The Commenor

Municipal Coal Yard

The municipal coal yard in the city of Lincoln which was established by Mr. Charles W. Bryan a year ago has been operated so successfully during the past winter, was opened again for business in October of this year, and has been of considerable public convenience. As Mr. Bryan, who established the municipal coal yard, has been elected as mayor and will resign in a few days, city councilman and superintendent of the municipal yard, Mr. Bryan has made a report of the activities of the coal yard on or before the time that Mr. Bryan terminated his connection with it, giving the reader considerable valuable information on municipal business. Owing to the coal strike, which was brought about by the coal operators, the quantity of coal above ground was greatly diminished during the summer of this year, and this was taken as an excuse by the coal operators to advance the price of the coal for the miners to work on the coal all.

The municipal coal yard in Lincoln commenced buying first-class bituminous, coking lump coal from the central Illinois district in October at $5.50 per ton at the mine and fixed the delivery price to the consumer at $6.00. During the latter part of October, the price of coal was reduced at the mine 50 cents a ton, which was promptly given to the coal consumers in Lincoln. During November, the price of same coal at the mine was reduced another 50 cents a ton, and later an additional 25 cents a ton, and these rates were passed along to the consumer. This enabled the municipal coal yard to reduce the delivery of coal to $10.50 and later to $9.75, and, finding that the profits in the coal business were such that it was not necessary to continue such a margin between the purchase price and the selling price, another 25 cents a ton was cut off the delivery price, and the municipal coal yard in Lincoln now delivers coking coal at $9.50 a ton. This $0.50 price makes an allowance for a dollar a ton which is paid for hauling, which leaves about 17.5 cents overhead and contingencies, which might include unexpected losses such as weight shortages between the purchase weight of the coal and the delivery weight of the coal or on account of an excessive amount of ash, etc. The year of coal which would bring up the loss from re-screening above, the average losses from such losses is $1.19.

The grade of coal that the municipal coal yard is selling delivered at the consumer's bin at $9.50 per ton being sold by private dealers at from $11 to $13 per ton, but the fact that the municipal coal yard has had to purchase and sell one grade of coal and sell the other, which has a high market price, with practically all the same purposes, it affects the price of all kinds of coal that the private dealers handle, and the public out there that they buy direct from the mines is not willing to buy from the municipal coal yard, but the municipal coal yard will cause a saving to all coal consumers on all kinds of coal regardless of whether they buy from the municipal yard or whether it is bought from private dealers. Therefore, the municipal coal yard starts competition between the municipal yard and private dealers, and it can be said that the establishment of the municipal coal yard there was no competition among the municipal coal yards, for the public was compelled to pay about $4.00 a ton more for their coal than the municipally operated yard or a reasonable profit would warrant. Mr. Bryan has demonstrated in the city of Lincoln that a government can protect its people from being plundered in the essential necessities of life if it deems to do so.

After reducing the price of coal that fell several dollars a ton and paying the entire operating expenses of the municipal yard without requiring any capital to be advanced by the taxpayers, the net profit of the yard for the first two months of operations during the time the coal yard was opened has been a gain of $1,200.41 from Oct. 1, 1926 to Dec. 11, 1926, in handling a little more than 500,000 tons of coal.

Mr. Bryan gives up the management of the coal yard with considerable regret, to take up his duties as mayor. Mr. Bryan's campaign for governor was made on the issues of restoring the state government to a business basis, reducing the cost of the government and to bring the control of the state government under the will of the people by a re-arrangement of the plan under which the state government now operates. Mr. Bryan is now getting his recommendations ready to present to the legislature. The detailed report of the municipal coal yard's activities as presented by the report of the city council— which covers the full report for the two month period during the time the coal yard has been open this fall and followed by a separate report covering the eleven days in December— is as follows:

MUNY COAL YARD REPORT

Oct. 8 to Dec. 8 inclusive.

Total number of tons bought: 56
Tonnage bought, Trackweight: 1324 tons
Tonnage sold to Govt. 1146 tons
Tonnage sold to City: 178 tons
Tonnage sold to Street: 2 tons
Tonnage sold to Mayor: 64 tons
Invoice on hand: 360 tons

Total cost of coal at mine: $2,827.70
Average selling price at city: $1.01
Average overhead cost: .28

Total cost of coal per P. O. B. Lincoln: $3.37

Net profit per ton: .56

Total sales: $22,346.71
Total cost of coal delivered: $15,959.71
Total net profit: $6,387.00

MUNY COAL YARD REPORT

For Dec. 1 to 9 inclusive.

Tonnage on hand, December 1: 404 tons
Sold to city at yard Dec. 9: 402 tons
Sold to Mayor: 64 tons
Sold to Street: 64 tons
Sold to Street: 2 tons
Sold to Mayor: 64 tons
Invoice on hand: 64 tons

Total sales: 56 tons
Total cost of coal delivered: 44 tons
Total net profit: 44 tons

Invoice on hand: 64 tons

Screanings . . . 1 ton
Lump . . . . . . . 1 ton

Shrink . . . . . . . 1 ton
Cash on hand, Dec. 9: 402 tons
Cash paid out: $1,609.00
Cash to hand: $1,522.50

Total sales: $22,346.71
Total cost of coal delivered: $15,959.71
Total net profit: $6,387.00

Cash paid out: Coal: $6,208.16
Cash and deliveries: $6,208.16
Cash paid out: $6,208.16

Warrants paid: $6,208.16

Net in Treasury: $2,611.48
Cash on hand, C. box: $123.93

Bills due on Coal: $1,844.23
Bills due on Del.: $126.00

Over sales: $2,606.36

Total profits to date: $6,387.00

Net profits to date: $1,704.41

SHIP SUBSIDY ALMOST DEFEATED

The passage of the ship subsidy bill by a bare majority of only twenty-four in a House more than two-thirds Republican is a membership that is a virtual condemnation of the administration's policy on the subject. Republicans voted with the Democrats while only four Democrats voted with the Republicans. The changes are strongly in favor of the bill in the Senate, where discussion can be more extended and where the agricultural states have a larger proportionate representation than in the House. If there is any large revolt against the Republicans' leadership in the Senate, congress, what may we expect in the next when the progressives the balance of power.

WESTERN PROGRESSIVES SUCCESSFUL

The Democratic party is fortunate in the re-election of her two west senators: Josias of New Mexico, John Ashurst of Arizona, Pittman of Nevada, King of Utah, and Kendall of Oregon—all strong men—have been returned by their constituents for another large term. They will be powerful aids to the party in the important work before it. Wheeler of Montana, the successor of Myers, and co-Congressman Dill succeeds Polk in Washington. This gives eight Democratic votes in the Senate from the mountain and Pacific states.

The facias will be the organization of citizens who have taken control of the Italian government, has raised two hundred and fifty million dollars by popular subscription to destroy the deficit in the national budget for the current year. We may expect a further organization to foster a facia movement in this country next time any time, if it works so conveniently as it has.

The various financial methods that come out of Wall street these days all prophesy that another prosperity is on the way. This is based on the ways by which the profiteers are able to get higher prices. They command a means of manipulating the market, whereas higher prices are inevitable by merely saying they are coming, and this following fellows see that the prophecy is made good.

The President wants the Labor Board transferred to the Interstate Commerce commission and the findings made binding. Not yet, compulsory arbitration is un-American.

The President, in his annual message to Congress, acted wisely in recommending remedial legislation in behalf of the farming interests.