift Goods. Items which have been selling for as high as \$3.00 each will be on sale for \$1.00.

This sale will apply to

- Toys -- Embroidered Goods -- Dolls
- Stamped Goods -- Stationery
- Christmas Decorations
- Baskets--House Slippers--Men's Goods

No Exchanges

No Refunds

No Approvals

Santa Claus Is Here
Every Afternoon

Oakes Brothers

Caldwell, Idaho

"Better Merchandise at Lower Prices"

**Give Something Electrical
This Christmas**

There isn't a family anywhere whose home will not be made happier by receiving one or more electrical appliances. There is something electrical for every member of the family from baby to grandmother—something that will add to their comfort and pleasure.

Electrical gifts save time and labor and their usefulness extends over a longer period of time than almost any other article you could think of.

Check This Electrical Gift List Today

- Toasters
- Grills
- Perculators
- Waffle Irons
- Ranges
- Hot Plates
- Heating Pads
- Water Heaters
- Irons
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Curling Irons
- Chafing Dishes
- Washing Machines
- Radiant Heaters
- Sewing Machines
- And Motors

Come in and select your electrical gifts at once, before our stock is depleted. Make a deposit and have the articles you want set aside until Christmas. Special monthly terms are offered on Washers, Vacuum Cleaners and Ranges.

**ELECTRIC SHOP
IDAHO POWER COMPANY**



**Women's
Coats.....**

\$15.00

Materials are
**ASTRAKHAN
VELOURS**
and
POLO

This lot represents a special purchase. We consider them unusual values.

**Golden Rule
MAKE IT RIGHT STORES**