RE-ENACTMENT OF COAL LAW OPPOSED BY M'CRAY

ATTITUDE OF NEXT GOVERNOR GIVEN IN INTERVIEW.

NEED IS PAST, HE THINKS

Opposition to the re-enactment of the law creating the special coal and food commission, which expires March 31, 1921, is expressed by Warren T. McCray, Governor-elect of Indiana, in an interview printed in the Black Diamond, one of the leading organs of the coal trade. Mr. McCray, in the interview, declared himself as opposed to any attempt to standardize values throughout a state by legislation.

Re-Enactment Not Favored.

The interview, dated at Kentland, November 24, in part follows:

"It is my opinion that, even if the present coal and food act was justified at the time of its enactment, there is no longer any reason for the operation of the commission appointed under it, and, as I view it now, I would not favor the re-enactment of the law when it expires next April.'

"In these words Warren T. McCray, Governor-elect of Indiana, expressed himself in discussing the situation which confronts this state and the nation. In an extended interview Mr. McCray went into detail as to some of his ideas regarding coal and business in general.

"I do not know very much about coal," said Mr. McCray, "but I meas to make it my business to know when I get into office. I do know, however, that whenever you try to legislate values there is trouble. It is so hard to be fair, to work justice to every one. Very probably when the present coal and food commission was apopinted, there was reason to do something in the coal industry. Prices were high—in some cases, abominably high. Something had to be done.

"I am not certain that the law as enacted, with its commission, was the best thing that could have been done. It has never seemed to me that a group of men engaged in the same work or industry could be treated fairly by a law covering them as a group, rather than as individuals. Some produce more than others, yet they are placed on the same basis.

Paid by the Group.

"Take the case of union labor. I am not opposed to union labor—anything but opposed to it. And yet, it has always struck me as unjust that under the scheme of unionism men are paid by the group, rather than on the individual effort that each puts forth. Two men working in the same shop may be miles apart on the basis of production; one may produce twice as much in a given time as the other, and yet each is paid the same. This, it seems to me, is unfair to the man who produces the more.

"Even my scant knowledge of the coal industry tells me that there are variables such as this in the industry—in the production costs of different operations; in the margins that must be had to make operation of different mines possible; in the costs of the different retail yards throughout the state. I do not think it is a safe proposition to try to legislate values throughout a state."

Supply and Demand.

"I realize, too, that the coal producer is entitled to consideration—that he has his difficulties and troubles, the same as any business man. It has always seemed to me, in considering the mass of legislation that has been passed in the last few years looking to regulation of prices, that the best regulation of prices always turns out to be supply and demand.

"No one with sense would blame the coal operator who is situated in Indiana for shipping his coal to outside markets at a time when those markets offered a price of from $1 to $2 a ton more than could be hade in the state. He would be regarded as a poor business man if he did not seek the market that would pay the best price. But left to itself, the law of supply and demand invariably works a cure for high prices. I think it has already done so in this case. The increased production of coal, and the comparatively warm weather have resulted in lower prices and more coal everywhere."

His Company Operates Coal Yards.

Mr. McCray pointed out that the McCray Grain Company, of which he is the head, operates several coal yards. Through his connection with the company, he said, he has come to understand that little of the Indiana coal output is used by the Hoosier domestic consumer. It is not logical, he said, to expect Indiana producers to desert their outside markets in behalf of Indiana, when Indiana refuses to accept the output of its operators in normal times. The retail merchant, who serves a small community, as well as a large retailer, serves his large community, said Mr. McCray, is entitled to receive a larger profit a ton than the large retail dealer. Mr. McCray said he realized that the car shortage had a large effect in bringing high coal pric, just as it had in causing high grain prices.

ROSE GIVES LUNCHEON.

Philanthropist Host to Indianapolis Men at Columbia Club.

Thaddeus L. Rose, of Georgianna, Ala., widely known for his philanthropic work among boys, entertained eighteen Indianapolis men at luncheon at the Columbia Club Monday. Mr. Rose for many years has done welfare work among the boys of Indianapolis and other cities.

Following the luncheon Sam M. Ralston, former Governor of Indiana, made a brief talk in which he commended Mr. Rose's work, saying that it had been an inspiration to Indianapolis. "We have enough brains to pilot the republic safely," said Mr. Ralston, "but what the world needs is more heart." Wallace O. Lee and S. P. Matthews also spoke.

Others who attended the luncheon were: Walter F. C. Golt, John Ruckelshaus, F. O. Belzer, Robert O. Springsteen, T. A. Wynne, C. C. Perry, Sol Schloss, Eli Schloss, Harry Wade, Judge James A. Collins, Dr. C. C. Gohn, J. W. Atherton, George Bittler, Frank Mills and Harper J. Rassburg.

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