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KEEP THE COAL CLEAN.

The Fuel Administration of the United States in enforcing its instructions regarding the proper preparation of coal. Six coal mines have been shut down for disregarding the clean coal regulations. Operators of many mines have been censured and warned to improve their methods. Good results are being obtained as a result of the regulations.

As the value of fuel is greatly depreciated by careless preparation, an increase in tonnage produced is worse than useless, if the increase is obtained by a corresponding increase in the percentage of waste in the coal shipped. "Keep the coal clean," should be the slogan of operators and miners alike.

Decrease in anthracite output in the United States in May was confined to grades used for domestic purposes, production of steam coal from culm banks having increased. Shortage of labor is said to be responsible for the decrease in freshly mined coal, inroads being made on labor by munition plants and other war industries in mining districts.

BETTER WAGES AND MORE WORK.

Better wages and more work, seems to be the solution of the labor problem. There is no doubt that most miners could do more work per day if they wished to and if they considered that they were getting a fair share of the profits derived from their labor. At present high wages are being paid; but there seems to be good reason to doubt whether it will be possible to continue without serious readjustment after the war. It would be very unfortunate if it should be found necessary to lower the wages and it is well to look to other means for keeping down the cost of production.

The mineral resources of Canada will be more rapidly developed if we can make mining more profitable to all who are engaged in it. It is not enough that a few companies should be very successful. Every man who works in or about a mine or metallurgical plant should have an opportunity to earn a decent living and to acquire a reasonable portion of the things that will make him and his family happy and will enable his children to obtain a good education. He should be recognized as a very useful citizen who is contributing directly to the wealth of the nation by his labor. His living conditions should not be only satisfactory to himself, but such as to attract young men from other occupations. We believe that this would be possible to a very great degree if by mutual understanding it was agreed that he would exert himself to do more work. If miners could be induced to work reasonably hard for eight hours a day, they could very well be paid better wages than have been possible in the past.

With regard to this, Mr. Wm. Frecheville says: "With regard to cost (of production), the efficiency of labor plays a very important part. Probably most metal mine managers would agree with the view that their workmen could, without hurting themselves, accomplish more than they do. There is a general feeling that the men, even when working on contract, do not let themselves go to the extent that they might, the explanation being that they often fear that if they do more, and in consequence make a good thing out of their contract, the price would be cut or reduced for the next monthly contract, with the result that they would have to work harder for the same wage. There is the further fact that the present system does not seem to bring out any community of interest between the men and the mine, and we all know how better results can, as a rule, be got by anyone who is interested in the result and works with his head as well as with his hands. These difficulties exist no doubt in other industries, and in some perhaps to a greater extent than in the metal mining industry, and they probably constitute the principal industrial problem awaiting solution in the after-war days, when we hope many of the difficulties and shortcomings we are now keenly conscious of will be seriously dealt with. On the one