

U. S. COAL OUTPUT.

The record breaking steady decline in the production of bituminous coal from the high point of over 13,000,000 tons a week the last of September to less than 10,000,000 tons seven weeks later, came to an end during the week ending Nov. 23, according to an announcement made by the United States Fuel Administration. In the week ending Nov. 23, production of bituminous coal rose to nearly 11,000,000 tons, a gain of 12.5 per cent. The estimated production during the week was 10,931,000 tons, compared with 9,703,000 tons in the week ended Nov. 16 and 11,187,000 tons during the corresponding week of 1917. The average daily output rose from 1,71,000 to 1,822,000 tons. During the week ended Nov. 16 the total loss by all causes from 100 per cent. production was 27.7 per cent., of which labor shortage comprised 19.8 per cent.; car shortage 1.7 per cent.; no market, 2.2 per cent.; mine disability, 3.3 per cent.; all other causes, 0.7 per cent.

LANTERN SLIDES FREE.

Sets of lantern slides, illustrating the various steps in the invalided soldier's climb back from "down and out" to "up and in again," proved very popular last winter all over Canada, as well as on shipboard among the returning soldiers themselves.

We are informed by the Editorial Branch of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment that the slides have been thoroughly overhauled, and many new pictures have been added, while new and up-to-date lecture material has been written.

The new sets are now being sent out, free of charge, on loan to ministers and other responsible speakers who realize the vital need of spreading information on this great national enterprise among all classes of the people.

Posters to announce the lecture are supplied in advance.

Application should be made as early as possible to one of the following addresses, according to the Province where the slides are to be shown:

Nova Scotia—Secretary, Returned Soldier Commission, 197 Hollis St., Halifax.

New Brunswick—Secretary, Returned Soldier Commission, 49 Canterbury St., St. John.

Prince Edward Island—Secretary, Returned Soldier Commission, Parliament Building, Charlottetown.

Quebec—Assistant Director, Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, Drummond Building, Montreal.

Eastern Ontario, up to and including Belleville and North Bay—Editorial Branch, Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, Ottawa.

Western Ontario—Assistant Director, Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, 185 Spadina Ave., Toronto.

Manitoba—Assistant Director, Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, Notre Dame Investment Building, Winnipeg.

Saskatchewan—Assistant Director, Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, McCallum Hill Bldg., Regina.

Alberta—Assistant Director, Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, Beveridge Building, Calgary.

British Columbia (Mainland)—Assistant Director, Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, Board of Trade Building, Pender St., Vancouver.

British Columbia (Vancouver Island)—Secretary, Returned Soldier Commission, Parliament Buildings, Victoria.

Every applicant should state (1) his own position, (2) the nature of the occasion on which slides are to be shown, (3) the date, or better still, alternatives dates, and (4) the route by which the slides are to be sent.

WINTER TOURS.

There is no pleasanter way to recuperate from fall colds or influenza than by taking a trip to the south. Splendid climatic conditions and beautiful scenery await you, while there are scores of attractive resorts. Winter tour tickets are now on sale to points in Alabama, Arizona, Cuba, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. Stop-over privileges allowed. The Grand Trunk System affords a variety of routes, and its representatives will gladly map out a tour for you. Consult M. O. Dafee, 122 St. James Street, Montreal.

"A Little Nonsense Now and Then"

The teacher of the class in physiology put to Tommy this question:

"How many ribs have you?"

"I don't know, ma'am," said Tommy, squirming at the very thought. "I am so awfully ticklish I never could count 'em."—Youth's Companion.

"My boy Bennie is lazy, but I must say he is smart," said the musician.

"Is he going to follow in your footsteps?"

"No. I learned to play the trombone and I've got to march about eight miles every time there is a parade. Bennie is learning the harp, so they will have to let him sit down."—Boston Transcript.

Nervous Gentleman—Now, be careful how you drive, cabby, and go slowly over the stones, for I hate to be shaken. And, mind you, pull up at the right house, and look out for those dreadful steam rollers.

Cabby—Never fear, sir; I'll do my best. And which 'orsepital would you wish to be taken to, sir, in case of a haccident?—London Opinion.

Tommy Atkins likes to pass a joke, even when he is hurt. "Coming through Ypres during hot fighting," says a British soldier-author, "I passed a friend. 'You have a fine bruise on your forehead,' said I, pointing to a raw bump the size of a goose-egg. 'How did you get it?' 'I haven't an idea,' he answered, 'unless a shell bounced off it. Some of 'em have come close enough, so one might have done it.'"

There is a good story going the rounds which relates to General Birdwood and a disrespectful Anzac. The general was standing in his shirt-sleeves outside his tent, and the Anzacs passed without saluting.

"Do you know who I am?" inquired the general.

The Anzac said no, and was duly enlightened.

"Well," replied the Anzac, eyeing him with suspicion, "why don't you wear your feathers—like any other bird would?"

Before entering the army, this rookie was a peaceful lad, but rising at 5.15 a.m. went against his principles, writes a Judge contributor. On this particular morning, as he fell in line by the light of the full moon, his bunkie heard him mutter: "It's clear to me now. Why didn't I think of that long ago?" Bunkie (puzzled)—What's clear to you? Rookie—The reason why all the great battles begin at daylight. Bunkie—Why? Rookie—Because when men have to get up at that time they feel so much like fighting.

A young fellow recently wrote to a well known firm in the south of Ireland, who were selling razors at 5s. each. This is the style of his letter:

"Please send me one of your razors, for which I enclose P.O. for 5s.

"P.S.—I have forgotten to enclose the 5s., but no doubt a firm of your standing will send one."

They replied:

"We beg to acknowledge your esteemed order, and have pleasure in sending the razor, which we trust you will like.

"P.S.—We have forgotten to enclose the razor, but no doubt a fellow with your cheek won't need one."

Two brothers were being entertained by a rich friend. As ill luck would have it, the talk drifted away from ordinary topics.

"Do you like Omar Khayyam?" thoughtlessly asked the host, trying to make conversation. The elder brother plunged heroically into the breach.

"Pretty well," he said, "but I prefer Chianti."

Nothing more was said on this subject until the brothers were on their way home.

"Bill," said the younger brother, breaking a painful silence, "why can't you leave things that you don't understand to me? Omar Khayyam ain't a wine, you chump; it's a cheese."—Cassell's Magazine.

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