

ILLINOIS' PLACE IN COAL MINING

AMONG LEADING STATES

And Has Best Record in Keeping Down Accident Average, According to Recent Reports

Illinois is one of the leading coal mining states in the Union in number of miners employed and the production of its minds. The state stands first in mine rescue work and in training for accident prevention in the mining industry.

As a result of the efficiency which has been secured by the Department of Mines and Minerals there is not another state in the Union able to show a record equal to Illinois for the past several years in keeping major accidents at a minimum.

Mine Rescue Stations

At present there are six mine rescue stations maintained in the state. Two others were provided at the last session of the legislature, and will be opened in the near future.

The three principal stations are located at LaSalle, serving the northern section of the state; Springfield, taking care of the central portion, and Benton, supplying protection for the southern part. Stations are also maintained at Herrin, DuQuoin and Harrisburg, with stations to be opened at Belleville and Johnson City.

In the three principal centers large and commodious state buildings are maintained, at which complete equipment is maintained for instant use in the event of a serious mine accident. In the smaller centers stations are located in rented property, but are supplied with the same equipment. With the hard road system of the state it is possible to send a rescue ord time, and even with greater speed time, and even with greater speed than under the old system when rescue cars were sent out by special train.

Careful Training Given

While the three leading training stations were originally planned as centers to which mining companies would send picked employes for the purpose of receiving instructions in mine rescue work and first aid, a better plan has been worked out under A. D. Lewis, director, Department of Mines and Minerals, and instructions are given in all of the centers of the state.

As a result of the service offered a number of the leading mining companies of the state are encouraging employes to take advantage of the instructions. Many companies of the state boast of having 100 per cent of their employes thus trained. With the resumption of mining operations this fall many other companies are planning to secure this training for all employes.

The course of instruction consists in training in artificial respiration, control of bleeding and application of splints, together with such other first aid as is most important while awaiting the arrival of a physician. Following the prescribed course of instructions rigid examinations are held. Those able to pass these examinations receive a certificate from the state showing proficiency.

At the mine rescue stations is housed all of the latest and most improved scientific apparatus for use in mine rescue work, such as gas masks, inhalators, and testing of air for the presence of noxious gases and other conditions which are a hazard to human life.

Crews of five men are assigned to each of the rescue stations, and are under constant training. All are practical miners and regularly employed, and under call at all times to respond in the event of a mine disaster.

A regular training schedule is maintained at the mine rescue station, during which the members work under the same conditions as would be found in a mine in the event of an accident. At times, equipped with gas masks, they work for periods up to two hours in rooms filled with the fumes of burning sulphur or other noxious gases.

The work of mine rescue crews is for the greater part voluntary. An average of only \$100 a year is paid by the state to the workers.

Annually a national contest in mine rescue work is held under government supervision. This year the meeting will be held at Pittsburgh, Pa., the latter part of August and fore part of September. James Clusker, superintendent of the Springfield station, will enter his team in the national meet and is hopeful of carrying off first honors.

Fire When Ready

Robber: "Get ready to die. I'm going to shoot you."
Victim: "Why?"
"I've always said I'd shoot anyone who looked like me."
"Do I look like you?"
"Yes."
"Shoot."

That Kind of a Girl

Wise: "Do you care for sports?"
Gal: "Yes, when I find a real one."

FARM INCOME LOW IN 1926 IS CLAIM

INTERESTING STATISTICS

Survey Affords Figures Regarding Agricultural Revenue During Past Year; Some Deductions

The total agricultural income in the United States in 1926 was the lowest received since statistics have been gathered and published by Uncle Sam, it is revealed by a survey just completed by the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities of Northwestern university, finished yesterday (Monday) afternoon. This bit of research work has been in progress for nearly one year and shows that the agricultural income of the nation was 9.7 per cent of the aggregate income of the entire country.

Dr. Henry C. Taylor, who has directed this survey, states that to appreciate the significance of these figures they should be compared with 20.7 per cent, the average share of agriculture for the five years from 1909 to 1913 inclusive. During this five year period, he added, the highest percentage for agriculture was 21.7 in 1910 and the lowest 20.1 per cent in 1911. Agriculture's portion of the national receipts in 1926 was even lower than in 1925 when, Dr. Taylor states, it was 10.2 per cent.

Average Share

"The average share of agriculture in the national income during the last five years has been 10.3, or less than half of what it was before the war," he continued. "To be wholly fair and unprejudiced our statisticians have included in their tabulations not only agriculture's cash receipts but the market value of the products consumed by our farmers, their families and laborers, and also the rental values of the houses in which the farmers live."

"The descending agricultural income in the past three years was 10.6 in 1924; 10.2 in 1925 and 9.7 in 1926," Dr. Taylor said in reemphasizing American Farmers' financial woes. "In my opinion these figures demonstrate that during the period that farmers have been calling for federal aid, their share of the national income has been steadily shrinking. Farm bankruptcies have been occurring more rapidly in this period than ever before. It is estimated that during 1926 there were 444 farm bankruptcies for every working day. Furthermore, as a result of this depres-

sion in agriculture, the agricultural population shrank by a matter of 2,000,000 persons between 1920 and 1925, while population of the United States as a whole increased by 8,500,000. With the present rate of shrinkage of American agriculture we soon may reach the point in the United States where a poor crop-year will mean a substantial shortage of food for the American people."

Land Out of Use

Dr. Taylor here brought out the fact that between 1920 and 1925, 31,000,000 acres of land went out of agricultural use and that the land which has been kept in farms in America is being farmed less intensively than before the World war. The high cost of forming equipment and of labor, he said, accompanied by low prices for products, have made it necessary for farmers to get along the best they could.

"As a result," concluded Prof. Taylor, "the cultivated fields are becoming more and more foul with thistles, quack grass and other weeds, which reduce the yield per acre and are a menace to the continued prosperity of the United States."

The next meeting of the association will be held at North Chicago, October 11.

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AUTUMN
September heralds the end of vacation time and the beginning of more serious things—when we all settle down to another year's labor. Before settling down, take an inventory of your needs and stock up. The automobile should be reconditioned (and possibly exchanged for a new one), fall and winter clothes should be taken out of storage and thoroughly cleaned, furniture should be put in good shape—in fact, there are dozens of ways in which the merchants on this page can help to lighten your burdens in the coming year.

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