

SAYS INDIANA MINES HAVE NO COAL FOR STATE

The statement of Thomas M. Fitzgerald, president of the Capitol Coal Company that Indiana miners have no coal to sell to Indiana consumers and the statement by Howard Young, counsel for the Indiana Special Coal and Food Commission, that the commission will not attempt to place any legal interpretation or regulation on the outstanding features of the hearing on the complaints of coal retailers, wholesalers and operators yesterday in the Senate chamber of the Statehouse by the commission.

J. B. Bunting, president of the Bunting Coal Company of Warsaw, who presented the commission with the first petition for a rehearing following his issuance of the coal orders, was the first coal dealer called by Chairman Eschbach.

All dealers were sworn, a procedure heretofore ignored in hearings by the commission.

Scale books and other data were presented to the commission in Mr. Bunting's request for a modification of order No. 3, as affecting his company.

Dealers, large to large and small consumer, according to Mr. Bunting, vary to such an extent that he can not operate at a marginal profit of \$2.25.

Mr. O'Neill, state examiner, testified regarding the statements of Mr. Bunting and of the records submitted to the commission.

Mr. O'Neill gave figures showing that 1,100 tons of coal has been sold for \$10,500.00 from April 1 to Sept. 1 this year.

The expense of unloading coal amounted to 10 cents a ton; stable expense amounted to about 13 cents a ton; office expense, including salaries, amounted to 45 cents a ton; general expense, including office expenses, advertising, depreciation, amounted to 13 cents a ton; hauling expenses averaged 65 cents a ton, giving a total handling expense of about \$1.49 a ton, he said.

He said his sale loss on the amount of coal given above for the same time was \$50,000.00.

Mr. Fitzgerald included items of cost and expense as his grounds for a modification of order No. 3.

Following his examination by Counsel Howard Young, Mr. Fitzgerald asked what he could do about the sale of coal under conditions existing at present.

Mr. Young stated that was a matter for Mr. Fitzgerald's attorneys and that the commission would not undertake to decide it for him.

George Givens & Sons of Cedar Point, operators, asked for a reclassification.

He had failed to give the commission any information that might authorize them to classify him previous to the day he was denied his hearing, asked to be placed in class four, he was told.

SAME REQUEST.

S. D. Lindsay, Brazil, made the same request of the commission and received the same answer.

J. H. Hosen and C. T. Tolson and others of Linton presented the hauling of coal to large and small consumers and the various methods of handling, pointing out that the price allowed for coal would not meet the hauling expenses in many instances.

A. J. Mormons, representing the Morris, McRae & Hyde Coal Company of Brazil, asked to be classified in the Brazil block class.

The company operates their own mine, which has just started, and in September mined 161 tons of coal, while only sixteen tons were mined during August.

Five days a week average the running time.

Nine coal operators were requested to provide coal to schools, hospitals, individuals and public utilities by Chairman Eschbach of the commission and replies

from four operators promised no material results.

The telegrams inquired how much coal the operators would provide for the commission to distribute for emergency purposes.

The messages were sent to Crawford and Indiana, Terre Haute, William Zoll, Branson; John T. O'Hearn, Oliphant, Johnson Coal Company, Vincennes; Evansville; H. A. Brattin, A. J. Freeman, Robert J. Smith, Walter Bledsoe & Co., and James H. Person of the Queen Coal and Mining Company, all of Terre Haute.

The replies gave information that the mine output had been contracted for,

that the mines had more orders than they could fill and that no coal was available for the Indiana coal and food commission.

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