HOW COAL SUPPLY WAS CARED FOR DURING STRIKE OF MINERS

Uncle Sam Set Up His Own Coal Pile as Soon as Strike Began and Kept Replenishing It From Mines Which Continued to Work -Nation Able to Last Out the Six Weeks Through Efficiency of Government Control.

By BRUCE CLAGETT, Assistant to Director General of Rail. tons to 11,375,000 tons.

of the United States would age to ing of this coul in storage and on know how their coal supply was han- wheels by the railroads. Without such dled during the six weeks' strike of bi- a storage, however, the country would tuminous coal miners, which has just have suffered much more than it did. come to an end. This was the first na. and it would have been impossible to tion-wide coal strike the country ever have looked after the emergency reexperienced, and therefore the prob- quirements of the parts of the country lems arising were novel. Necessarily, in greatest need. Throughout the during the continuance of the strike, the exact stacks on hand could not be made public at all times, although as Pennsylvania, although some coal was to all vital facts, the public seems to produced in Kentucky, Alabama and have been kept fully informed day by Wyoming and a few other states. The day. Uncle Sair set up his own coal great central competitive fields, howpile as soon as the strike began and ever, closed down completely and outkept replenishing it from the mines which continued to work, but mean- in that territory had to depend entirely while the pile was being diminished on the coal from the East and upon more rapidly than new supplies were coming in, and before long it became to meet just this emergency, a question of keeping people warm rather than what industries should be continued. Had the strike continued much longer many industries would have had to shut down and people thrown out of work, but on the restricted basis to which the country finally came and with the part-time production obtained undoubtedly the nation could have "carried on" for weeks longer, if not months.

Strike Anticipated.

Several weeks before the coal strike began on November 1 its coming was plainly apparent, and therefore the director general of railroads. Walker D. Hines, consulted with all the regional directors of railroads and the principal members of his staff, and decided that if the strike came it would be the job of the railroad administration to make the coal produced go as far as possible. After thorough disrussion the plan was adopted of allowing all coal mined up to the time of the strike proceed as billed to consignees on the idea that once the strike actually began the railroads could look after their own and the emergency needs of the country by taking over coal actually on the rails at that time. Through this method foresighted consumers were placed in a position to store up. The alternative method

tons and on December 8, 11,475,000

States, this constituting a record for which had been taken off as a coal conthe country. It took hard work by servation measure, the railroads was depleted in the six all such mines at once.

weeks of the strike from 22,000,000

Pile Saved Country. At times during the strike some com-I have the thought that the people plaints were made regarding the hold-

strike practically all of the coal moved was produced in West Virginia and side of the stocks on hand the people the coal in the hands of the railroads At the beginning of the strike coal

was delivered freely to all of the ten classes on the fuel administrator's priority list, but soon afterward it was necessary to restrict deliveries to the first five classes, which included railroads, army and navy, together with other departments of the government. state and county departments and institutions, public utilities, and retail dealers, and toward the end of the tor issued orders re-establishing the strike it was difficult in some parts of the country to meet even these requirements, due to the fact that principally in the middle West the stocks became almost exhausted and it was from then on the problem was one necessary to depend practically entirely upon the coal produced in the East. The amount which could be shipped West was limited, not by car supply, but by transportation facilities and the necessity for moving this coal West was one of the reasons for the curtailment of passenger service in all parts of the country, which naturally led to some hardships and some complaints.

With regard to these complaints, a careful survey shows that, taken as a whole, the country has stood remarkably well the restrictions which had to be placed.

The action of the government dur-

ing the strike which caused the greatest comment was the placing of restricwould have been for the railroads to tions in connection with the use of bihave begun to buy coal early in prepatuminous coal and coke in supplying ration for the strike, thus keeping such light, heat and power to stores, office buildings, manufacturing establish-Prior to the strike a very careful ments, etc. These regulations were survey of stocks on hand, both of rail- put into effect by the railroad adminroads, industries and individuals (as istration on the advice of the certral far as possible) was conducted so that | coal committee and under authority of the railroad administration went into the fuel administrator. They were put the strike with as accurate knowledge into effect primarily as a coal conof the coal situation throughout the servation measure and because prior to country as was obtainable. The ad- their issuance local regulations, someministration's original survey on No- times more stringent than these reguvember 1 showed 22,000,000 cons of bl- lations, had already been fuld down tuminous coal on wheels and in rail- in many sections of the country. Prior road storage subject to distribution to the issuance of these regulations under the administration's supervision. the fuel administrator had issued a re-To this was added the daily produce quest that coal for light, seat and tion which totaled 18,800,000 tons in power be conserved as much as pos-November, and of the aggregate the sible. Just as soon as the Indianstocks still available for the ountry's apolis settlement was reached the atprotection on December 1, 12,300,000 torney general, following out a prior of railroads and with the regional and arrangement, immediately notified the local coal committes. However, some railroad administration, and plans were | general principles were laid down im-Prior to the strike orders were is- at once begun to modify restrictions, mediately which were followed in a sued by the railroad administration with the result that within two days general way throughout the coal strike. to give preference to coal loading, and after the strike was formally ended. this naturally resulted in hardship on instructions were issued to regional disome industries. The result was how- rectors permitting them to remove the consumer who had a reserve supply, ever, that in the week ended October restrictions as to the furnishing of and that coal should only be given to 25 a total of 13,200,000 tons of coal light, heat and power, and also permit- meet emergency needs. was produced and moved in the United | ting them to restore passenger trains

everyone concerned to distribute this | The receipt of the word from Inenormous amount of coal. Once the dianapolis was also the signal for strike was on, the production never the releasing of instructions already reacted 50 per cent of normal, with prepared for the turning of empty coal the result shown above, viz., that in burs towards mines which were exaddition to using the production every pected to begin operation in order to day, the stored coal in possession of transport the maximum production of

Probably there was never a more unique organization ever set up in the United States than the central coal committee of the United States railroad administration at Washington, which throughout the strike had complete control over the distribution of coal mined and over supplies of coal in storage and on wheels on the railroads when the miners stopped work. The committee had back of it all the power of the fuel administration under the Lever act. There was no precedent to go by. Being bound by no precedents, it could go ahead in a common-sense way and that is exactly

Harry B. Spencer, director of division of purchases of the railroad administration, formerly vice president of the Southern railroad, and a man of long experience in dealing with coal questions, was given the unenviable job of handling the situation as chairman of the central coal committee. Before the strike actually began, he had his assistants all picked, his plans all made, his orders written and everything prepared to take charge. Therefore, the evening of October 31 Dr. Harry A. Garfield, the fuel administrator, who had tendered his resignation menths before, but whose resignation had not been accepted and whose powers had only been suspended, not annulled, was called back into service and issued an order re-establishing control over the distribution of coal making the director general of rallroads his agent, and re-establishing the priority orders in effect during the war. At the same time, and to prevent profiteering, the fuel administragovernment maximum prices on bituminous coal. The day the strike began Mr. Spencer put his organization into effect throughout the country, and of distributing coal and looking after the constantly decreasing stock of the

On the Job Every Day.

The committee remained in practically continuous session every day of the strike, including Sundays, and as rapidly as telegrams and letters came in, took immediate action.

Back of this committee and co-operating closely with it have been regional and district local coal committees, picked in advance of the strike and established immediately after the strike began. On these regional and local coal committees has fallen a very large share of the burden of handling the coal distribution problems from day to day, and it is to the credit of these committees that they have had a minimum of clashes it is appreciated that on these committees fell many of the duties exercised by the fuel administration through the war and when it is appreciated that these committees always were limited in what they could do by the stocks of coal on hand, it will be realized that their work was of the most difficult character.

One of the chief difficulties in the situation was the fact that conditions throughout the United States were so widely different that it was apparent that it would be impossible to deal with all sections of the country alike. Therefore a great deal of responsibil-The preliminary rule was laid down that no coal should be given to any

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In order to avoid long distance communication, the rule was set up that persons desiring coal should make application on the road ordinarily supplying them with coal and in order that the central coal committee should be kept constantly supplied with information machinery was set up under which each railroad should promptly report to the central coal committee and to the regional coal committee the name, title, location and telephone address of the representative of that railroad in whom the whole coal question would be centered for that railroad.

Summed up, the result of the handling of the coal supply of the nation by the government has been that with a mobile supply at the beginning of the strike of 22,000,000 tons of coal at the disposal of the entire country. and a production which never reached 50 per cent of normal, with cold weather existing in most parts of the country during part of the strike, and blizzards in some parts of the country throughout most of the strike, the nation was able to last out six weeks with very little actual lack of coal by householders, with practically all pub-He utilities supplied with sufficient coal, to meet emergency needs, with very few industries actually closed down, although many would have had to close down had the strike continued much longer and with a reserve stock in the hands of the ratiroads at the end of the strike of more than 11,000,-000 tons of coal which was available for emergency railroad needs and for the emergency needs of governmental institutions, of public utilities and retailers supplying coal to domestic con-

CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

Two hundred delegates representing organization is to promote a sentiment among farmers to breed Duroc hogs and to urge co-operation of hog raisers in this part of the country.

The state bureau of pardons and paroles has made known that John C. Elliott, formerly president of the Farmers State Bank at Decatur, who was sentenced to from one to seven years in the state prison at Lincoln, on a charge of embezziement in connection with the operation of the institution, in the state house at Lin oln to all cowas released from prison March 21, 1919, ten months after he began serving his sentence, upon papers approved by Governor McKelvie.

The consolidated school question will be discussed at the meeting of the Association of Rural School Patrons to be held in Lincoln, January 22, during the week of Organized Agriculture, During this week, there will also be a poultry show, a fruit and flower show and a corn show at the Commercial club and the university farm.

Cheered by their success in reducing the price of eggs and other foods members of the Woman's Club at Lincoln are planning to attack the price of clothing. They promise to "make last year's hat and gown do" until prices reach a "sane level."

Nebraska owners of slot weighing machines must pay annual license and Inspection fees of \$3 immediately, or the machines will be confiscated and owners subjected to fines. Chief George A. Williams of the state bureau of markets announced.

Nebraska will be well represented at a meeting at Denver, January 26, called by farm organizations of several western states to devise ways and means to fight the so-called sugar

Dr. W. E. J. Gatz of St. Paul Methodist church of Lincoln has accepted the appointment tendered him by the Nebraska conference of the Epworth lengue as dean of the institute, which will be held in Lincoln, July 26,

Beatrice Farmers' Union voted in favor of the establishment of a general store in the city by the Farmers' Union State exchange, Three stores of the kind are to be operated in the

by two tractors and pulled by twelve Commercial club of Venango for the purpose of keeping the roads open.

A huge snowplow, which is pushed

to 28,150 insurance agents and 468 nual convention of the Nebraska Volinsurance companies were granted authority to do business in Nebraska by the state insurance bureau.

Several men have been arrested in connection with the robbery of the Farmers' State bank at Benson, a suburb of Omaha, of cash and bonds to the amount of \$115,000.

Nine men and one woman, alleged members of the communist party of America, were arrested at Omaha during the nation-wide round-up of radicals over the country.

Organized agriculture meetings, which will be held in Lincoln January 19 to 24, are expected to draw the largest crowds in the history of better

The new consolidated school building at Holmesville, Gage county, crected at a cost of \$85,000, has been completed and turned over to the school

board. The new proposed \$800,000 stock exchange building which was to be constructed at South Omgha the coming spring, will not be built until next year, reports say.

It is rumored in western Nebraska that the Union Pacific is to extend its line west from Gering this year.

The Smith theater at Tecumseh has been leased for meeting quarters for the local post of the American Legion. Stanley E. Hain, Post No. 154 of the American legion, has been organized at Blair with 47 charter members.

Figures compiled by the government show that a total of \$613,025 was expended on the Lincoln Highway in Nebraska in 1919. More than \$900 has been raised by

Beatrice citizens to furnish new quarters for the local post of the American

Omaha retained its position as the second live stock market of the world, in 1919, being exceeded only by Chieago. Total receipts of cartle, hogs, sheep and horses at the Omaha market the death of Judge Samuel H. Sedgamounted to 8,955,500 head during the

Bad condition of fields throughout Nebraska during the past two weeks has caused a considerable curtailment of corn picking.

Fire of unknown source caused property loss at Cortland to the amount of were destroyed.

C. C. Fiansburg, Lincoln attorney; John H. Kemp, Fullerton; Harry Sackcandidates for the republican nomination for governor.

The death of almost 100 persons in the east from drinking wood alcohol since Christmas, has caused state officials to call attention to the fact that hundreds of garages in Nebraska are violating the state law by selling this same liquid, which is used as antifreeze in automobile radiators. Paragraph 2734, under Section 5 of the law relating to druggists, specifically forbids any person not a registered OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS pharmacist to sell poison and provides a severe penalty for its fracture.

F. M. Ridings and E. N. Dion, who were arraigned before Judge Blauveit Nebraska and neighboring states, met at Thedford to answer to two separate at Omaha the other day and organ- charges, one for embezzlement and one ized the Missouri Valley Duroc Breed- for conspiring to wreck the Farmers ers' Association. It was said to be State Bank at Halsey, which was rethe most important gathering in the cently closed by state authorities, were history of the hog-raising industry of placed under \$25,000 bend for their the middle west. The purpose of the appearance at the March term of the district court,

Four years ago the average salary of rural teachers in Richardson county was \$52 a month, now it's \$70, a report issued by Superintendent Wilber shows. The increase is inadequate to meet present prices, he says, and a campaign is to be made for better

Questionnaires are being sent out by the bureau of markets and marketing operative companies in Nebraska in an effort to get if line on the amount of money needed to carry on the business of the co-operative companies,

William Deckniger, Richardson county farmer boy, 11 years old, has demonstrated that cotton can be raised in Nebraska. From the crop raised in the family garden in 1918, he got the seed to plant the 1919 crop, and raised 107 plants.

"Hall the Knight of the Nation," a song of which both words and music was composed by William Fell, Unlversity of Nebraska student, and deicated to General Pershing, wen the 850 prize offered by the Lincoln Rotary club.

The big feature of the autoud meeting of the Nebraska Farm Bureau federation at Lincoln, January 22 and 23, will be the appearance of J. R. Howard of Clemons, Ia., president of the American Farm Bureau federation,

The Beet Growers' association of Lincoln county has appointed a committee to confer with the Great Western Sugar Co., in regard to its intentions concerning the building of a sugar beet factory at Hershey.

Nebraska will be represented by an exhibit at the western potato exposition in Denver, January 20, 21, 22 and 23, according to Secretary Werner of the Nebraska Potato Improvement association.

Emergency telephone rates authorized by the State Railway commission for the Lincoln and the Bell telephone companies during the war period are to remain in effect another year.

Regular air mail service has been established between Omalm and Chieago. Regular trips are now being made, one plane leaving Chicago and one leaving Omaha daily.

Forty-eight persons were killed and horses, has been constructed by the last year, according to the state railbraska railway grade accidents in the way commission's report.

Firemen in many towns over the Licenses were granted during 1919 state are planning to attend the anunteer Firemen's association at Scottsbluff, January 20 to 22.

Adam McMullen of Beatrice has filed papers with the secretary of state for the republican nomination for governor. He is first in the field.

Living quarters have become so scarce at Kearney that new-comers to the city are told that the only hope of

finding a place to live is to build. Omaha is making plans for the annual convention of the National Live Stock association which will be held

there February B. The oil well near Chadron has been sunk to a depth of 800 feet and promoters of the project believe oil will

be found. It is estimated that the big potash plants in western Nebraska are turning out 500 tons of the finished product

The annual wolf hunt in Saunders county netted many rabbits but nary a wolf. Over 200 men took part in the

Bids have been let by the village board of Venango for the construction

of a water system to cost \$27,000. The Young Men's Christian Association of Lincoln voted General Pershing a life member of the organization.

Governor McKelvie says coal profiteers in Nebraska are to be prosecuted under the Lever act.

Steps have been taken at Hebron to organize a post of the American legion,

Grand Island reports indicate that unless means are found by which an indebtedness of \$9,000 is met, the Hall county fair association may disband. Between April 1 and December 31, 1919, fires caused a property loss of \$312,694 at Beatrice. During the nine months the city had forty-nine fires, Governor McKelvie has appointed Judge George A. Day of the Douglas county district court to fill the vacancy in the supreme court caused by wick, at Lincoln. The term expires In 1922.

Herbert M. Bushnell, well known Nebraska newspaper man, founder and publisher of the Trade Review, a trade journal published at Lincoln, died at a hospital in the Capital City.

From O'Nelll comes the report that \$10,000. The building occupied by the a carp canning plant is to be built Bank of Cortland and a grocery store there by local men who have been selfing smoked, dried and salted carp for several years,

Nebraska had 1,000 fires in 1919, ett, Beatrice, and C. É. Sandall, York, The loss was \$1,422,944, or 34 per cent are among men talked of as possible less than the year before, when it was \$2,158,205, according to State Fire Marshal Beach.

Thousands Have Kidney Trouble and Never Suspect It

Applicants for Insurance Often Rejected.

Judging from reports from druggists who are constantly in direct touch with the public, there is one preparation that has been very successful in overcoming these conditions. The mild and healing influence of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its remarkable record of success.

An examining physician for one of the prominent Life Insurance Companies, in an interview on the subject, made the astonishing statement that one reason why so many applicants for insurance are rejected is because kidney trouble is so common to the American people, and the large majority of those whose applica-tions are declined do not even suspect that they have the disease. It is on sale at all drug stores in bottles of two sizes. medium and large.

However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper.—Adv.

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accounts of civil wars?"

erature?"

"How would you catalogue these

"Why not put them with polite lit-

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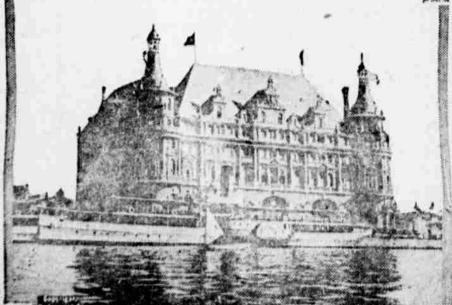
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