

MINERS STARVE IN W. VIRGINIA, SENATORS TOLD

Conditions Are Deplorable,
Probers Learn, From Union-
ist: Companies Blamed.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance
WASHINGTON, April 6.—American industrialism as it works in the West Virginia coal fields was pictured for the Wagner senate committee on unemployment insurance at its first meeting here when B. A. Scott, West Virginia miner and unionist, told the committee that men, women and children were starving in the coal fields of his state.

The first official act of the committee was to vote on motion of Senator Glenn (Rep., Ill.) to bring Scott's recital to the attention of Judge John Barton Payne of the American Red Cross.

"People are starving in the isolated coal regions of southern West Virginia," Scott testified. "The Red Cross tells us that they feed only those in the cities. The only relief we have for the jobless miners' families is what is left of state appropriation of \$165,000 to go to forty-eight counties. This is about gone. I would say that among at least eight thousand families there are not five pounds of food in each house."

30 Per Cent Jobless

"About 30 per cent of the men are totally unemployed," he said. "Some 40 per cent more are working one, two, or three days a week. There is no work except in the coal mines, and conditions in the coal mines of West Virginia border on feudalism."

All the workers live in company houses, and are treated by company doctors. Most companies force the workers to sign "yellow dog" contracts. Any one speaking of unionism is fired and dispossessed. They receive no money, only company script called "tin money." This is good at the company store only, and prices at the company store are exorbitant.

The miners work by the piece, getting 28 cents a ton. They work nine to twelve hours a day. The wages run from \$2 a day to \$4.60, and there is no overtime. They have to buy their own explosives. The workers average 140 to 150 days a year when they work. Only one company extends credit to the jobless. This is \$1 a day a family.

Infant Diseases Spread

"Miners' families are not allowed to keep hogs or cows. The usual diet is flour, salt meat, potatoes, coffee, lard, canned milk." For butter they use margarine that costs 20 cents a pound in script compared with 19 cents for two pounds elsewhere.

Rickets and every sort of infant disease have made terrible inroads. "When a miner dies his eldest son inherits his debt to the company. And 90 per cent of the miners are in debt to the companies month after month in normal times. Company script, the only legal tender, is discounted one-fourth if miners wish to buy outside of company stores. A movie picture house near Ward has a sign: Tickets for adults 30 cents; in script 45 cents. Few dare to trade outside the company."

"In addition to all this a month ago the men in many companies were given a 10 per cent wage cut. It appears on the long list of deductions in their pay envelopes as deductions. They wanted to hide the wage cut."

MINISTERS SOON TO BENEFIT BY PENSION

Membership Certificates Mailed to
2,000 Participants.

Ministers and missionaries of the Disciples of Christ churches in the United States and Canada, will begin to benefit immediately under the pension system inaugurated recently, trustees of the pension fund here announced today.

Certificates of membership, dated April 1, are being mailed to more than 2,000 participants.

Sunday, May 17, has been designated as mobilization day when church members will begin a nation-wide canvass to complete raising for the pension fund an initial reserve of \$8,000,000 toward which \$1,500,000 already has been subscribed. This effort will be led by 1,000 selected leaders who have volunteered their services.

Age retirement benefits under the pension plan, fund officials explain, depend largely upon the raising of this reserve fund. When age retirement benefits become effective the entire pension system as approved by members of Christian churches in the United States and Canada will be in full operation.

PROMISE 10,000 JOBS

Chicago Auto Trade Association
Announces Spring Sales Drive.

CHICAGO, April 6.—The Chicago Automobile Trade Association announced today that additional jobs for 10,000 persons would be provided this month by its members in a spring sales drive.

More than half the entire population of New York state is concentrated in the several boroughs of the metropolis.

Quick, Accurate Optical Work

Hoosier Optical Co.
144 N. Illinois St.

Restaurant Supplies
See us first before you buy your
Dishes and Utensils.

Boston China Store
217 EAST WASHINGTON

Eberhardt Awnings
AWNINGS OF QUALITY
Now Showing the New
Glen Haven Vibrant Colors.
EXTRA STRENGTH FREE
Visit Our Show Room
334 N. Capitol St. Lincoln 5082
COMPACT TENT CORP.

YE OLD MAN ROGERS WEARS A TIN SUIT

Will Lands Back in King Arthur's Court in Ye Old Days and Changes the Strange Fashions of That Day.

By WALTER D. HICKMAN

CAN you imagine Will Rogers wise-cracking before King Arthur and his court in the days when cigar lighters and bathtubs were unknown?

But Will Rogers did show the old king all of those things as well as a flock of automobiles.

I am trying to tell you about the wisest and best of our filmmakers. Will Rogers, in "A Connecticut Yankee," a talking movie version of this Mark Twain story. Lots of liberties have been taken with the story, but I can forgive Will Rogers of anything, even of not washing his neck.

I am going to make this sweeping assertion—Will Rogers is funnier and wiser in "The Connecticut Yankee" than any man in his career.

I had the feeling that many times when I was about ready to fall out with the aisle with laughter, that the jokes were Rogerisms and nothing else but.

It is sufficient. It takes a while to get started but when Rogers as a radio salesman delivers a battery to a strange householder, things begin to happen. The head of the house asks him to connect the battery to a powerful series of sets. The man declares that he is able to connect up with sound of the ages and in a second a fantastic announcement about King Arthur's court is announced.

And yet "Dance Fools, Dance" is the box office. Be your own judge as usual. To me it is just another movie.

Now at the Palace.

HERE IS A MOVIE
FOR ALL CHILDREN

I have many weaknesses, but one of them is my fondness for the name of Skippy.

I so liked the name when Percy Crosby brought out his comic strip and then the novel, "Skippy," that I named my ferrier Skippy.

When Skippy the First passed on I so regretted his passing that I now have a new ferrier, this time it is Skippy the Second, and I am busy teaching him to be a canine gentleman, with various degrees of success. I was fond of "Skippy" in print and I am just as wild over the way little Jackie Cooper has brought him to life on the talking screen. You know I am getting pretty well fed up on these so-called child actors, either in flesh or shadow.

Jackie Cooper erased a lot of that feeling. Here is a character that remains a boy looking out onto a world that is the world of youth. That is the charm of the story and the movie. Skippy's dog is caught by the dog catcher. That is a genuine tragedy for a boy and Cooper puts over that scene. Then his little boy pal dies here is a funeral of youth by youth. Cooper will get into your heart. He landed into mine.

There probably is going to be many people who will miss "Skippy" because they feel it is just for "kids." Then you are wrong.

Here is a movie that will appeal to all ages just as "Tom Sawyer." Don't be too up stage and pass up "Skippy." You will be sorry.

And I told you I had a weakness for the name of Skippy. Now at the Circle.

CRAWFORD MAKES
HIS BOW AT INDIANA.

A new master of ceremonies at the Indiana always demands attention because that theater is known as the home of the master of ceremonies.

Jack Crawford, the new representative of that tribe of entertainers, belonging to that division known as "clowns with ability."

I am beginning to believe that the fat or even fleshy man makes the best sort of a master, especially when they have brains.

Crawford does not try to sell up "It" attribute because he is too fat. In other words he is not sheek. But he is an entertainer and knows how to do certain things.

His singing with two other boys is real harmony and makes his introduction an easy one. Crawford has good and a clever dancing show about everything in it but the kitchen sink. The story starts out in one of those blazes of wealth—this time a huge yacht party. Joan Crawford is the very modern daughter of a tremendously rich broker. She and her brother are just wasters. The high light of the yachting party is when the young people throw off their fine clothes and clad only in their undies or less hop off into the water. Even that scene is rather tame these days. Then Joan's dad drops dead when he loses every cent on the market. Father nicely drops dead. That allows Joan and her brother to paddle their own canoe, now yacht. And can you guess what Joan does to make a living? She becomes a society reporter on a large paper. Oh, dear.

This movie really does not get started until Joan rapidly develops from a society cub into a feature writer sent out to find who shot and killed the best reporter on the paper.

And she does. It is her own brother who turned gangster and

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