

COAL

P. J. Sunoco Thurs., May 16, 1946.

The coal situation today is best described in the words of President Truman, who issued a statement explaining what he had done. John L. Lewis and Charles O'Neil of the Mine Operators Committee, went to the White House for another conference at ten O'clock this morning. They told ^{TR} Truman that after taking counsel with their committees, they reached a conclusion that the negotiations had completely broken down and that no further negotiations would be of any use. "I therefore proposed arbitration," said the President, and he continued: "I asked them to consider this proposal carefully and report back to me with their decision at five thirty this afternoon." ^{TR} ~~Mr. Truman~~ ^{The President} then went on to tell how some thirty-five or forty joint meetings had been held without any agreement. ~~And~~ he used these words: "The country is in desperate straits as a result of the recent strike of the coal miners. Coal must be got ^{ten} out of the ground." And he continued: "The whole life of the Nation has

suffered from the coal strike and will suffer increasingly if there is another stoppage."

The President went on to say that the step he took today came at the end of a long series of efforts, efforts which date back to last March. When the negotiations began, both the miners and the ~~man~~ operators informed him they were confident they could settle their dispute among themselves. However, a Government observer sat in on the negotiations from the first. Since April First, there have been more than a score of meetings, all of which ended in a deadlock. The basic elements in the plan of arbitration which the President proposed, would be that the parties agree upon an arbitrator ~~to~~ pass upon the dispute; and second, that the miners remain at work while the arbitration is going on.

John D. Small, Administrator of Civilian Production, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ poured some oil on ^{all this} ~~the~~ troubled ^{coal fire} ~~fire~~ today when he called upon Congress to pass ■

emergency legislation forbidding all strikes for six months. He said: "It is time John L. Lewis realizes he is not bigger than a hundred and forty million other people." And he added that it is time that Lewis and any others like him, either in Management or Labor, recognize the fact that the rights of the public must come first.

When these remarks by Small became known, three pro-labor Congressmen ~~protested at the House~~ ^{showed their feelings} ^{Civilian Production Administration} ~~by~~ calling upon President Truman to fire Small at once.

ADD COAL

And here is ^{late} ~~bad~~ news, ~~at a late hour~~

The mine operators have decided to reject arbitration, that is except on the issue of wages. ^{That is they,} ~~They will~~ not submit to arbitration, Lewis's demand for a welfare fund of seventy million dollars, seven per cent of the payrolls.

[Faint, mostly illegible text follows, appearing to be a continuation of a report or news article.]

Johnston, the head of the Locomotive Engineers,

RAIL STRIKE

"The Railroad Strike will begin Saturday sure as shooting." ^{So says} ~~That's what~~ Alvanley Johnston said, President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

To that President Truman replied in kind, ~~although he didn't use the words "Sure as shooting."~~ ^{that the} minute the new strike ^{occurs}, the Government will seize the lines and J. Monroe Johnston, Director of the Office of Defense Transportation, will take over. What is more, Uncle Sam's Army will stand by to see that the President's orders are carried out.

It begins to look as though the Railway Labor Act will have failed to prevent the stoppage of the railroads for the ^{first} time since the Act was passed in Nineteen Sixteen. It had been considered one of the most successful bits of industrial legislation ever enacted. ~~It must be admitted that~~ Up to now it has worked; but today the country faces a more critical situation than ever before.

Johnston, the head of the Locomotive Engineers,

made his announcement after another conference with the heads of the Railroad Line^s, a conference that lasted forty-five minutes without result. The President's fact-finding board recommended a wage increase of a dollar and twenty-eight cents a day, and some changes in the rules. The Unions turned it down. The railroad management men say they were willing to settle for what the Board had recommended. The Unions originally asked for a minimum ~~of~~ raise of two dollars and a half a day. But they came down to an increase of eighteen cents an hour with a minimum of a dollar and forty-four cents a day. For the higher paid employees that eighteen cents an hour would be considerably more than the ~~f~~ dollar and forty-four cents a day.

This was too much for the Railroad Management.

The Illinois Central is exempt from the strike order of the Union since it is already under Government control, a hangover from the war.

ADD RAILROAD STRIKE

Later this afternoon, President Truman told newspapermen he still had ³ hopes of settling the railroad dispute before Saturday. But, he added, ~~that~~ he ~~will~~ ^{will} definitely [^] seize the lines before any strike begins.

DRAFT

With elections ahead next November, for ~~all Representatives in Congress~~, and ^{for} several Governors, there has been much political side-stepping about the draft. President Truman cut the knot today with ~~one sharp pair of scissors~~ ^{one clip.} He announced that single men in their twenties will be x drafted. The story from the White House adds that fathers will be exempted from the draft. ~~Evidently somebody forgot that single men are not supposed to be fathers in the best regulated families.~~

Under the present regulations, the top age limit for the draft is twenty-six, President Truman explained his action on the grounds that the new draft extension act, ~~xxx~~ which he had to sign, was bad.

TRUMAN

President Truman today delivered a sharp answer to the starry-eye ~~exhorters over here~~ who have been criticising their fellow Americans ~~because~~ ^{for} ~~we are~~ not sending more food abroad. The President told the newspapermen at his press conference today that this country is doing all it possibly can, ^{and} ~~in~~ ^{far} ~~the emergency~~ doing more than the people of any other country.

He disclosed that he has been in touch with Premier Stalin in Moscow over the food situation. Mr. Truman did not reveal what he had said to Stalin. But the presumption is that he begged the Soviets to increase their contributions of foodstuffs. He said he would soon tell the public about his conversations with Stalin.

CONFERENCE

The Foreign Ministers of the big four, ^{meeting in} ~~powers at~~ Paris, have adjourned, ^{with} ~~having accomplished~~ ^{accomplished.} ~~virtually nothing.~~ They'll meet again June Fifteenth, and ^{try again.} ~~take another whack at the wearisome tasks ahead of them.~~

Before they took the recess, Secretary Byrnes offered a proposal that a conference be held to consider a German Peace Treaty on November Twelfth. As usual, Molotov blocked it. That was the pay-off, after this final obstruction the Foreign Ministers for the present, gave it ^{all} up as a bad job.

One of the few things they achieved was a revised draft of Italian Armistice Terms. ~~This~~ ^{This it} the Foreign Ministers initialled it. ~~It is~~ ^{is} hoped that ~~the~~ ^{will} result ~~will be to put Attlee on the road toward~~ ^{in getting Italy back to} normal, ~~conditions,~~ ^{or part way -} pending the conclusion of a formal treaty.

JAPAN

Emperor Hirohito ~~of Japan~~ has appointed another Premier. ~~He is a~~ ^{The} sixty-seven year old Statesman, Shigeru Yoshida, who has passed most of his life as a diplomat. ~~He~~ ^{Yoshida} is considered a moderate. General MacArthur approved the appointment. Yoshida hopes to complete filling his Cabinet by Friday. The Mikado made the appointment at the urgent suggestion of Yoshida's predecessor, Baron Shidehara.

Yoshida issued a statement[†] that the Emperor had authorized him to organize his cabinet as quickly as possible, owing to the critical food situation. The announcement was made just as the newly elected Japanese House of Representatives convened for the first time.

Shortly before the Japanese ~~threw in~~ ^{gave up} ~~the sponge~~ ^{unconditionally,} Yoshida was arrested. He had taken part in a peace movement, trying to bring about ~~the~~ ^{At that time} end of the war. ~~At~~ the secret police came to his home and charged him with conspiracy, having

tried to bring about peace through British channels.

When Japan surrendered, Yoshida was released.

Analyst Butler suggested it to the Council today.
The Council's three-man committee now in India has
already submitted it to the United Nations and Monrovia
Council.

Under this plan, says the Prime Minister,
the people of Singapore will be free to make their
own future. It also recognizes that they will
choose to remain within the empire and that
status. But there is no objection from them to do so.

What the Labour Government proposes is a
union that will comprise all of British India and the
Independent Indian states. It will be a union of our
own constitution. It will be a union of our
own affairs, defence, communications, finance
and taxation. It will be handled by a central
and British Legislature, *such as we do,*
and the people of the Indian States and
Affairs and will be specifically allotted to the

INDIA

The British Government has a new plan for giving the people of India independence. Prime Minister Attlee announced it to the Commons today. The Cabinet's three-man committee now in India has already submitted it to the Hindu and Mohammedan Leaders.

Under this plan, says the Prime Minister, the people of Hindustan will be free to make their own future. Attlee repeated his hope that they will choose to remain within the Empire under dominion status. But there is no compulsion ~~for~~ them to do ~~so~~.

What the Labor Government proposes is a union that will comprise all of British India and the Independent Indian states. ~~It seems to smack of~~ ^{Sounds like} our own constitution. ~~For one thing,~~ ^{with} all such matters as foreign affairs, defense, communications, finance and taxation ~~will be for the~~ ^{to be handled by a central} Indian Union Government and ~~the~~ ^{much as we do,} Legislature, ~~just as these matters are~~ ^{here the province of the Federal Government and Congress.} Affairs not ~~specifically~~ specifically allotted to the

Central Government, will be dealt with in the Provinces and States. In other words, the States will keep jurisdiction of all matters not specifically assigned to the Union Government. The Provinces will be free to combine, among themselves, combine into groups with their own executives and legislatures. The constitutions, not of the Union but of the different state groups, to be reconsidered at intervals of ten years.

In the National Legislature, all disputes between religious and racial groups to be voted on only when majorities of those groups are represented.

^{British} The ^{now in India} Cabinet mission has suggested to the Indians that their legislatures immediately elect delegates to a constituent assembly. Otherwise there would have to be a National Election entailing a long delay. The delegates are to be chosen on a basis of one to ^a ~~one~~ million. This would ^{produce an} ~~give the~~ assembly ^{of} some four hundred members. Delegates would also be chosen on the basis of ^{the major} ~~main~~ religious groups,

Moslems, Sikhs, Hindus. The constituent assembly would also have the job of working out a treaty with Great Britain, a treaty to provide for certain masses arising out of the transfer of power.

Attlee made this announcement to the Commons about the same time that he released the text of a white paper, ~~which had been~~ issued in India by the Viceroy, Viscount Wavell, and the British Cabinet ~~Minister~~. ^{Mission.} The white paper sets out in detail the labors of the cabinet mission, the problems and considerations involved. It also includes ^{more} ~~a fuller~~ ^{details} ~~outlining~~ of the ^{new} plan ^{and} have just outlined

POLAND

More trouble in Poland. A story from Central Europe relates that no fewer than seven thousand people were killed there last month, ~~1111~~ in the course of Guerrilla Fighting.

The Government, the so-called Government of National Unity dominated by Communists and supposed to be controlled by Moscow, blames the killings on the Polish Peasant Party, which is opposed to Communism. That's the Party headed by Mikolajczyk (Meekolaijik), the Polish Vice-Premier who used to be head of the Polish Government in exile in London. The Polish Ministry of Public Security issued a statement charging the leaders of the Peasant Party with responsibility for terrorism.

The unfortunate people of Poland are caught in the middle of ^{the} a struggle between Soviet Russia on the one hand, ^{and} John Bull and Uncle Sam on the other.

The English speaking countries are resisting the Moscow domination of the Poles. ~~The~~

~~Soviets, of course, have other ideas.~~ It is believed ~~that~~ the Communists are making ^{an} ~~the~~ charge against the Peasant Party because they want to head off the free Democratic Election which has been promised. If the election were held now, say the observers, and if they were really free, the Peasant Party would have at least fifty per cent of the vote. The British have been threatening to break off relations with the Polish Government if there is an evidence of political persecution in advance of the elections.

CRASHES

Bad flying weather today caused two dreadful crashes, ~~which between them were the death~~ ^{Fatal to} ~~of~~ more than thirty people.

Five miles from Richmond, Virginia, an airliner out of Newark, New Jersey, bound for Atlanta, Georgia, came to earth and burst into flames on a farm belonging to the transmitter operator of a radio station in Richmond. ~~The owner of the farm rushed to the scene as soon as he could and counted twenty six bodies, among them three women and three children.~~ ^{27 killed.}

Meanwhile, ~~out~~ on the coast an Army B-17, ~~yes~~ a Flying Fortress, on its way from Los Angeles to Hamilton Field, flew ~~snack~~ into the slopes ~~of~~ Mt. Tamalpais. The pilot and co-pilot, ~~were both of them~~ dazed and critically injured, ~~But they~~ managed to crawl from the wreckage and ~~somehow~~ ~~make~~ their way four miles to Fairfax, seventeen miles north of San Francisco, ~~to give the alarm.~~

Rescue crews then went to the scene of the crash and took one man alive from the wreck. ~~However, probably~~ ~~Five~~ of the crew perished.

TIGERS

Out West, a Flying Tiger Air Circus has been doing some barnstorming. This group is composed of seven of Chennault's famous airmen. At the head of them is Major Arthur Wermuth, known as "The-one-man-army-of Britain," who is a non-flyer I guess, but managing the circus.

When the Flying Tigers reached Denver they found they couldn't get their laundry done. Nothing daunted they did it themselves -- and hung their wash out of their hotel windows.

Denver, once the capitol of the wild and wooly West, is today a most conventional town. The spectacle of seven men's laundry hanging from hotel windows, well Denverites didn't know what to make of it. A crowd collected. The Hotel Manager protested. The airmen, they just laughed--ha! ha!

Whereupon the Denver police took Claire Chennault's airmen off to the calaboose. (Wonder if it's still down on Lawrence Street?) Anyhow at the City jail, Major Wermuth told the authorities that

anyhow he and his men wouldn't be in town long enough to send their clothes to a laundry. At that moment the City Attorney, my old school mate Charlie Mahoney probably, was called in and found there was no law against hanging your clothes out to dry, -- even outside the window of a swank Denver hotel. And that decision pleases me. I'd hate to see my Denver friends show any lack of hospitality to any of the Flying Tigers even if the boys hang their shorts out the windows of the Brown Palace.

And now the friendly voice of Hugh James.