

SOFT-COAL MINES DUE TO SHUT DOWN

But Idleness Is Expected to Be Shorter Than 6 Weeks'
Closing Two Years Ago; Talks Hinge on
Guffey Act Extension.

By FRED W. PERKINS
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Unless Federal efforts to prevent it are unexpectedly successful, nearly all of the country's soft-coal mines will go idle at midnight tonight.

"Only a miracle" could prevent stoppage of production tonight, said Dr. John A. Steelman, director of the U. S. Conciliation Service. Dr. Steelman added, however, "miracles sometimes happen."

More than 300,000 men are involved. That will be by far the largest increment to the ranks of the voluntarily idle since a defense-conscious public began to take a personal interest in labor controversies, but—

INDIANA MINERS THREATEN HALT

Will Quit Tonight Unless
New York Agreement
Is Retroactive.

Approximately 7000 Indiana coal miners will lay down their tools at midnight tonight unless a dispute over wage increases is settled before.

The area affected, which has been producing coal in part for national defense projects, is the southern and southwestern sections of the Indiana coal fields.

The work will terminate unless any eventual agreement concluded in New York negotiations now being carried on, is made retroactive to April 1.

The Indiana Coal Producers Association and the Indiana Coal Operators Association have refused to agree to the working clause making the wage increases effectuated at the joint Appalachian Conference retroactive. The operators instead, offered to continue to operate under terms of the present contract, which expires at midnight tonight, until negotiations for a blanket contract are completed in New York.

Charles Funcannon, Terre Haute, president of District 11, U. M. W. A., refusing the operators' substitute offer, said that "we have offered our services under the Appalachian agreement retroactive to April 1." He termed the action of the operators as a "lockout."

Mr. Funcannon said that "all mines in Indiana, both strip and shaft, that have not signed with the U. M. W. A. will cease operations until they have an agreement to work under."

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MRS. ASPERGER, FLORIST, DEAD

St. Mary's Graduate Served
As Secretary-Treasurer
Of Memorials, Inc.

Mrs. Louise Pahud Asperger, president of the Pahud Floral Co. Inc., and secretary-treasurer of the Asperger's Memorials, Inc., died yesterday at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Mrs. Asperger, a native of this city, was 57.

She was a graduate of St. Mary's School and a member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, the Indianapolis Liederkrantz and the Woman's Society of Indianapolis Florists.

Survivors are her husband, Otto; two sons, Otto and Harry, and three brothers, Charles G. Pahud, Alfred X. Pahud and Harry F. Pahud, all of Indianapolis.

Services will be held at 8:15 a. m. Wednesday at Grinstein's Funeral Home and at 9 a. m. at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

So Riley Gets A Special Flag

THEY'RE GOING to have a special "flag day" celebration at the Riley Hospital and the Rotary Convalescent Home Friday.

Several weeks ago, the Bruce P. Robison Post 133, American Legion, presented the Public Library with 21 American flags, one for each of the library's branches.

Riley's libraries and the Rotary Home's libraries were overlooked and the cry went up: "We're part of the Public Library. Why didn't we get a new flag?"

Col. Willard S. Boyle, chairman of the Post's Americanism committee, called his committee and mapped plans for a special flag presentation at the hospital. Col. Boyle will present the flags and J. B. H. Martin and Mrs. Ralph Lynch will speak.

RICHMOND PLANT IN FULL OPERATION

RICHMOND, Ind., March 31 (U. P.)—The International Harvester plant swung into full production today.

Eighty-two pickets and union sympathizers, seized by police Thursday when non-strikers opened the plant, were released yesterday under \$27,500 bond Saturday night. A number of them are expected to be called to testify in a Grand Jury investigation.

The operators are faced with a demand from Mr. Lewis for a pay increase of \$1 a day in the basic rate, plus vacations with pay. The labor factor is figured at 63 per cent of the cost of producing coal, and these items would affect production costs.

Steel Talks Related

The industry is operating under a Federal law, the Guffey Act, which penalizes any coal company for selling under a scale of minimum prices, based on costs. But this law will expire on April 26, and the U. S. Senate has not yet followed the House in extending it.

The operators want all doubt removed about extension of the law before they agree to any increase in labor costs. Thus the shutdown may be a period of waiting for the continued life of the law to be made certain.

Another factor is that the related negotiations of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee for a 10 per cent pay increase from subsidiaries of U. S. Steel have not reached a public conclusion. Philip Murray, vice president of the Mine Workers and head of the C. I. O., is handling the steel matter, while the coal negotiations engage his long-time partner in labor leading, Mr. Lewis.

As of this morning, Mr. Lewis had failed in his usual policy of keeping up the coal-producing districts of Indiana and elsewhere outside the Appalachian Area with the intent of bringing competitive pressure on the mining companies primarily concerned in the New York conferences. The outside districts were said, like the operators represented here, to object to the Lewis formula of extending the present agreement beyond April 1.

**GEORGE NEAL'S RITES
ARE SET TOMORROW**

Services will be held tomorrow at 9 a. m. at the Holy Cross Catholic Church for George Neal, 11 Eastern Ave. Burial will be at Holy Cross. Services at the residence will be at 8:30 a. m.

Mr. Neal, a resident of Indianapolis for 45 years, died Saturday at his home, after an illness of one year. He was employed by the Kramer Furniture Corp. as a cabinetmaker.

Survivors are his wife, Norma; a daughter, Mrs. Bertha Marsche, and a son, William, both of Indianapolis, and a brother, Edward, of New Richmond, O.

**MARK MAY 18 AS DAY
FOR NEW AMERICANS**

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.)—President Roosevelt has designated Sunday, May 18, as "I Am an American Day," urging its celebration throughout the country "in recognition of our citizens who have attained their majority or who have been naturalized within the past year."

Suitable exercises should be held on that date, a Presidential proclamation said, "to impress upon all our citizens, both native-born and naturalized, the special significance of citizenship in the nation."

"I Am an American Day" was first celebrated last year, under the provisions of a Congressional resolution approved May 3, 1940.

HARTFORD CITY—Mrs. Lucinda Jane Hart, 71, survivors: Daughters, Mrs. Ansley Reasoner, Mrs. Henry Swoveland, Mrs. Erine Confer, Mrs. H. H. Huff; son, Michael; grandchildren, Pauline, John, Martin, Peter, Joseph, sister, Mrs. Jasper Krelein.

JASPER—Cyril Brescher, 15; survivors: Mother, Mrs. Esther Brescher; brother, Michael Hopf, 68; survivors: Daughters, Mrs. Urban Gerner, 40, Mrs. Ruth Brescher; son, Charles; grandchildren, Ansley, Reasoner, Mrs. Henry Swoveland, Mrs. Erine Confer, Mrs. H. H. Huff; brothers, Michael, John, Martin, Peter, Joseph, sister, Mrs. Jasper Krelein.

JONESBORO—James Lee Butler, 10; survivors: Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Butler; sister, Miss Irene Butler; brother, Bill.

LEONARD—Mrs. Armidila Reagan, 75; survivors: Sons, Virgil, Clarence and Russ.

SEYMOUR—Robert D. Hair, 49; survivors: Father, Kelly Froman, 24; survivors: two sisters, Mrs. Louise Kesting, 22, and Mrs. Agnes Kesting, 19; brothers, Mrs. William Kesting, 26, and Mrs. John Kesting, 23.

VALPARAISO—Harry L. Teukler, 50; survivors: Wife, Laura; mother, Mrs. William Teukler; two sons, sons, Mr. and Mrs. Agnes Teukler, Mrs. Mary Weston and Mrs. Catherine Kesting.

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