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1921 COAL SHORTAGE IS STARING PUBLIC IN FACE, IS CLAIM

BY ELLIS SEARLES,
Editor United Mine Workers' Journal.
A coal shortage for 1921 is staring the American people straight in the face and I believe it is time to warn the public of the seriousness of the situation. And when it comes the people will have only themselves to blame for it. Everybody should be buying coal right now. On the contrary, no one is buying coal. One hundred thousand coal miners are out of work. Hundreds of coal mines are closed down and hundreds of others are working one or two days a week. There is no market for soft coal and production has dropped to the lowest point since 1914. This means a coal shortage later in the season as sure as fate.

There is but one way to prevent such a coal shortage and that is for the people to buy their coal now and thus distribute the demand over a wider period of time. This would put miners to work, open up the mines and give the railroads something to do.

One thing is dead certain—if everybody waits until late in the season to buy his coal and then everybody orders coal at the same time, there will not be enough coal to go around and someone will have to do without. That very minute the shortage will show up.

Limits on Production
The miners can dig just so much coal per week. The mines can produce just so much and the railroads can haul just so much and no more. There is a limit to the amount of coal that can be supplied to the consumer. When the demand for any particular week or month exceeds that limit, there will not be enough to supply everybody. That's why I say the people should buy coal now when they can get it.

It is only necessary to read the bulletin of the United States geological survey on the production of coal to prove that a shortage is on the way. The total production of bituminous coal in the United States for the week ended March 19 was only 6,468,000 tons. This was 6,400,000 tons below the weekly rate of production of last December.

The average monthly production of bituminous coal for the entire year of 1920 was 46,380,000 tons. The output for January, 1921, was approximately 40,000,000 tons; in February it was 30,000,000 tons, and at the present rate of production for March it will be about 27,000,000 tons. This is 17,000,000 tons per month short of the average production last year. What better evidence of the menace of a coal shortage is required? Everybody knows that there was no overproduction of coal last year. In fact, there was a serious shortage, even with an average monthly production of 46,000,000 tons. Then what can prevent a much more serious famine this year with production 17,000,000 tons a month below?

Of Cars Idle
Thousands of idle

freight cars because railroads have to haul coal. People would only buy as much coal as they could afford. They are loafing on sidetracks.

Going Back to Work
Men back to work to do k to live. They may be holding s' wages will be not going to be

What to Do
What to do is to warn very great danger that will mean cold and winter and to

VOTE
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Have You Bought Your Next Winter's Supply of Coal

Did You Read these Facts of Vital Importance



We feel it our duty to the community to bring stress upon the fact that it is up to every household to buy coal now.

Mr. Ellis Searles, Editor United Mine Workers Journal, speaks on facts of conditions as they now exist in the coal fields of America. The mines are producing millions of tons less per month than they produced a year ago. There was a serious coal shortage last year---what may we expect during 1921 if this continues.

Don't delay buying your coal until next fall, if you do, thousands of homes will be forced to suffer for the lack of fuel.

Today hundreds of mines are closed down and hundreds of others are working only one or two days each week. If these mines are held idle throughout the summer, there will be no coal in reserve to meet the demand next fall. Then everyone will be clamoring for coal, and fabulous prices will be offered---who will suffer? You, Mr. Consumer!

If you are able to get coal, you will be compelled to pay high prices.

If you buy now these mines will resume operation and with a steady production in the coal fields, a shortage will be averted.



Mather Bros. Co.
1028 North F, Phone 1178

Starr Coal Co.
262 Ft. Wayne Ave., Phone 2428

Superior Ice & Coal Co.
Chestnut and North West Third, Phone 3121

Richmond Coal Co.
West Second and Chestnut, Phones 3165-3379

Hackman-Klehfoth Co.
North Tenth and F Sts., Phones 2015-2016

J. H. Menke
162-168 Ft. Wayne Ave., Phone 2662

Anchor Fuel Co.
700 Sheridan St., Phone 3117

Klehfoth-Niewoehner Co.
101 North Second Street, Phone 2194

Price Coal Co.
517-519 N. Sixth St., Phone 1050

Tiger Coal & Supply Co.
A. HARSH, Mgr. 18 South Second St., Phone 1214

Independent Ice & Fuel Co.
North 16th and F, Phone 3465