

RAILROAD COAL PICKERS AGAIN FLYING TRADE

Women, Children, Some Men,
Too, Found in Most Any
Yard These Days.

WAR CHANGES THINGS

With the advent of cold weather the once familiar, and in many instances plentiful, sight of women and children gathering coal from along railroad tracks in and about Indianapolis, may be seen again. A trip along any railroad track, particularly in those regions where coal cars are switched, will bring to the eyes of the traveler dozens of poor persons making a living, obtainable only through their own efforts, even for the night (they have no fires in the daytime) or enough to cook their meager meals.

Many of the women form "parties," each woman with a basket or a sack, and the crowd will go to the nearest railroad track, where they will find a number of men, all picking up large lumps of coal here and there, pile them up, until at the end of the day they have a well-filled basket or sack. Many of them gather up so much coal in this manner that it is difficult for them, weary as they are from their long walk, to drag their day's find home.

THEY KNOW WHERE TO FIND BEST FIELDS.

The best field for finding coal, according to these women, is about the railroad yards or at any place where a large amount of switching of coal cars takes place. This is easily explained.

The continuous bumping of the cars, loaded with coal, causes the coal to fall in large lumps to fall at every bump.

Railroad men will stop to pick up the large lumps, much less the smaller amounts of coal that fall to the ground, and they are left to lie on the ground until some woman or child comes along to gather up the "find."

Time was when these people could climb on the coal cars and roll out large amounts of coal, sufficient to last them for day or two. That was before the war. But along with the many other changes brought about by the war, that practice was stopped.

When the United States Government took over the control of the country's railroads, it became a criminal offense, a violation of Federal laws, to take coal from a railroad car, no matter where it was, County, city and Justice courts before the war hesitated to look upon this practice as stealing, and, in few instances was any person convicted or fined for taking coal from a railroad car.

But the large posters, pasted or nailed up along railroad tracks, on depots and cars, warning of the penalty for taking any article from a railroad car, went a long way toward breaking up the practice of rolling coal from the gondolas.

COAL MEN SELDOM MADE COMPLAINTS.

Coal men, to whom these cars were consigned, very seldom made complaints.

At that time they explained their lack of action by saying they expected to have the car weigh short, and it might as well lose weight in this manner as to have the coal lost along the way by the shifting of cars.

But women and children are not the only ones who are taking coal.

A proportion of men also carry their sacks along the tracks, visiting with the others in their efforts to obtain a large supply, so they may not have to come out again for a few days.

One particularly fruitful field for picking up coal is on the Belt railroad, in the vicinity of the Midwest Engine Company. Here in the old days, organized parties of coal pickers would gather, and it was common enough for the Hes emergency squad to make from ten to twenty runs in each twenty-four hours to the scene to dispel disorder that arose among the pickers.

Baby buggies, baskets, wheelbarrows, gunny sacks, in fact, any other article that could hold coal, would be pressed into service.

With the shortage of this year, and the accompanying high price asked for what one can buy, it is expected the quota of coal pickers will be considerably increased.

Trained Dogs Win Leniency for Him

"Judge, how could I steal coal when I had five dogs with me?" said Henry Graham, a Negro, in city court today.

Judge Pritchard seemed unable to understand the question and turned to the two railroad detectives. Both volunteered the information that Graham had rolled chunks of coal from the cars at Seventh street and the Big Four tracks, that he had five dogs with him and that he started to carry the coal away.

"But what about the dogs?" asked the court.

"They are trained dogs, judge," the defendant said. "Their names are Blackie, Curly, Ned, Buck and Spot. All our dogs, but trained. After we arrested him the dogs just followed and he took us to a garage a short distance away, where he trains his dogs and, judge, they did everything from stand on their heads to fire a cannon. They are sure trained dogs."

The court explained that a man who was kind hearted enough to love a dog was deserving of leniency on the part of the court, and Judge Pritchard assessed a fine of a \$1 and costs and ten days in jail, but suspended the judgment.

LOOSEN UP THAT HEAVY COLD

Go after it right away with

Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey

This nationally popular cough and cold relieving medicine a fair opportunity of proving itself becomes a convert. He learns how really beneficial its healing and balsamic antiseptics are in helping relieve a cold, cough, grippe, bronchitis, hoarseness. He finds out how promptly it assists Nature in effecting a complete eradication of phlegm and inflammation and congestion.

Today—right now—get an economical bottle at your druggist's. It will be a well-paying investment. Keep it on hand as a safeguard against colds, 30c., 60c., \$1.20.

Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey for Coughs and Colds

Real Eczema, disfigure skin.

Dr. Hobson's Eczema Ointment, used free relief from the most skin-itch, heals the disfigured eruptions. Good for pinkey faces, acne and other skin troubles.

Dr. Hobson's
Eczema Ointment

G. O. P. Headquarters Staff Entertained

The final act of the 1920 campaign was performed by the Republican State committee when a luncheon was given to the members of the Hotel Severin. More than fifty employees of the committee were present. Frederick E. Schortemeder, secretary of the committee, left this afternoon with E. M. Wasmuth, State chairman, for the latter's home in Huntington, where he will be a guest for a few days.

TO SEEK WAY OUT OF THREATENED DAMAGE ACTION

(Continued from Page One.)

In the contract the county faced a damage suit of at least \$22,000.

Councilman Orme, Hotel Severin, said that members of the county council would be called in members of the State board of accounts so the council could know in black and white where the board stood.

"Mr. Walker, we desire to do our duty and we feel that we have and now we pass the buck to the State board of accounts," said Mr. Orme.

STATE BOARD IN HODGEPODGE?

The State board of accounts doesn't know what kind of an animal the buck belongs to," replied Mr. Walker.

The master went over until Friday morning when an effort will be made to clear up a controversy which has held up work-on-the-bridge for several weeks.

APPROPRIATIONS ASKED.

As among some of the appropriations asked are \$30,000 for registration of election, \$10,000 for supplies for county clerk, \$1,000 for supplies and postage for the county treasurer, \$2,000 for additional salary and excess fees for county recorder, \$3,000 as sheriff's fees for boarding prisoners, \$1,000 for courthouse supplies, \$4,000 for the support of children under the Board of Guardians, \$1,000 as fees to justices, constables, physicians in law, \$1,000 for \$5,000 for the care of orphans in local institutions, approximately \$7,700 for erection of sidewalks on Delaware and Alabama streets, \$2,000 for expenses of juries in the Criminal Court, and other appropriations.

No action will be taken until tomorrow on the appropriations. Several of the officers making requests were asked to submit a detailed and itemized statement as to the nature of the contemplated expenditures.

LEMONIC REQUEST MEETS DOUBT.

The council questioned the necessity of the request of County Treasurer

Bertie Lemons for \$1,000 for supplies and postage on the position that it was the duty of the taxpayer to furnish a stamp envelope in which the treasurer returns the tax receipts.

In discussing a request for an appropriation of \$200 as expense for the poor in Washington township, the council was informed that a trustee had sent a woman and child on a train with Pullman accommodations to California.

Western States. It was explained that the woman was without funds and it was thought cheaper to pay her fare out of the township to a Western state.

The council tomorrow will take action on request of the county commissioners that an appropriation be made

so as to enable the commissioners to lease property adjoining the present juvenile Detention Home and connect the two buildings in an effort to relieve congestion at the home. The council appealed to favor the plan.

LAFFERTY'S REQUEST FOR PAN-HANDLER.

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