

The Farm and the Farmer

By William R. Sanborn

COAL PRICE REGULATION

The various state coal commissions and price and profit publicists are not finding all coal dealers tractable and ready to concur in their rulings, this applying to the mine operators as well.

Many of the operators in Illinois are more or less rebellious. Also many of the dealers are objecting to the margins the coal board declare to be not only fair but ample. And some of the Ohio coal retailers are in the same boat.

Speaking of this a Richmond coal man says that were he doing business in Ohio, he would charge and get a fair profit or quit the coal business, or at least would not sell any coal on which the margin didn't pay the full cost of doing business. He says that the Ohio ruling fixing supposedly "fair" prices are often unfair to the retailer, who has his own problems to solve and bills to pay.

Well, brethren, this is a moot question. It presents an economic problem which all may discuss and which none can solve to the satisfaction of the entire people. The attempts of boards of control to regulate coal sales and distribution in the cities will very naturally cause friction; that also being true as to state commissions and their recommendations.

Just now the country elevator buyer is paying the price at the mine or he isn't getting the coal. Having paid the price and paid the freight he figures that the coal belongs to him, which isn't to be denied. On that basis he considers his time and investment worth so much and charges accordingly, so as to get out with a whole skin and enough cash in the strong box to buy the baby a dress, all of which is lawful and according to Hoyle.

50 Families Get Coal. As we figure it 50 families in the Boston section got a little Blue Diamond, Kentucky coal, last week, all out of the same big car. The man in charge of the Farmers' National Grain association elevator at Boston divided it around in ton lots, he says, so that it would go as far as possible. The price charged was \$10 per ton at the car and the way that load melted away was a good indication of the coming winter demand.

The elevator at West Manchester says they have been receiving both Ohio and Yellow Jacket coal of late, and sold the different grades at \$9 and \$10. The manager of the elevator further says that they have a liberal supply of first class coke, "about what nut size," which they are selling at \$12 per ton. "This coke," he says, has been in stock for three months and that it has given the best of satisfaction, large lots of it having been distributed around.

A 50-odd ton car of Kentucky Blue Diamond coal arrived at Fountain City early on Monday and was so warmly welcomed that it was unloaded and away the same evening. When a car of coal strikes a country point, and the farmers who have orders in are notified by phone, there is mighty little show for the railroads to collect demurrage. Farmers who did their hauling direct from the car got this coal at \$9.75.

At present prices for wheat and soft coal it is taking from 9 1/2 to 11 bushels of wheat to buy one ton of soft coal at country points, depending on the day's wheat market and the kind of coal bought.

Wood at \$22 Per Cord. Of course wheat is worth more in New England than in western farms, but even so we must remember that wood is also more costly in New England cities than here at home. As a matter of fact it is recorded that first quality hard stovewood brought up to

\$21 and \$22 per cord recently in the vicinity of Boston, which set the fuel administration to investigating the reason. Figuring wheat against wood the western coal buyer now has the best of the argument.

Two large glass jars of peaches which took first premium at the Miami county, Ohio, fair back in 1875, are still in reasonably good and supposedly edible condition, according to extension workers of the Ohio university. It further develops that this fruit was canned by the cold pack method, and that, too, 54 years ago. The fame of these peaches recently reached Washington, as also has the fame of some 25-year-old bottled maple syrup and of a gallon jug of boiled cider, the history of which has been accurately kept for over 70 years.

All of these culinary treasures are found in the home of the Carters in Miami county. It appears that Mrs. Joel Carter canned the peaches from her backyard orchard in September, 1868, and that she still has the cans. Mrs. Carter told her story to the United States department of agriculture not long since, and from Washington the story got back to the Ohio U. Our farm women may be interested in knowing Mrs. Carter's explanation of the simple process.

She says she placed the peaches in the jars, poured in cold water until the peaches were covered; then cooked the fruit in a wash boiler, containing just enough water to reach the mouth of the jars. Immediately on removal from the hot water, the jars were closed with ground glass stoppers and sealed with old fashioned sealing wax. Mrs. Carter has a quart glass jar of plums which she put up in the same manner 30 years ago, and which still look good enough to eat.

Grain Prices in 1921. Just at this time it is interesting to note that prices on wheat, corn and oats are higher than on this date last year. Taking the figures for Saturday last, as compared with the same date in 1921, we find that December wheat was seven cents, corn 20 cents and oats fully nine cents higher than on the corresponding date last year. This refers to the price range of the December options only, all the other options being relatively in line. Corn made a gain of 17 1/2 cents from the low of this season and wheat advanced 17 1/2 cents from the low during the late bulge, both on the December delivery.

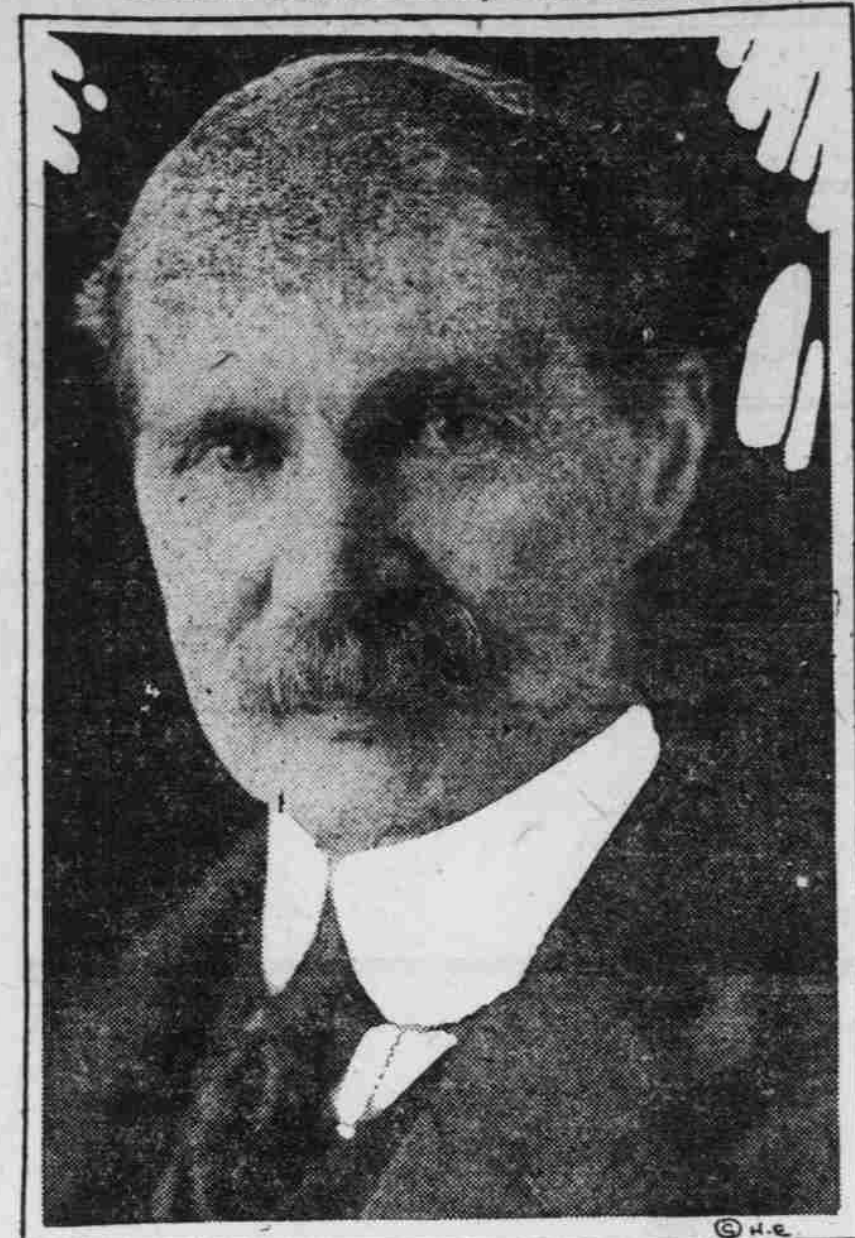
In view of these facts the grain farmer may readily admit that he is better off than he thought, unless he is sold at the bottom of the early depression. The grain markets are all ruling steady to strong and corn specialists in particular are looking for higher prices. Wheat has a host of friends and as the large stocks are in strong hands at market centers it is expected that cash grain will continue to bring a fair premium over the December option, at least until that deal is close to a culmination.

The movement of old corn is the largest at this time in the past five years and the actual movement of the new crop is still weeks away. Some new corn has been contracted for at Chicago, delivery to be made in middle December and on to the end of the month.

State Egg-Laying Contest. Beginning November 1, the Indiana certified egg-laying contest will be staged for the second time at Brazil. The contest runs until the end of October, 1923 and the certifying this year is to be done under the auspices of Purdue, thus making the contest "official" for the first time. The Logue Vue egg farm, located three miles west of Brazil, on the Old Trails highway will be the scene of the contest.

The contest will be open to any en-

NEW PREMIER OF GREAT BRITAIN FACES GRAVE PROBLEMS; CHANGED HOUSE



Andrew Bonar Law.

Andrew Bonar Law, taking up the British premiership laid down by David Lloyd George, faces many grave questions. The British war debts, including those due the United States, alone presents a problem. The Russian policy is still undecided. The formation of the Irish free state will reduce the next house of commons from over 700 members to over 600 and this change, with what new faces the general elections will bring, will give Law a strange under house to work with.

Purdue will certify all laying records from the farm. The contest is originally originated by the poultry club, formed of fanciers around Brazil. New buildings, equipped with lighting apparatus and every sanitary convenience have been erected, and the plant is conveniently located with reference to steam and traction line facilities, and is, moreover, in the heart of one of the most rapidly growing poultry districts in the country.

Recommendations of Purdue university shall govern the management and feeding of the birds. All contest eggs shall be sold on the market and the proceeds turned over to the treasurer of the organization for defraying the expense of the contest.

In case of the death of a layer the owner shall be notified immediately and if the alternate has not been used it shall be supplied immediately. Definite directions have been made for the care of sick and broody hens and the keeping of records for them. The total number of eggs obtained from the pen shall be divided by five for obtaining the average for the entire period. All records will be published monthly in the newspapers, poultry magazines and farm publications. Members of the department of rural

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Milton Christian Church Fair And Bazaar To Open In Grange Hall Friday

MILTON, Ind., Oct. 24.—The Christian church fair and bazaar will be held in the Grange hall next Friday and Saturday. In order that more time may be given for selling the things in the different booths, there will be no program and no admission.

Friday afternoon and Friday evening there will be "Living Pictures, in Song and Story." Saturday morning the market will be open at 9 o'clock. Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock the following program will be given: Piano solo, Mrs. Arlon Doll; vocal solo, Mrs. Homer DuGranrut; violin solo, Lloyd

the Ohio university. It will be observed that neither Toledo or Cincinnati are "speculative" markets, and the report is based strictly on cash wheat quotations. The report follows: "In the long run, it makes little difference when you sell your wheat. To store it against a rise in the market is by no means as advantageous as is generally thought."

Members of the department of rural economics at the Ohio State university come to this opinion after a close study of wheat price levels on the Toledo and Cincinnati markets. J. I. Falconer, head of the department, reports the findings.

"Daily wheat prices on the Toledo market for 10 years shows an average fluctuation of only 9.9 cents a bushel between the low price, touched during the first half of August, and the high price, reached during the first half of January."

"On the Cincinnati market for the same period of years, the corresponding range was only 10.1 cents."

"On both markets, and on all others where we have studied prices, the last half of July and the first half of August will bring wheat's lowest price, while January or June are usually the months of the highest quotations."

"With a variation of only 10 cents in the average year, it is a question whether holding wheat will pay a profit over storage costs, the shrinkage, and the hauling over bad winter roads."

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Cast of Comedy. Comedy, "Mrs. Willis's Will"; Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Willis's executrix; Lady Spindle, absurdly haughty, Mrs. Ross Parker; Mrs. Dindle, a poetess and lady of fashion, Mrs. Wallace Warren; Jenny, a farm servant, Mrs. Harry Doty; Rachael, Mrs. Robinson's servant, Mrs. Will Hicks.

The antique room will be open Friday afternoon and evening. In the tea room will be served many kinds of sandwiches, salads and hot drinks.

The comedy, "The Time of His Life" will be given Saturday evening with the following cast of characters: Mrs. Bob Grey, Mrs. Albert Ferris; Tom Carter, her brother, Howard Warren; Dorothy Landon, Tom's sweetheart, Lorene Warren; Mr. Wycombe, prince of pessimists, Albert Ferris; Mrs. Wycombe, a "personage", Mrs. William Wessel; James Landon, Dorothy's father, Earl Clingman; Mr. Bob Grey, Herman Fox; Uncle Tom, a colored butler, Dalbert Pitman; Officer Hogan, of the 22nd St. police station, Howard Bryant. Music by the orchestra, Lloyd Outland, soloist.



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A SHRINKAGE. Stephen Leacock, on his recent lecture tour abroad, appeared at a popular seaside resort on the southern coast of England. The hall was large, but the audience was conspicuously small.

Mr. Leacock began his address: "It has been 43 years since my last appearance in B—; neither the sea nor the sky seems quite as blue as I remember, but I am sure, judging by the size of the audience tonight that the population of the city has shrunk at least one-third."

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