

# The Big Stone Gap Post.

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## OUTPUT

### Of Virginia Coal Has Steadily Increased During Past Decade.

There are few Virginians living outside of the producing areas themselves that realize how the output of coal in Virginia has steadily increased during the past decade from 2,303,751 tons in 1900 to 6,507,297 tons in 1910. Since 1900, lacking a few thousand tons, it had practically doubled and in the last year of the decade (1910), as shown by the statistics gathered by the Virginia and Federal Surveys, there was an unusual increase; in fact, it was a great deal larger than the usual annual increment. In other words, the production in 1909 was 5,752,217 short tons, exceeding all previous records, but this was beaten in 1910 by the unprecedented increase of 1,755,789 tons, nearly 28 per cent. The value increased \$1,220,440 or 38 per cent., or from \$1,291,056 to \$5,877,486. Likewise there has been a corresponding increase in the value of the coal lands which have doubled, trebled and quadrupled in the same period, the price per acre varying according to proximity to transportation and the intrinsic worth based on number, thickness and quality of the occurring coal beds. Further, the statistics show that the Virginia miner is as efficient as found anywhere. The per capita production averaged 896 tons for the year, while the output per each man was 472 tons. Both of these averages are better than shown in the majority of the coal producing states. The majority of the Virginia miners work ten hours per day, the range being from 9 to 10 hours, with the exception of one mine where the 8-hour day obtains. The distribution according to the "hour day" of the total number of miners employed (7,264) in 1910 was as follows: 5,719 men working 10 hours per day; 1,021 working 9 hours per day; and the rest working 8 hours per day.

While it is gratifying to know that the coal fields of Virginia are now being brought into fuller development each year, and many instructive facts are being assembled annually concerning the occurrence of coal in the State by the State Geological Survey, it is also worth recalling the very interesting fact that, though the Old Dominion now ranks thirteenth in the list of producing states and territories, there was a time when she stood at the head of the list, for the first coal (a fact not generally known) obtained in Virginia in the Richmond Coal basin, an area of Præssic age near Richmond; or in other words, its coal beds were formed much later than those, for instance, of Southwest Virginia. This basin is situated on the eastern margin of the Piedmont Plateau, 13 miles west of Richmond, on the James river. It lies in Goochland, Henrico, Powhatan and Chesterfield counties. Coal was first mined here in 1750 and by 1822 the production amounted to 34,000 tons, and continued to increase until 1832 when it began to decline. The maximum production reached was more than 100,000 tons, which continued for a number of years. Owing, however, to the competition of the New River and Pocahontas coals, operations were suspended in the Richmond basin during the latter part of the nineteenth and the first few years of the present century. But within recent years the rehabilitation of the mining industry of the district was undertaken by the Old Dominion Development Co., with the result that mines which had been idle for years were again put in condition for a considerable tonnage.

Though many will be interested in knowing of the revival of coal mining in the Richmond basin, nevertheless it should be remembered that the chief coal output of the State comes from Southwest Virginia. In fact it is due to the Southwest Virginia

coal fields that Virginia is entitled to rank among the principal coal producing states. The producing counties in this section are Wise, Tazewell, Pulaski, Lee, Montgomery and Russell, with Wise leading the list. Within a few years the two counties of Buchanan and Dickenson, which are rich in the occurrence of coal, will also add their tonnage and greatly augment the total annual output. Their development has been retarded because of the lack of transportation facilities, and now that this drawback has been obviated, the inauguration of many new mining enterprises within their borders may, as indicated above, be confidently looked for within a very short period. Many interesting facts concerning this development and regarding all of the coal fields of the State, which it would be impossible to mention within the compass of a short article like this, will be forthcoming and available on application, within the next month or so, from the press of the Virginia Geological Survey, of which Dr. Thomas L. Watson, of the University of Virginia, is the Director.

## TWO OF SHERIFF'S POSSE KILLED.

### Shot from Ambush As They Approach Home of Geo. Smith to Arrest Woman Wanted as Witness.

Jonesville, Va., Oct. 3.—Shot from ambush, two members of a sheriff's posse were killed and a third fatally wounded near Gibson's station today, as they approached the home of George Smith, seeking to arrest Mrs. Sirelda Denny Barnett, wanted as a witness in a murder trial at Pineville, Ky. Sheriff Tucker had entered the house and was not shot, because he used Mrs. Barnett as a shield. He was held as a prisoner for a time and allowed to depart unharmed when he agreed not to bother the desired witness again.

## Dr. M'Connell is Chosen Head of Normal.

Radford, Va., Oct. 5.—At a meeting of the board of visitors of Radford normal and industrial school, the new state institution for girls, the location of which has just been determined, Dr. John P. McConnell, of Emory and Henry college, a graduate of the University of Virginia, and eminent as an educator, was today elected president of the new institution. He was chosen by the unanimous vote of the board, and congratulations were hurried to him by wire.

No educator in Southwest Virginia is better known, perhaps, than Dr. McConnell. He has labored along educational lines in most of the counties of Southwest Virginia, and for this reason the compliment paid him when he was placed in nomination will be appreciated.

## BENT ROACH GETS EIGHTEEN YEARS.

Gate City, Va., Oct. 6.—Bent Roach was today found guilty of being implicated in the murder of young Cleveland Hubbard and sentenced to eighteen years in the penitentiary. Five of the jurors held out for some time for imposing the death penalty. G. W. Barnett and Ella and Neeley Sizemont, sisters, indicted with Roach, are to be tried next.

On the second of last November young Hubbard returned from working in Wise county. He left the train near Duffield, where he was seen by a number of people. On the 24th of December his decomposed body was found on the mountain not far from Duffield. The citizens of the community went to work in an intelligent way and evidence was brought to light, throwing a strong suspicion on the four accused, and Commonwealth's Attorney, J. P. Corris, has gained a remarkable legal victory.

## Voting Brisk

### Votes For Last Week Total Over 50,000 in Piano Contest.

Thirty-five of Wise County's representative young women lured from retirement by the Big Stone Gap Post and the Kelly Drug Company's offer of prizes in the shape of five Standard 1910 Krause Pianos, have consented to run for popularity honors.

These young ladies backed by their friends are now in the field vying with each other in the collection of Coupon Votes. They all want pianos! As there are only five prizes the contest between them for the first honors is liable to grow exceedingly warm before February 10th.

Balloting has been brisk from the very beginning. The official count made Monday showed that a total of over 50,000 votes have been cast during the week. This is a good vote considering that the Contest has just started.

Nominations from outside districts seem slow in coming in. Wake up! These five pianos are for any young lady living within a radius of 35 miles from Big Stone Gap. Don't say that you have no chance against the City candidates. When the city candidates want to harvest an extra lot of votes they go to the adjoining towns to get them.

A Coupon good for 1000 votes appears elsewhere in this issue. If you have a young lady in mind who you think would appreciate a Standard \$350.00 piano, now is your chance, nominate her.

Candidates wishing to learn of an easy way to collect votes should call on the Big Stone Gap Post or Kelly Drug Company and ask for particulars regarding their special vote-collecting proposition. The Post offers a thousand votes for every dollar turned in on new subscriptions and 500 votes for every renewal.

Wake up candidates! Can you possibly think of an easier way of obtaining a Standard \$350.00 piano than by going among your friends and soliciting their votes? Every entered candidate has five chances of winning a piano prize. Your friends will help you if you will only signify your willingness to be helped. Get out into the field and show them that you are interested. Use the telephone!

Start next door—now! Collect the voting coupons they have been saving for the first candidate who calls; renew their subscription for the Post and get an easy 500 Votes, or if it is a new subscription—1000 votes. Then ask them to accept a due bill on the Kelly Drug Company for trade in their store. Every due bill you dispose of means 1000 votes. Now is the time to get a good start.

## COAL MINERS WANTED AT DORCHESTER, VA.

One hundred coal miners WANTED AT ONCE. Steady work guaranteed. Coal 44 to 73 feet thick. Both machine and pick work. Good houses and schools; healthy place. COLONIAL COAL & COKE CO., G. V. Hughes, Gen. Supt.

In the fall a young man's fancy lightly turns to the same thoughts he had in the spring.

## Carter at Wise. School Notes.

Wise, Va., Oct. 9.—Hon. Ezra T. Carter addressed a large and enthusiastic audience here today, the first day of circuit court, in the interest of his candidacy for the State Senate. He discussed the various state issues now before the people—schools, roads, temperance, pensions, taxation, fair elections and fair reapportionment. He took advanced ground in favor of the continued upbuilding of the school system and the promotion of the good roads movement along conservative lines; for liberal pensions to the surviving Confederate veterans; and in favor of all legislation that will tend to minimize the evils of intemperance. He pointed out that the next legislature would be the most important one in many years to the interests of this senatorial district inasmuch as the whole system of taxation of the state is to be revised, and a reapportionment made of all legislative and congressional districts of the state to conform to the last Federal census. He declared that if elected, he would work earnestly to see that the mineral and timber lands, as well as the farming lands and the various new manufacturing interests which are now springing up in this senatorial district, would be fairly dealt with in the new system of taxation, and also to see that Southwest Virginia will get its fair proportion, as compared with the rest of the state, of representatives in both branches of the General Assembly, as well as in Congress, regardless of whether this section is Democratic or Republican.

He favored fair and just election laws, and brought forth applause from his large audience when he declared that all his life he had worked earnestly for perfectly fair elections. He favored a law giving the Republican party minority representation on the electoral boards of every county and city, which representation it does not now have. He pointed out that these reforms are political in their nature, and that the only way to secure them is through the large Democratic majority which the legislature of the state is certain to have. A Republican in the Senate from this district could accomplish nothing, but, on the other hand, would tend to be an aggravation to the Democrats of the eastern part of the state, who will control legislation, that is, therefore, to the interests of the Republican party as such, at this particular juncture, as well as of the whole people, to elect representatives from this section to the Senate and House of Delegates who will stand for and advocate these reforms among their fellow Democrats.

Mr. Carter made a fine impression upon his audience, and the positions he took were heartily approved by all his hearers, Democrats and Republicans, many of the latter being present and listening attentively.

## Tazewell Wins Bond Issue Suit.

Tazewell, Va., Oct. 4.—In an action instituted in the circuit court of Tazewell county by the county of Tazewell against C. J. Moss, the court passed upon the validity of the statute of Virginia which is entitled, "An act to provide for the issuing of county bonds for permanent road and bridge improvement in the magisterial district of the counties of the state."

In April, 1911, the county of Tazewell held an election for the purpose of issuing \$625,000 of bonds under the statute mentioned. The defendant, Mr. Moss, purchased three of the bonds, specifying in his contract of purchase that the bonds were to be legal and valid, and direct obligations of the county of Tazewell. The three bonds were prepared and tendered to him and he refused to accept them, because they were not in accordance with the contract.

The suit was instituted for the purpose of compelling him to receive the bonds; he defended it on the grounds that the act under which they were issued is unconstitutional, and that the bonds are in effect magisterial districts bonds, and not direct obligations of the county of Tazewell. The court held that the act above mentioned is not violative of section 158 of the constitution of Virginia, nor is it in contravention of any other part, or provision of the constitution. The court also held that the election above referred to is legal and valid; that all of the proceedings taken and held by the board of supervisors of Tazewell county, leading up to the issuing of the bonds are valid and that the bonds tendered are in legal form.

The "Baby Opera," which was given last Friday evening for the benefit of the Junior Civic League, was quite a success. The children showed their excellent training which had been given them by Mr. Tyler.

Pupils and teachers are anxiously looking forward to Patron's Day and are preparing work which they think will be interesting to the patrons. The program for this event will be printed later.

The Junior Civic League has been re-organized and Miss Irma Orr was nominated for recommendation by the Senior Civic League as supervisor of former. On account of the great need for a reading room, the members also moved that it be put before the latter that they contribute ten dollars for the purpose of starting this.

## HONOR ROLL

GRADE I  
Section B.—Hermit Slep, Eugene Stewart.  
Section A.—Bruce Griffin, Hubert Shelton, Everett Thompson, Reba Collier, May Shelton, Mary Smith.

GRADE II  
Section A.—Dora Allen, Anna Cawood, Georgia Seaton, Edna Shuler.

GRADE III  
Section B.—Grace Palmer, Ernie Mason, Alice Snapp, Catherine Lockwood, Cleo Shelton, Nellie Mahan.

Section A.—Edward Bird, Reavin Colevard, Rufus Pettit.

GRADE IV  
Hannah Allover, Myrtle Eagle, Edward Goodloes.

GRADE V  
Section B.—Reland Wells.  
Section A.—Worley Hood.

HIGH SCHOOL  
Third Year.—Zollie Palmer, Gustava Parsons.  
Fourth Year.—Glessie Gilly, Ollie Kelly, Ruby Kemper, Sam Nickels.

Golden Honor Roll  
Fourth Grade.—Beulah Shelton, Elizabeth Sprinkle, Richard Torbert.

## Home Mission Meeting.

The Woman's Home Mission Society met Thursday with Mrs. H. A. W. Skeen at her hospitable home on Shawnee Avenue.

There were present, besides the officers and members of the Society, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Orr, Misses Irma and Bernice Orr, Mrs. J. B. Skeen, and J. B. Craft.

The meeting opened by singing "Stand Up for Jesus," after which, different members read scriptural selections bearing on the lesson, and leaflets were read by Mesdames W. A. Baker, Morgan Young, Mollie Horton, H. A. W. Skeen and R. D. Baker.

The collection of dues amounted to \$2.30.

It was decided after some discussion to have a Fancy Work and Good Things to Eat Sale on Thursday before Thanksgiving.

Following the conclusion of the business part of the meeting, the members of the Society were served delicious sandwiches, pickles, lemonade and wafers by the hostess.

The next meeting of the Society will be with Mrs. R. D. Baker on the first Thursday in November.

## Farms Damaged by Flood in Clinch Valley.

Bluefield, W. Va., Oct. 7.—Reports from Buchanan county and from Russell county in Virginia, state that the high water on Big Sandy and its branches washed away thousands of logs and also carried away on the crests of the high water thousands of bushels of corn which was still lying in the fields. It is impossible to estimate the damage done in this way.

Along the Clinch river there was considerable damage done to farms lying along the river, while streams flowing into the river washed away a good deal of good bottom land in addition to carrying away corn and other stuff lying on the farms.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Editor Post:  
It was just like Charlie Carrington to hit back, when as the evidence shows, by devious methods he was removed as Surgeon of the State Penitentiary.

I do not believe Charlie Carrington cares a continental rap for the position; he does, however, care, and so do his friends, for the cowardly manner in which he was superseded by the nephew of our present Governor.

In the first place every report of the Penitentiary Board was to his credit—nothing has been adduced, and nothing can be adduced to his discredit.

I want it understood in the beginning that I am what some choose to call a "machine man," that is, I am, and always have been, a regular Democrat. When I was nominated for the Legislature some years ago there were some members of the Convention which nominated me, who sought to give instruction for the Honorable Hoge Tyler. I told them they might attempt it, but I was for Senator Martin, and would not take the nomination under instructions for Tyler. Now everybody knew and know well that Mr. Mann, as compared with others, was not the best gubernatorial timber in Virginia.

Why could he not have said, "I do not want my nephew appointed?" Why could he not have, for once in his life, risen to the height of such men as Joshua F. Bullitt, Henry C. Stuart, H. St. G. Tucker, A. C. Braxton, C. V. Meredith, Eppa Hunton, Jr., and given the Board, and his nephew to understand, that occupying a position which before him had been occupied by some of the greatest men in the United States, that he could not, and would not, countenance Nepotism.

Governor Mann's action has aroused a storm of protest, and from this fact—that he could have said, as Governor of Virginia, that his nephew should not apply, or if he did apply, that he would not countenance him as against a public servant who for twelve years had done his duty.

All old University of Virginia students who ever knew Dr. Carrington know him to be a gentleman born and bred, and know that whatever he undertakes will be done to the very best of his ability, and that is equivalent to saying that there is not a physician in the State who could have, or would have, done better.

It looks to me like our distinguished Governor has made a sad mistake.

H. J. AYERS.  
Big Stone Gap, Va.,  
October, 4th, 1911.

## COAL MINERS WANTED.

Seventy-five good coal diggers can secure steady work at good wages with Blackwood Coal & Coke Co., Blackwood, Va. Good water, good houses, and ten foot seam of clean coal. Address Blackwood Coal and Coke Co., Blackwood, Wise county, Va.

Dr. George B. Myers left last week for Ashland, Ky., where he has accepted a position as pharmacist in a leading drug store at that place. His little son, Charlie, returned to his grandmother's until Mrs. Myers joins her husband in Ashland. Dr. Myers is an excellent pharmacist, and the good wishes of his friends in the Gap will follow him to his new location.