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How the Coal Strike Strikes the Public

(The Literary Digest)

Angry suspicion that neither the operators nor the miners really tried to prevent the deadlock that closed the anthracite mines on September 1 finds expression in many an editorial and news dispatch. The consumer of hard coal, confronted by the prospect of paying a higher price for his winter's supply, reads with smoldering resentment of the rich profits predicted for the operators and distributors from the large surplus supplies of anthracite already above ground. Nor does he feel any profound thrill of sympathy when the correspondents describe the "festive spirit" in which miners welcome their enforced vacation. They are leaping into their holiday in a joyous mood," reports Robert T. Small in a Scranton dispatch to the Washington-Star. Many, we are told, are joining the rush to Florida, lured by news of the land boom in that State. Others are starting on motor trips. Still others are withdrawing their savings and preparing to return to Europe. To quote Mr. Small further: "This is the biannual vacation they have been waiting for and they intend to make the most of it. Clothing merchants and haberdashers throughout the region reported to-day the usual brisk trade which always follows an order to quit the mines. The miners, expecting to spend much time above ground, are 'dolting up' for their holiday."

The anthracite companies, declares President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, are using the strike "to unload at enhanced prices a greatly augmented tonnage of inferior coal." The miners, retorts an official spokesman for the companies, are using the strike to force a wage advance which would have to come ultimately out of the public's pocket. Another charge hinted at by the operators is that the United Mine Workers Union is sacrificing the anthracite field to serve its purposes in the soft coal industry. But while each side is accusing the other of forcing the suspension for ulterior motives, disinterested journals are blaming them both for this "strike against the consumer." "The periodic coal strikes of recent years have been manifestly directed primarily against the public, and this is even more true of the present strike than of previous struggles," remarks the Buffalo Express. "Both miners and operators have surrendered all claims upon public sympathy," declares the Albany Knickerbocker Press, which denounces the strike as "inexcusable and senseless." "Remarkably that 'neither side to the controversy has shown the right spirit,'" the St. Louis Star points out that the operators, in a position to profit whichever way the situation developed, "have been arbitrary," while the miners, "demanding a 10 per cent. increase and the check-off, with wage adjustments for those employed by the day, have refused arbitration."

Discussing "The Art of Skinning Coal Consumers," William A. McGarry states in Mr. Ford's Dearborn Independent that "the record of all previous suspensions in the anthracite industry shows that when all

the surplus stock in the yards is exhausted the miners and operators get together, hold a three-hour session, and sign a compromise agreement—generally the identical agreement over which they had deadlocked during the earlier stages of the negotiation." To quote Mr. McGarry further:

"If no other evidence were available it would be sufficient to arouse at least a strong suspicion that unsold anthracite has something to do with a suspension of work in the mines. The Government is slowly showing signs of recognizing how the game is won. The miners are becoming impatient and therefore more outspoken. And even the consumer is learning. He is not stampeding as easily as in former years."

"When the mines closed in 1922 competent observers estimated the unsold hard coal above ground at thirty million tons, and most of that—nearly a half-year's normal supply—was moved in four months. It didn't move with nearly enough rapidity to suit the operators. In earlier suspensions the artificial demand had been even more rapid. This year the growth of suspicion is evidenced by the fact that even a concerted campaign of newspaper, street-car, direct mail, and billboard advertising, all making use of the strike threat, has failed so far to create a 'panic market.'"

Glancing back over the present controversy, which had its official beginning in the conferences between representatives of the operators and the miners in Atlantic City early in July, the New York Times finds the attitude of both sides "critically unimpaired" of the interests of the consuming public:

"Both sides have ample time to compose their differences in peace, had there been a genuine will to peace. Two months ago negotiations for a renewal of the wage agreement were begun. The proceedings dragged on in the most leisurely way four weeks to their final collapse. Neither side has presented its case fully and frankly. The public has no real knowledge of the basic facts at issue in the present dispute. The conferences at Atlantic City were held behind closed doors and the press statements from each side appeared to have been issued primarily to achieve some tactical advantage over the other. The public authorities have also had ample time to use their good offices to bring both parties together. But nothing has been done and the strike is upon us."

"This blind drifting toward widespread public inconvenience—perhaps actual suffering, if the contest is prolonged—is exasperating the American people as it has never done before. But it will serve some useful purpose if it arouses them to displace aimless drift with deliberate mastery. There is need of intensive public consideration of the whole process of mining and distributing coal. Premium prices for coal will bring a general appreciation of the fact that more is at stake than a wage dispute. The idea which emerges in the public mind with each recurring stoppage is that coal is affected by a public interest to such an extent that some sort of government regulation is essential for the public welfare."

Unless all the outward indications are grossly misleading, remarks the Detroit Free Press, both miners and operators were content to have the strike called at this time. But "no reasons have been given by either side which excuse it," declares the New York World, which reminds us that—

"Two years ago the miners received more than they expected in the agreement for a 10-per-cent. increase and a strict eight-hour day. The operators' business is in a healthy condition. No mines are closing down, as in the bituminous field. No owners are losing money. The industry could have been expected to settle its disputes over the anthracite field through arbitration without tramping over public interest. That it has failed so completely to do anything of the sort indicates something more than gross mismanagement of the negotiations; it indicates a selfish desire on one side or both to precipitate a strike for what can be had from it."

In the opinion of the Albany Evening News and Journal:

"The time is coming when the 100,000,000 will refuse longer to be the Belgium of this war between owners and men. The people may learn, indeed, they are learning, that hard coal may be a luxury instead of a necessity. New England has moved to educate the people to soft-coal substitutes. And there is oil."

The miners and operators "have sown the whirlwind," and "they are now confronted with the prospect of reaping what they have sown," says the Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger, which sees the operators losing their market and the miners losing public sympathy. The public, we are told, is already beginning to break itself of "the anthracite habit." It is learning the use of substitutes. According to the Williamsport Sun "the demand for anthracite in the United States in a few years has fallen off 40 per cent. because of the high price of the article and the uncertainty of a steady supply on account of periodical strikes." Some time ago

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BEE BRAND JELLIES—All flavors, Reg. 13c. each. Friday and Saturday... **9c.**

EARLY JUNE PEAS—S. O. S. Brand, Reg. 25c. each. Friday and Saturday... **20c.**

SLADE'S PREPARED MUSTARD—Tumblers, Reg. 15c. each. Friday and Saturday... **11c.**

BEST QUALITY PURE COCOA—Reg. 20c. lb. Friday and Saturday... **10c.**

BEST GRANULATED SUGAR—5 lb. cartons, Each... **32c.**

FLOUR—14 lb. sacks, Reg. 75c. each. Friday and Saturday... **30c.**

VALENCIA ONIONS—10 lbs. for... **21c.**

POLISHED RICE—3 lbs. for... **21c.**

"SUNRISE" JAM—Damon, Gooseberry and Plum, 1 lb. crocks, Reg. 45c. ea. Friday and Saturday... **35c.**

NEW TIES, etc., at Reduced Prices

MEN'S HEATHER HALF HOSE—In assorted mixtures. Strongly reinforced toes and heels. Sizes 10, 10½ and 11. Reg. \$2.20 ea. pair. Fri. and Sat. **30c.**

MEN'S PYJAMA SUITS—Soft flannellette in assorted light stripes. All sizes. Reg. \$2.20 ea. pair. Friday and Saturday... **\$2.88**

MEN'S ALL-WOOL HOSE—In plain and heather mixtures. Good English make. All Wool. Sizes 10, 10½ and 11. Reg. 55c. ea. pair. Fri. and Sat. **45c.**

MEN'S LIGHT STRIPPED UNION FLANNEL SHIRTS—Soft neck band and soft cuffs. A good roomy shirt for every day wear. Regular \$2.50 each. **\$2.25** Friday and Sat.

MEN'S BLACK WOOL HALF HOSE—Heavy ribbed make, most suitable for the present season's wear. All sizes. Reg. 85c. pr. **72c.** Fri. and Sat.

MEN'S SHIRTS—Fine Cotton Shirts, in assorted fancy stripes. Tunic style, with soft double cuffs and stiff collar bands. Sizes 14 to 16. Reg. \$1.95 ea. pair. Friday and Saturday... **\$1.65**



MEN'S WIDE END TIES—Assorted pretty patterns and color combinations of the west. You are sure to get a tie that suits your particular fancy in this lot. Reg. 50c. each. Friday and Saturday... **40c.**

MEN'S FANCY SILK TIES—Of the better quality. The very choicest patterns are here shown. Reg. 80c. each. Friday and Saturday... **65c.**

MEN'S WIDE END TIES—In floral stripes, checks, paisleys, etc.; all new goods. Reg. \$1.10 each. Friday & Saturday... **95c.**

MEN'S SPORT BOWS—A good assortment of the season's newest patterns. Reg. 40c. each. Friday & Sat. **32c.**

MEN'S SLEEVELESS FULL-OVER SWEATERS—In the very newest color combinations of Camel and Brown; sizes 38, 40 and 42. Reg. \$2.60 each. Friday and Saturday... **\$2.20**

BOYS' WOOL JERSEYS—In a perfect fitting style with seamless sleeves. Made to button at shoulder. Combination colors of Grey and Emerald, Brown and Saxe, and Navy and Red. Size 20. Reg. \$1.35 each. Friday and Sat. **\$1.20**

Reg. \$1.45 each. Friday and Sat. **\$1.30**

Reg. \$1.60 each. Friday and Sat. **\$1.38**

Reg. \$1.70 each. Friday and Sat. **\$1.48**

Reg. \$1.80 each. Friday and Sat. **\$1.58**

BOYS' COAT SWEATERS—All Wool Coat Sweaters, in Camel trimmed with Brown or self colors of Camel, Brown, Navy and Myrtle. Long Roll or Polo Collars. Size 30. Friday and Sat. **\$3.00**

Reg. \$3.40 each. Friday and Sat. **\$3.15**

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Dress Goods, etc. Values that Overlap then all

STRIPED MELTOS—Browns, Greens and Heather grounds. A good weight for Fall; 40 inches wide. Reg. 65c. yd. Fri. and Sat. **58c.**

SCROLL AND FANCY CHECKED LINING—In Pawn, Brown and Grey effects, 39 inches wide. Reg. 60c. yard. **52c.**

SHEPHERD CHECK DRESS MATERIAL—Very soft quality cotton, 36 inches wide. Will wash well and give good service. Reg. 45c. yd. **40c.** Friday and Saturday

WOOL TWEED SKIRTINGS—In new Brown and Grey shades. A good heavy weave that will prove most satisfactory for Fall and Winter wear and give great service; 42 inches wide. Reg. \$1.25 yd. **\$1.10** Friday & Saturday

BLACK AND NAVY WOOL SERGE—Close finish, serge of fine quality. Exceptional value at the regular price of \$2.50 yard; 54 inches wide. Special for Friday and Saturday... **\$2.18**

Splendid Savings on NEEDFUL FOOTWEAR



MEN'S BROWN BOOTS—All leather throughout, guaranteed to give service. Sizes 6 to 10. Reg. \$5.50 pr. Fri. & Sat. **\$4.98**

MEN'S CAFE AND KID BLUCHER SHOE BOOTS—A very comfortable style, made from good quality leather. Sizes 9, 9½ and 10. Reg. \$1.35 pair. Friday and Saturday... **\$1.25**

BOYS' WOOL SPORT HOSE—Heather, Greys and Pawns, with Fancy Pawns and Black. Sizes 9, 9½ and 10. Reg. \$1.35 pair. Friday and Saturday... **\$1.25**

BOYS' BROWN ELK BLUCHER BOOTS—Heavy quality with soles sewn and sprigged and live rubber heels. Sizes 7, 8 and 9. Regular \$5.20. Friday and Saturday... **\$4.75**

WOMEN'S LUSTRE WOOL HOSE—New and stylish. Shades of Ponce, Cinnamon, Grey, Sunburn, Pawn and Black. Sizes 9, 9½ and 10. Reg. \$1.35 pair. Friday and Saturday... **\$1.25**

BOYS' WOOL SPORT HOSE—Heather, Greys and Pawns, with Fancy Pawns and Black. Sizes 9, 9½ and 10. Reg. \$1.35 pair. Friday and Saturday... **\$1.25**

BOYS' BROWN ELK BLUCHER BOOTS—Heavy quality with soles sewn and sprigged and live rubber heels. Sizes 7, 8 and 9. Regular \$5.20. Friday and Saturday... **\$4.75**

WOMEN'S KID AND CALE LACED SHOES—In Dark Brown. Medium toe and low heel style. Sizes 3 to 6½. Special for Friday. **\$3.78**

WOMEN'S BLACK KID OXFORDS—A very fine quality. Very comfortable in fit and well finished. Sizes 3 to 6½. Regular \$5.10 pair. Friday and Saturday... **\$4.68**

WOMEN'S WOOL HOSE—Colors of Prussian Tan, Camel, Grey, Ponce and Navy. A very desirable weight for present season's wear. All sizes. Reg. 95c. pair. Friday and Saturday... **85c.**



WOMEN'S GUN METAL OXFORDS—Medium width styles in Black only with patented cushion tread insoles which are very comfortable to wear. Sizes 3 to 6½. Reg. \$3.80 pair. Friday and Saturday... **\$3.48**

Household Goods

WHITE CURTAIN NET—A good serviceable quality, in flowered and checked patterns, 44 inches wide. Reg. 50c. yard. Friday & Saturday... **45c.**

FANCY CHINTZ—Beautiful floral effects, in light and dark grounds of Grey, Fawn, etc., 30 inches wide. Regular 50c. yard. Friday & Saturday... **45c.**

FINE QUALITY CHINTZ—With grounds of Blue, Green, etc. Beautiful rich designs of flowers and leaves in blending and contrasting colors, 38 inches wide. Regular 75c. yard. Fri. & Sat. **64c.**

SPRING BLINDS—Cream color, with plain hemmed ends. Fitted with strong, durable springs. Size 36 inches wide by 72 inches long. Reg. 95c. ea. Fri. and Sat. **80c.**

WHITE TURKISH TOWELS—Real good value. Fairly heavy quality with neatly hemmed ends. Size 18 x 36 inches. Reg. 37c. ea. Fri. & Sat. **32c.**

WHITE AND CREAM SCRIM CURTAINING—Plain pretty centre and open work borders with wide plain imitation hem at edge, 36 inches wide. Regular 17c. yard. Friday and Saturday... **14c.**

TABLE DAMASK—Heavy unbleached Table Damask, in designs of flowers and block effects; 54 inches wide. Reg. 70c. yd. Friday & Saturday... **58c.**

WHITE TWILLET SHEETING—Exceptionally good quality with sheeting that will give great service and wear well; width 48 inches. Reg. \$1.35 yd. Fri. and Sat. **\$1.20**

COTTON BLANKETS—Soft woolly finish and good quality. Attractive blue and pink borders. Size 66 x 76 inches. Reg. \$4.35 pair. Friday and Saturday... **\$3.65**

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INFANTS' BONNETS—Cream Angora trimmed with silk military braid and merrily ribbon. Regular 55c. Friday and Saturday... **45c.**

WOMEN'S HEAVY WOOL SWEATERS—Combination colors of Camel and Peacock, made in Tuxedo style from soft brushed wool. Sizes 36 to 42. Regular \$3.25 each. Fri. **\$2.95** day and Saturday

CHILDREN'S SLIP-ON SWEATERS—Of soft wool yarn. Well made and beautifully finished, with fancy attached collars and cuffs, in contrasting shades. Sizes 6 to 10 years. Regular \$1.80 each. Friday and Sat. **\$1.48**

WOMEN'S WHITE FLEECE VESTS—High neck and long sleeves. Reg. \$1.35 each. Friday and Sat. **\$1.15**

"STANFIELD'S" BLOOMERS—Of Cream Silk and Wool. Full sizes. Regular \$1.75 pair. Friday and Sat. **\$1.48**

WINCEYETTE NIGHTGOWNS—Trimmed with silk stitching. Full sizes. Regular \$2.25 each. Friday **\$1.90** and Saturday



Peruse this panel carefully, for in every item lurks a story of money-saving that you can ill afford to miss.

FANCY SILK GARTER ELASTIC—Made with shirred edge and fancy stitching. Red and Peacock Lure. Reg. 42c. yard. Friday and Saturday... **37c.**

WOMEN'S NEW DRESSES—Of Amour Cloth. Tastefully made in round neck style with three-quarter sleeves and closely gathered hips. Patent leather belt and buttons complete a very handsome model. Colors: Rust, Grey, Brown, Navy and Black. Reg. \$7.20 each. Friday and Saturday... **\$6.10**

SINGLE MESH HAIR NETS—Cap shape in light, mid and Dark Brown. Reg. 12c. each. Friday and 2 for **17c.** Saturday

POPLIN BLOUSES—Grey, Rose, Saxe, Brown and Navy. Made with "Hilo" Collar and long sleeves. Sizes 36 to 40. Regular \$2.25 each. **\$1.88** Friday and Saturday

WOMEN'S SKIRTS—In the new slash effect, others pleated, in various pretty tweeds. All new and beautiful. Sizes 28 to 34 inches at waist. Reg. \$3.75 each. Friday and Sat. **\$3.25**

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SHAVING BRUSHES—Reg. 50c. each. Friday and Saturday... **40c.**

DRESSING COMBS—Reg. 25c. each. Friday and Saturday... **25c.**

SWEATER WOOL—Regular 15c. ball. Friday and Saturday... **14c.**

CELLULOID KNOTTING PINS—Reg. 20c. each. Fri. and Sat. **16c.**

FRAMED MIRRORS—Reg. 25c. each. Friday and Saturday... **21c.**

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE—Regular 17c. bot. **14c.** Friday & Saturday

LEATHER BELTS—Reg. 25c. each. Friday and Saturday... **21c.**

SCHOOL PENCILS—Lead & Slate. Reg. 3c. each. 2 for... **5c.**

BLUE BIRD BROOCHES—Regular 10c. each. Friday & Saturday... **8c.**

CHILDREN'S PACIFIERS—Reg. 9c. each. Friday and Saturday... **9c.**

PENCIL CASES—Reg. 14c. each. Friday and Saturday... **11c.**

PURSES—Reg. 25c. each. Friday and Saturday... **18c.**

COIN PURSES—Reg. 45c. ea. day. Friday and Sat. **38c.**

LEATHER BOOK BAGS—Reg. 50c. each. Fri. and Saturday... **60c.**

BOOT LACES—Reg. 6c. pr. day. Friday and Sat. **5c.**

CABINETS OF STATIONERY—Regular 25c. each. Friday and Saturday... **21c.**

ENVELOPES—25 pack. age. Regular 7c. pack. day. Friday and Saturday... **6c.**

conditions growing out of the forced Western consumers to turn from anthracite to soft coal and all the St. Louis Star reminds us. And since the present strike loomed on the horizon, a conference of New England Governors unanimously advised a temporary boycott of anthracite. Says the St. Louis Globe Democrat of the proposed boycott: "Monopoly is at the bottom of most complaints as to hard-coal prices. Should New England attempt to do by concerted, organized means what the West has already done as matter of individual choice and convenience, and should it persist in the attempt, the result might be rather important in restoring the law of supply and demand. At any rate, a revolt on the part of New England is a revolt in one of the fairest of anthracite's provinces and may mark a turning-point in a domination that has resisted all opposition for more than twenty years."

In an editorial headed "The Revolt Against Anthracite," the Kansas City Times comments as follows: "Pennsylvania operators and miners have furnished New England the bulk of its heating coal for an indefinite past. To lose that market would be a hard blow to an already declining trade. Only a few years ago great quantities of Pennsylvania coal were used in the central West, a good deal even west of the Mississippi. This trade has fallen off primarily because of prohibitive prices. In 1923, 29 per cent. of the coal-using population burned hard coal. This year, according to recent Washington reports, only 17 per cent. is used. And yet, while this precipitous decline on consumption goes on, operators and miners quibble over margins in their wage-scales and haggle about the old perplexity of the check off, again placing before the coal dealers and coal consumers the uncertainty of a winter supply."

"It all looks like a suicidal policy, especially as the soft coal mines are overmanned and the operators are wrestling with the problem of overproduction." The public, notes the Newark News, is learning to look upon anthracite as "luxury coal." Its use, we are told, "is principally in a restricted area north of Washington and east of the Mississippi River." More than 5,000,000 tons of various grades of bituminous coal in prepared sizes will be distributed in the Middle Atlantic and New England States monthly in an effort by the bituminous operators to favor the normal anthracite market, says a Philadelphia dispatch to the New York Herald Tribune. Other substitutes for anthracite mentioned, in addition to the smokeless grades of bituminous coal, are coke, fuel oil and gas.

But the use of substitutes is not the only thing proposed for the discipline of the anthracite industry. When Congress convenes, suggests the Baltimore Sun, it should consider carefully the recommendations of the United States Coal Commission, which was appointed two years ago to look into the coal situation. Its recommendations were as follows:

"1. The operating and financial reports of the coal companies should be given publicly.

"2. In case the operators and miners can not agree on wages and conditions, the President should have power to run the industry.

"3. The land-owners should voluntarily reduce the royalties per ton which they now receive for their coal. (Continued on page 11.)

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How the Coal Strike Strikes the Public

(Continued from page 11)

"This anthracite should be reexamined by the State Commerce Commission. Steps should be taken to prevent shortages, which cause

