

STRIP MINING TO RESTORE DISTRICT

WILMINGTON, ILLINOIS

New Method of Recovering Coal to Be Adopted in Field Once Productive is Report

Return of mining activities to the Washington coal field on an even greater scale than enjoyed when this section was one of the leading coal mining sections of Illinois, is predicted in reports received by the Division of Mines and Minerals.

During recent months operations have been under way for the opening up of a new strip mine in this section by the Northern Illinois Coal Corporation.

Will Work 6,500 Acres
This corporation already has control of approximately 6,500 acres of coal-bearing territory, from which it is estimated 28,000,000 tons of coal will be mined.

The Wilmington field lies under the Will-Grundy county line, not far distant from the junction also with the Kankakee line. In the early days of the coal industry Braidwood was a city of importance, while scattered over the adjacent countryside were numerous mining camps.

For practically sixty years the coal production of this territory played an important part in the Chicago market. The coal was of high grade and eagerly sought by the consumers.

Difficulties Encountered
Difficulties were encountered because of the narrow vein of coal, and with the opening of mines in central and southern Illinois having a larger working face, this mining region gradually passed into history; miners abandoned the field for more lucrative camps and many of the little settlements disappeared.

The new plant of the Northern Illinois Coal Corporation has already been erected. Modern equipment is being installed for the screens and loading booms.

Present plans call for an output of 2,000 tons daily early in January, with expectations this will be materially increased. The strip mine will have one of the largest shovels made, and the new strip mine is also interested in two mines of a similar character in Indiana, as well as shaft mines in Illinois, Indiana and western Kentucky.

Within Easy Reach
It is announced much of the coal in the Wilmington fields lies within from thirty to ninety feet of the surface. The surface will be removed with the aid of steam shovels, after which the coal veins will be tapped in the same manner.

If present plans materialize the new strip mine will stand third among the mines of this character in the country. The largest is that of the Enos Coal Mining Co., at Oakland City, Ind., having a daily output of 4,000 tons. The next largest strip mine is owned by the United Electric Coal companies and is located at Cuba, Ill. It has a daily output of approximately 3,000 tons.

STATE AUTO PLATES NOW BEING SENT OUT

Distribution of the automobile license tags for the year 1928 is now under way with the expectation the demand will approximate 1,500,000 of the tags, setting a new mark for the state.

License plates carry white letters on a field of maroon, while the relief may of the state carried during 1927 is absent.

General distribution started with the closing days of the old year, with indications the number mailed out will exceed that of past years for the same period. Two car loads of the licenses were sent to Cook county to meet the demands of autoists in that section.

Checking on license plates will be in the hands of members of the State Highway Patrol.

More zinc smelting is done in Illinois than in any other state.

BETTER RECORDS ON CAPITAL OFFENSES

ARE POSSIBLE IN ILLINOIS

Report from Springfield Says This Will Result from Adoption of Electric Chair Method

Change to electrocution from hanging as the legal method for infliction of the death penalty in Illinois will make possible keeping of more complete records as to the number of capital cases in the state.

In the past hangings have been held in the counties in which convictions were secured. No reports were made to the Department of Public Welfare. Under the change in the law electrocutions will take place at the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, the Southern Penitentiary at Chester, or the Cook county jail.

Old Records Doubtful
Recently a questionnaire was sent out by the Department of Public Welfare in an effort to ascertain how many hangings have been held in Illinois, together with the number in the various counties, or which counties were never the scene of a legal execution. Accurate information was secured from a number of counties, from others came reports based on the memory of some older citizens.

From this information it was indicated five counties of the state, Brown, Bureau, Fulton, Jersey and Ogle, have never held an execution within their borders.

Should Add Woodford County
To this list should be added Woodford county according to the statement of George R. Curtiss, editor of the El Paso Journal, who has been delving into the records of his county and finds no hanging has ever been held.

Search of the records of Woodford county by Editor Curtiss leads to the opinion that modern criminals have nothing on olden day transgressors. While a number of murders have occurred in the county, the death penalty resulted in but one in the last sixty years, that of Johannes DeBoer for the murder of Ella Martin, co-ed daughter of a prominent farmer and stockman on Oct. 19, 1879. This crime occurred about midway between Woodford Station and Mionok. A change of venue was granted from Woodford to Livingston county, the slayer being hanged at Pontiac on March 17, 1880.

There is a possibility there are other counties in the state in which no legal execution has ever been held, but so far accurate records have been secured on but six.

COLLEGE PROFESSOR IS IN BIG BUSINESS

The business man has in the past been inclined to look upon the college professor as living in another world, as a "theorist," well intentioned and in his place, useful, but after all, one who could not stand the hard knocks of actual business, whose theories would fail if put to the test.

But now comes one of the leading life insurance companies, The Mutual of New York, to offer its presidency to a one-time professor, superintendent of schools and college president, says the Nation's Business.

To be sure, the "professor" in this case has long ceased to "professor" for a living, and has held high posts in government and business.

The professor in this case is David Franklin Houston, who has been in turn Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Treasury and president of Bell Telephone securities.

But before he moved into government, and from government into business, what was Mr. Houston's career?

Tutor in ancient languages, superintendent of schools, professor of political science and then, one after another, three colleges called him to the presidency.

There surely is a professor who has climbed high in business.

NOTHING CONCEALED BY ADMINISTRATION

Coolidge and Cabinet Believe in Keeping Country Informed of Acts

One of the few really refreshing things about this Republican administration of our's is the open-and-above-board manner in which the President and his assistants without reservations address themselves directly to congress and the people when they want something done. In the past it must be confessed we have had but few Presidents willing to put their prestige openly in the balance by letting the public know what they are trying to do. All this is apropos of the recent statement issued by Secretary Mellon with the open approval of the President and Senator Smoot asking congress to withhold the enactment of the tax cut bill until after March 15.

In the old days this would have been handled by the President and the secretary virtually embarking on a still hunt to secure pledges and promises from the members of congress. If this move was successful the administration then might be willing to announce its great victory. If it failed, there would be no admission that the thing had even been tried, and the administration prestige would thus be maintained. In contrast, however, the Coolidge administration makes public announcement of its desires, which, it must be admitted, is a vastly more effective way, and it does not worry over what may happen if it is overruled. The Coolidge-Mellon argument in this case is a sound one and is apt to appeal to the people at large. Namely: That the total of the proposed tax cut is still a matter of guess work, and that inasmuch as there will be an opportunity by March 15 to know more definitely the real total of the government obligations, that the normal business way to go at it is to withhold enactment until this actual data is in hand.

STATE FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION ORGANIZES

The Illinois Valley Flood Control commission, created by an act of the last session of the state legislature, and appointed by Governor Small, met and organized recently with Senator A. S. Cuthbertson, Bunker Hill, as chairman; Representative H. V. Teel, Rushville, vice chairman, and A. T. Dunn, Beardstown, secretary.

Two state officials, named in the law as ex-officio members of the commission, William Mulvihill of Chicago, state superintendent of waterways, and Stillman J. Stanard, director of agriculture, meeting with the commissioners the governor appointed, extended the aid the state administration could provide in the investigation of flood conditions and prevention.

Public hearings, in which all concerned may offer their opinions and suggestions, likely will form a part of the commission's efforts, in that no information that will be helpful will be lacking in the report it is authorized to complete.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OF ENVELOPES OPPOSED

A bill, backed by 15,000 newspaper publishers of the United States, has been introduced into Congress prohibiting the Post Office department from competing with private business in the printing of envelopes. The bill was presented on December 15 by Senator Oddie, of Nevada.

It is in line with the policy of President Coolidge that the government should not attempt to do what can best be done by private enterprise. At the present time the government prints return notices on envelopes on order from customers. The sponsors of the bill—National Editorial association, composed of small town publishers and printers—believes that this is rightly business for commercial printers, and not a function of government.

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Dividend Notice

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of Public Service Company of Northern Illinois has declared the regular quarterly dividend of \$1.50 per share on the Company's 6% Preferred Stock, \$1.75 per share on the 7% Preferred Stock, and \$2.00 per share on the Common Stock, payable February 1, 1928, to stockholders of record, at the close of business, January 14, 1928.

GEORGE R. JONES, Treasurer

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