

Coal Smashes Record.

The production and consumption of coal in the United States in 1916 exceeded all past records. The quantity of bituminous coal mined last year is estimated by C. E. Leshner, of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, as slightly more than 509,000,000 net tons, an increase, compared with 1915, of more than 66,500,000 tons, or 15 per cent, and greater by 31,000,000 tons than the record of 1913. Data furnished by the Anthracite Bureau of Information indicate that the production of Pennsylvania anthracite was 88,212,000 net tons, about 600,000 tons less than in 1915. The total output of coal in the United States is thus estimated at 597,500,000 net tons, and the official figures when compiled may show 600,000,000 tons, compared with 570,000,000 tons in 1915.

This estimate, which is to be followed shortly by a more detailed statement, shows that the increase was general, only three States, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Texas, having had a smaller production than in 1915. The largest increase was in Ohio, whose production in 1916 is estimated at 37,090,000 tons, compared with 22,435,000 tons in 1915, a gain of 65 per cent. Colorado, New Mexico, Virginia, and Washington shows increases of more than 20 per cent, and Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wyoming, of 14 to 18 per cent. In Pennsylvania the increase was about 17,000,000 tons, or 11 per cent.

The consumption of coal by the railroads in 1916 is estimated to have been 17,500,000 tons greater than in 1915, the use of coal in the manufacture of coke was greater by 20,500,000 tons, exports increased about 7,000,000 net tons, the coal mines used 500,000 tons more for steam and heat, and the increase in consumption, mainly by the manufacturing industries, was 21,000,000 tons.

The increased consumption of bituminous coal by the railroads and industrial interests of the country during the year brought about a condition in which the demand for coal was greater than the ability of the railroads to deliver it, and in some localities greater than the ability of the mines to produce it, because of scarcity of labor. There is no lack of coal in the ground, or of mines from which it can be obtained. The soft coal mines, however, are not equipped to store coal that has been mined, and the coal must be loaded into railroad cars as soon as it is dug—in fact, the miners as a general rule do not go into a mine unless the cars are on hand to take the day's output.

The greater part of the bituminous coal produced in 1916 was sold on contracts at prices (agreed upon during the early part of the year) that represented increases little if any more than the increases in wages granted the miners. The high prices at which the small quantity of coal not contracted for was sold during the last three months of the year were the result of excess of demand over supply. The buyers bid the price up, and as happens in the marketing of any article or commodity under like conditions, there was doubtless some speculative holding and trading that tended to

raise prices. This factor and the inclination of the middleman and retailer to exact extra profits are not believed to have been any greater as regards coal than as regards other necessities whose prices have risen during the last few months.

JOHN FOX AND HAPPY VALLEY.

Kentucky claims John Fox. Yet why he should be classed as a Kentucky author is hard to understand since he has lived in Virginia for certainly twenty-five years; and he was only born in Kentucky, anyway, and people can be born anywhere. Everyone knows that Mr. Fox lives in Big Stone Gap in the frowning shadow of Stone Mountain. It is taken for granted in that little town that he could not possibly live anywhere else. When a new story of his appears local characters and incidents are eagerly searched for by his neighbors; newspaper notices are joyfully copied by the local paper, and people who have never read a magazine in their whole lives rush to the news stands and entreat the surprised clerk to accept a quarter in return for the inestimable privilege of carrying home a copy. "Have you seen that new story of John Fox's?" becomes the stereotyped greeting for a week thereafter.

January Scribner's contains John Fox's first story of "The Happy Valley." It is called "The Courtship of Allaphair," and the spirit of the mountain is in every line. Physical prowess as the deciding element in the love affairs of Allaphair, a rich, dark, buxom mountain girl, "whose ungentle ways were well known," furnish Mr. Fox with abundant excuse for a stirring tale of the hills. Jay Dawn, Ira Combs, Jim Spurgill—the very names recall mountain memories of one evening last summer when in the fast-gathering shadows a former resident of the Gap went over the mountain alone, around a perpendicular bluff into the silence and gloom of Hoot Owl Hollow with its small cabins perched high on the sides of a ravine and those grim men of the hills leaning unconsciously against the sagging gates everlastingly whittling. How welcome were the twinkling lights of Big Stone Gap in the valley below—truly a Happy Valley!—Richmond Journal.

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE.

State Board of Health Handling Preventive of Fatal Disease of Childhood.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 5.—The State Board of Health today repeated its notice to physicians of the State that whooping-cough vaccine has been added to the supplies dispensed through the board and can be ordered by any responsible person. This vaccine prepared by a representative laboratory, is regarded by many physicians as a most excellent preventive of whooping-cough and gives excellent results in many cases. Prophylactic treatments can be purchased through the board at wholesale prices—60 cents for treatments in syringes and 21 cents for treatments in ampules.

Old newspapers for sale at his office.

Respiratory Ills Killing 18 Daily.

Preventable Diseases, Other Than Consumption, Will Slay 1,600 in Next Three Months.

Richmond, Va., January 5.—During the next three months, according to the State Board of Health, respiratory diseases other than consumption will cause approximately eighteen deaths daily in Virginia and the "white plague" will be responsible for approximately 1,600 more. And all of these, declares the board, are preventable through simple precautions.

Basing its figures on the mortality for 1914 and 1915, the board estimates as probable a total of about 1,600 deaths during January, February and March, from whooping-cough, influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia. Tuberculosis of the lungs, estimated on the same basis, will probably claim two thirds as many victims as the other respiratory diseases combined.

"For every hour the clock strikes the hour between now and April 1," says today's bulletin of the State Board of Health, "one person will die of one or another of these diseases and every sixth hour, two persons will die."

"Some of these fatal ailments have already been contracted and are now past cure, but most of them will be contracted or can be prevented during the coming weeks. Almost without exception, the respiratory diseases which are more fatal during these three months than at any other time of the year, are the results of carelessness and neglect. Most of them will be directly traceable to contact with some person suffering from one or other of these diseases or to contact with something soiled by a person who has a respiratory disease.

"Just as the worst disease of the summer are carried by filth, so the most serious diseases of winter are carried by spit and spray from the mouth of those who cough, sneeze or spit carelessly. This is the reason health officers are laying so much emphasis on covering the mouth and nose with a handkerchief (or bowing the head) when one is forced to sneeze.

"Much of the exposure that leads to colds, influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia is attributable to improper clothing. Most people keep so hot indoors, that their bodies are chilled when they go out of doors. The safe rule is not to stay in overheated rooms, but to sleep with the windows open and to put on extra clothing when going out in the cold. An overcoat is an enemy of disease.

"The germs of these diseases can only enter the body through the mouth and nose—that is the important rule to remember in dealing with them. To keep away from persons who spread the germs of these ills is a very important step in prevention."

Pianos, organs, victrolas, rented and sold on easy terms; exchanged for old pianos and organs. Wanted to trade a piano for a good horse and buggy or pony and buggy. Good second hand furniture bought and sold. Write Blankenshig, Box 97, Appaiachia, Va.

Comany H On Detached Service.

Point Isabel, Texas, Jan. 3.—Company H received an assignment to guard the United States Radio Station, Point Isabel, Texas, in the late afternoon of the twenty-second day of December, and orders were for us to move the morning of the twenty third, via Motor Truck transport to this point. Can't say that it was much to the satisfaction of the men, as the First Regiment has already received orders to prepare for a homeward journey and we were under the impression that our next movement would be in the same direction. If it were as we have been led to believe from the different newspaper articles, "Precedence to term of service on the Border," our turn has long passed and we should have been returned some time since. But be that as it may we are still here, even though "we have done our bit on the Border." We arrived at Point Isabel about one o'clock of the afternoon of December twenty third and the usual method of pitching tents was adhered to, at which our men have become quite expert as well as in practically all other duties of a soldier. After the long drawnout fifteen-day maneuver, in which our Company, as usual, did her best proud, the work of the Regiment was much lightened, and from that time up to the arrival at the Point the men fared as well as could be expected. But this Guard Duty here takes every available man in the Company and it is a case of "soldier" day in and day out, but the men are all soldiers and can perform the duties required.

On Xmas eve the men all hung a sock and Santa remembered the boys of Company H in the old fashion manner. As each man answered to his name Xmas morning and came forward for his share, a little ditty pertaining to the individual was read and the men were in a continuous uproar from start to finish. Some of these little ditties might be quoted, but not so well to the liking of those concerned. There is a suspicion that Sergeant Boone played Old Santa in reference to these inscriptions and some of the men declare that soon or late they will get even with him.

The Xmas dinner was a credit to those who took part in its preparation and every man had his fill before leaving the table. The day as best could be under the existing conditions was as much of a Xmas day as it could possibly be. Many of the men received boxes from their homes and shared with those who didn't, so the pleasures of all were somewhat equalized.

A week later, as the Old Year died and the New was born the Company buried the one, along with its sins and sorrows, and christened the other by a call to arms, followed by three volleys from their rifles. The little town, a quarter of a mile away, thought the Mexicans were on us, but were glad to learn that only His Majesty, the New Year, had come. Many of the boys on New Year's day enjoyed the pleasures of sailing, fishing, bathing and riding in the motorboats hereabout. The natives of this little fishing village are a hospitable bunch and seem to be always willing to

do anything in their power for the soldiers' pleasure.

The enlistment period of First Sergeant Mathews having expired, he was furloughed to the National Guard Reserve and Sergeant Montague appointed First Sergeant in his stead. Corporal Boone at the same time was appointed to the rank of Sergeant.

Capt. Folmsbee Dead.

After a prolonged illness of several years, Captain P. H. Folmsbee, aged 72 years, died Saturday morning at his home at 201 Mary street. The attending physicians attributed his death to a complication of diseases.

Captain Folmsbee, one of the oldest and best known railway trainmen in this section of the country, had been critically ill for the past several days. The physicians had given up hope of effecting his recovery and his death was expected momentarily.

Several weeks ago Captain Folmsbee began making arrangements for his annual trip to Florida. He was forced to postpone the trip on account of poor health. Since that time he gradually grew worse until his death.

Captain Folmsbee came to this city 31 years ago with his lifelong friend and brother trainman, Sid Case, who still resides here. A close friendship had existed between these two since they were young men. For a number of years Captain Folmsbee was in the employ of the Appalachian division of the V. & S. W. railroad as conductor. While acting in this capacity he acquired an unusually wide circle of friends both in this city and in the towns along his run. His magnetic personality and sterling character made him one of the most popular men in the local railway service. Captain Folmsbee was a member of the Order of Elks and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, lodge No. 42. He was also a member of the Mary street church.

In accordance with a request made by Captain Folmsbee during his last illness his body was taken to his boyhood home at Saratoga Springs, New York, for burial—Bristol Herald Courier.

Radford Normal Notes.

Mr. J. E. Johns on January 1, took up the High School and Rural Community Young Men's Christian Association work in Southwest Virginia as successor of Mr. W. C. McCarty, who resigned this work to accept the State Secretaryship for the Young Men's Christian Association work in high schools. During his three years of service his headquarters were at the Normal School. The Y. M. C. A. work in the western part of the State is under the direction of Governor H. C. Stuart and Dr. J. P. McConnell. This work is supported by voluntary contributions, and has proven very successful under the efficient leadership of Mr. W. C. McCarty. Mr. Johns is an experienced Y. M. C. A. worker.

Professor Joseph E. Avent has been conducting for the last eighteen months a scientific investigation as to the actual use made in social and practical life of the various subjects usually treated in arithmetic. The results of this investigation will soon be published as a Normal School bulletin with the title "The Social Demand for Arithmetic."

On January 14 Dr. J. P. McConnell will deliver an address at Staunton before the State Conference of Charities and Corrections on the "Need of State Care for Crippled and Deformed Children". The State Board of Charities and Corrections is planning a campaign to establish institutions and make such provisions for the crippled and defective children of the State that they will grow into an asset instead of a liability of the commonwealth.

Board Trade Meeting.

The regular Annual Meeting of the Board of Trade will be held in the large sample room in the Monte Vista Hotel Building on Monday night, January 29th, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. Every one interested in the well fare of the town is urged to be present at this meeting.

Important Notice.

The mid-year examinations will begin next week and it is very important that every pupil should be present every day this week and the first of next in order that they may get the benefit of the review lessons.

A. J. Wolfe, Principal

East Stone Gap

Eura Wright, principal of Roda school, spent a few days last week with homefolks.

Robart Witt, of Roda, spent Sunday with friends and relatives near this place.

Virgel Minton and Harrison Bowles spent their "two weeks" vacation in Tennessee near Knoxville.

Prof. Hall returned from Norfolk last week where he has been visiting homefolks.

Miss Anna O. Daniels, one of our high school teachers, spent Xmas and New Year, with her mother in Bristol.

Clarence Reed was injured at the furnace last week by a falling brick, but not seriously.

Patrick Collier, Mack Tate, Nelson Blanton and a few others attended Sunday School in Cracker's Neck last Sunday.

E. Qualls, spent the week end with relatives in Scott County, near Clinchport.

Not Prepared to Withdraw Troops.

El Paso, Texas, Jan. 4.—Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Farnsworth, base commander at Columbus, N. M., who was here today, reported that no preparations were being made at the Columbus base for the withdrawal of General Pershing's troops from Mexico.

Merchants from the Casas Grandes district, who have arrived here, said the merchants and many of the farmers, cattle raisers and other residents of the district were preparing to leave as soon as the expeditionary force started for the border. They fear Villa followers will loot the houses and stores and kill many of the people because they were friendly to the American forces. Chinese were especially alarmed.

F. B. Cleek, who for the past several years has been connected with Fuller Brothers store has gone to Bristol where he accepted a position with Dossor Brothers. During his six years in Appalachia Mr. Cleek made a host of friends, who, while they regret to lose his companionship wish him much success in his new field.—Appalachia Progressive.

We neglected to mention last week the pleasure that Capt. Henry Taylor and Mr. James body gave a number of their friends by their singing early Christmas morning. It has been their custom for many years to go around to the homes of some friends and sing Christmas songs, which are always enjoyed and appreciated. May these two good old Englishmen live to entertain their friends on many more such occasions.

WANTED

Ore miners at Irondale mines. Steady employment at good wages. Intermont Coal & Iron Corp.