

Solution of Coal Problem Up to Buyer

Director of Geological Survey Says Consumer Must Create Steadier Market and Not Buy at 11th Hour.

By ARTHUR SEARS HENNING, Omaha Bee Leased Wire.

Washington, July 1.—In his efforts to bring about the resumption of coal production, President Harding is aiming not only to settle the strike in the coal fields but to lay the foundation for a permanent solution of the fuel supply problem.

Secretary of Commerce Hoover has been conducting an extended inquiry into conditions in the coal industry with a view to submitting recommendations of measures to stabilize production, distribution and employment.

George Otis Smith, director of the geological survey, has submitted an analysis of the problem in which he asserts that stabilization must begin with the consumer through the creation of a steadier market. The consumer must order and store his coal in the slack season instead of waiting till the 11th hour before snow flies.

Too Many Mines.

"With market demands more regular," says Mr. Smith, "it will become even more obvious that the over-developed industry must suffer deflation; fewer mines and fewer miners can and should furnish the needed coal. Mr. Peabody as a representative operator of the coal industry at present a burden on the Saturday and suggests their elimination through bankruptcy. Ellis Searles, the editor of the United Mine Workers' Journal, admits that 150,000 miners, like one-third of the mine, should be eliminated and he suggests that they leave the mine for the farm. Mr. Peabody estimates that the idle days of our bituminous mines involve an annual loss to the capital and labor employed of not less than \$400,000,000 and that most of this loss is paid by the consumer.

"A longer working year for a reduced force is the only possible method of bringing about the lower wage scale and the larger annual earnings, both of which are generally accepted as the only means of the high unit rate of wages that coal costs too much, and on broad economic grounds it may well be questioned whether the producer should be paid a wage out of all proportion with the wage of the consumer. Can a \$5 a day workman afford to buy coal mined by a \$10 a day miner."

Basic Problems Involved.

Mr. Smith holds that serious as the present situation is, there are fundamental problems more insistent for solution than even the general differences between employer and employee. These basic problems affect the whole coal industry to some degree, but especially the bituminous branch. Clear up the economics of the business and a lasting settlement of labor controversy would become a possibility; less than questions unanswered, and industrial peace can not be expected to survive the usual two-year armistice.

"What coal producers and coal consumers alike need," says Mr. Smith, "is reform of the business rather than compromise between parties to the controversy and in this reform it is absolutely essential that the mine workers should co-operate with the mine operators. Too long have the mine owners treated the coal business as private privilege and too long have the labor leaders with no less monopolistic attitude obstructed every move for underground efficiency and economy. The people's coal costs too much because of the mistaken idea that mine owner and mine worker can continue to fight over contracts and rules. Cheaper coal and larger earnings will come when engineering is emphasized more and bargaining less.

Miners' Time Broken.

"In terms of engineering, the coal industry has a bad load factor; translated into human relations, poorly functioning mines mean poorly employed miners. A longer working year would seem at first glance desirable to mine owner, mine worker, and consumer alike. Why not get it?"

"The trouble with our soft coal mines is not so much the broken year as the broken month, the broken week and even the broken day. The running time is broken into small pieces, for mine operation is not simply seasonal, it is inter-

mittent. In the average mine of the country we find November a longer month than June, by 25 per cent, and June longer than April by 10 per cent, and yet the working time in a normal November is only 19 to 21 days.

The average year in the southern Appalachian region is a fourth longer than the average year in the central competitive district. With 215 days as the average year for the whole country we find a 273-day average year in New Mexico, 247 days in Alabama, and 223 days in West Virginia, as against 202 days in Missouri, 197 days in Illinois, and 192 days in Oklahoma. For the soft coal miner this is plainly not a land of equal opportunity.

Leaks in Industry.

"Markets, quality of coal, mine costs (including wage scales), and car supply are all factors contributing to these differences in mine employment. Unfortunately we can gauge results better than determine causes; we know the industry to be wasteful but where are the leaks? The lack of efficiency and the losses due to irregular operation are not universal, for many individual mines work 300 days in the year. Indeed in 1913 when the bituminous mines averaged 232 working days, one-fourth of the 500,000 men in the industry were employed in mines that worked 280 days or more and nearly 50,000 of them in mines that worked 300 days or more. Our problem is industrial betterment then is simply to bring the average mine up to the best; to do that, unfavorable conditions must be replaced by favorable conditions.

"First among methods of mending the broken year is the practical remedy of stabilizing the coal market. Many reforms can begin at home and my first practical suggestion for bettering conditions of employment at the coal mine will be addressed to the coal consumer. A more regular market for the mine's output is the first essential, and here is the consumer's opportunity to co-operate. You and I need to buy coal at times when we need the coal least. Off season delivery of coal, even to the small consumer, whose name is legion, will help materially to make the mine worker's June more like his November. Also, each of us should buy of one dealer, not 'shop' for coal. If you or I should speculate in our 10-ton purchases of coal, how can we deplore the speculation of our coal dealer and the chain of business hazards thus initiated? Is it not plain that the retail dealer who can depend on his regular trade can himself be a better customer of the wholesaler or the selling agent of the mine?"

Long Time Contracts Needed.

The large consumer can do even more to smooth out the irregularities of mine operation by making long term contracts, even five-year contracts, and providing for delivery to suit the mine as well as himself. Such contracts could be made at lowest prices for long term contracts in hand the mine operator could reduce his costs to a minimum. With such a steady market, full year operation and steady employment would become possible—the mine worker would earn a year's wages, and the public would not pay for idleness. That reform, however, must begin at home, not at the distant mine—the consumer must start it."

Franco-Rumanian Aerial Service to be Extended

Washington, July 1.—The Franco-Rumanian Air Navigation company, which has been running an air service from Paris to Prague and Warsaw, shortly will inaugurate an extension of its service from Prague to Vienna to Budapest, the War department has been advised.

The new service is to run three times a week. The time required will be two hours from Prague to Vienna and two hours from Vienna to Budapest.

Chemistry Bureau Working on New Plant for Beverage

Washington, July 1.—The bureau of chemistry has begun experimental work on cassia, or yupon, a new beverage producing plant.

Officials of the bureau declare the plant offers great possibilities in producing a drink rivaling tea and coffee in bouquet, palatability and stimulating quality.

Green Gables
DR. BENJAMIN THE BAILEY SANATORIUM
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This institution is the only one in the central west with separate buildings situated in their own grounds, yet entirely distinct, and rendering it possible to classify cases. The one building being fitted for and devoted to the treatment of noncontagious and nonmental diseases, no others being admitted; the other Rest Cottage being designed for and devoted to the exclusive treatment of select mental cases requiring for a time watchful care and special nursing.

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Splendid values in high-grade overstuffed suites of the large, roomy and comfy type shown here in the picture. Tassel trimmed if you like; finest spring construction in seats, backs and arms; loose cushions and spring edge. Choice of figured brown mohair or combination velour with mohair cushions, which makes an artistic contrast. Positive \$375 values. Choice of three attractive patterns at.....



Gas Range

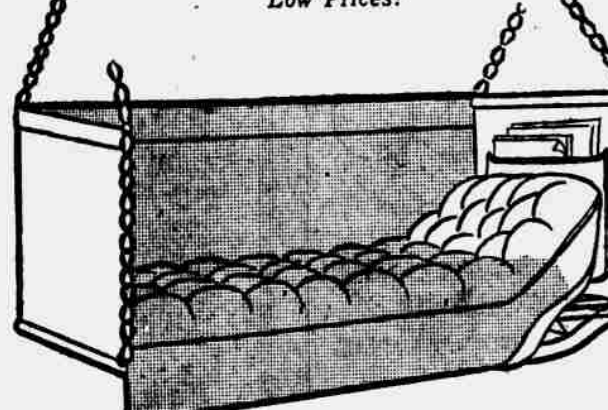
Everything one can want in the way of baking qualities. A high-grade make, and with tomorrow's special price it should sell quickly. Convenient size oven and four-burner. \$32.50 top. See this gas stove bargain at.....

Clearance SALE
Starts August 1st

To move out the remaining pieces of broken suites; to quickly sell floor samples that have been here some time; to "even up" our stocks—these are the reasons for our Big August Sale, which will feature hundreds of real bargains.

I Will Mean Money Saved If You Buy There!

Summer Furniture
At Surprisingly Low Prices!

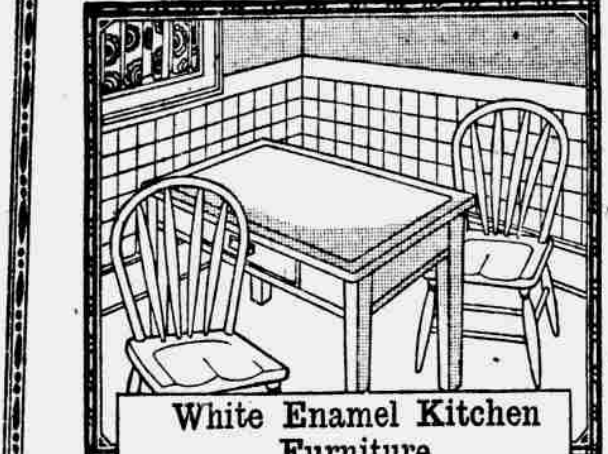


High-Grade Couch Hammock
And you ought to have one right now. Enjoy the evenings on your lawn or porch with a comfortable hammock of this kind. Our special offer is with-out adjustable head rest, but has the added feature of extremely comfy padded back. \$22.50 value at.....

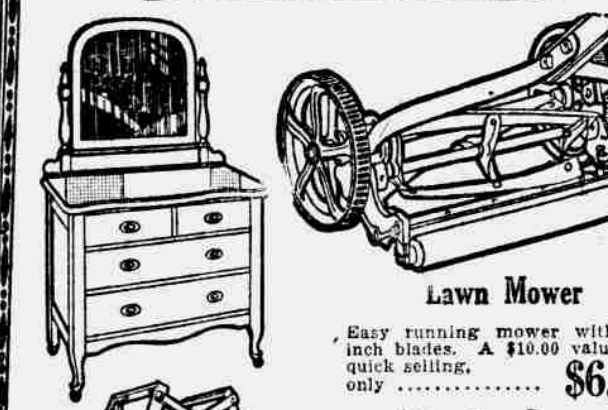


Apartment Style in Galvanized Refrigerator
Has 3 doors, 60-lb. ice capacity. Solid ash case, finished golden; silver trim, air tight. A \$45.00 value at.....

\$38.50



White Enamel Kitchen Furniture
White Enamel Kitchen Table—Has full size porcelain top, utensil drawer. A \$12.00 value at..... \$7.95
White Enamel Chairs—Two back style, solid shaped seats. Strongly built, each..... \$2.95



Lawn Mower
Easy running mower with 14-inch blades. A \$10.00 value for quick selling, only..... \$6.95



Attractive Dresser
Has fine mahogany finish; large mirror supported by artistic standards; 4 drawers. At..... \$19.95



4-Passenger Lawn Swing
Here is a well built, strongly braced 4-passenger swing that will give you service for years. Room for 4 grown-ups. Only..... \$6.95
No Canopy to Fit.



An Attractive Corduroy Lined Carriage

Not to be confused with the ordinary type of fiber cord carriage. Has the large wooden artillery wheels, reversible gear and large roomy body. Choice of gray or ivory color finish.

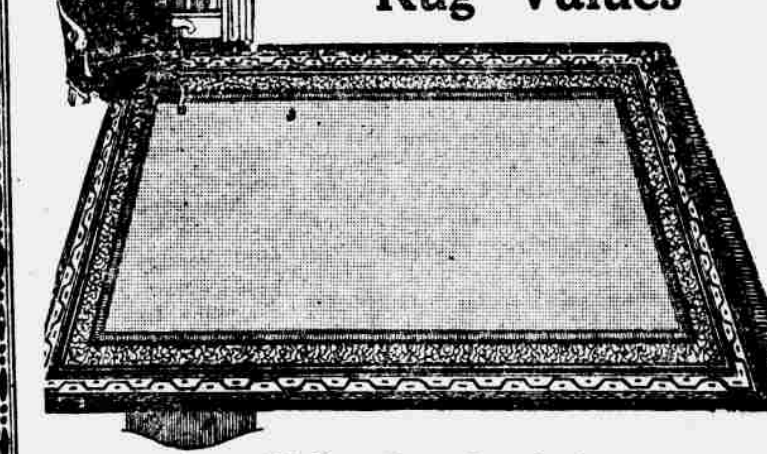
\$47.50 Value
\$32.75

Display of the Famous Lloyd Carriages

Practical High Chair

A sturdily constructed high chair of solid oak, finished a rich golden color. Has the new style wooden tray and comfortable panel back. You will like this bargain.

\$7.50 Value
\$5.95



Unusual Rug Values

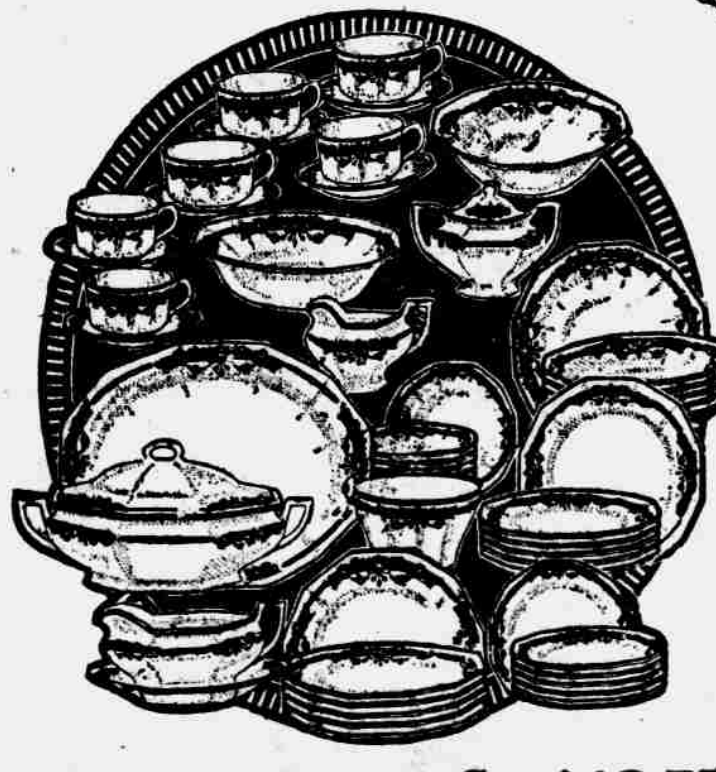
9x12 Seamless Axminsters
Soft, silky pile in new and choice designs. Rugs that will give satisfactory service wherever used. \$55 values. Offered very special for this week at, each..... \$39.75

9x12 Seamless Velvets
Woven heavy and solid, of pure wool yarns. Several new and pleasing designs from which to select. Positive \$42.50 values. Very specially priced at..... \$24.75

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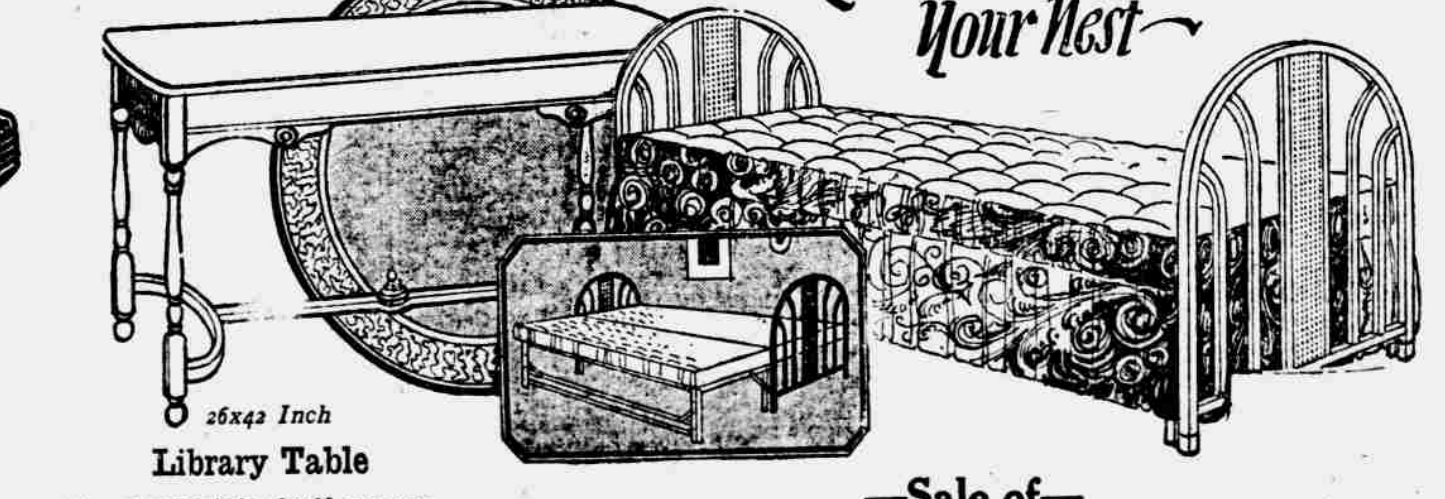
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Full Service for a Family of Six

A fine quality, neatly decorated dinnerware. Similar decorations to kind shown. You realize a saving of \$6.00 if you purchase a set on Monday or Wednesday. An unusual value, indeed.



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Just the thing for the "unexpected guest." Frames are of steel, finished mahogany, and we feature two styles for this, our introductory week of "HERZ" Da-Beds. Complete with comfortable pad, with cretonne ruffled flounce. Opens up to full-sized double bed in an instant. Very specially priced at..... \$42.65