

**NEW COAL FIELDS
IN NORTH DAKOTA**

FIND BERS OF LIGNITE

**Department of Interior Reports
Discovery of Vast Fuel
Supplies West of
Missouri River**

The part of North Dakota lying west of the Missouri River says a bulletin from the department of the interior, is richly endowed with beds of lignite, which, though of low rank and small present value compared with other coals of the country, constitute a tremendous reserve supply of fuel that sooner or later will be called upon to supply light, heat, and power to the inhabitants of this and surrounding regions. Although the period of extensive utilization of such fuel may not yet be at hand, geologists of the interior department have been examining these great fields as men and means were available for the purpose. In a report recently issued by the Geological Survey as Bulletin 775 the Marmarth lignite field, occupying the southwest corner of North Dakota, is described by Geologist C. J. Hares. The report is divided into two parts—a general geologic description of the field and of its coal resources and a series of township descriptions in which the surface features, geology, and coal resources of each township in the field are described in more detail.

The Marmarth Field

The Marmarth field is a part of the great lignite-bearing region of western North Dakota, northwestern South Dakota, and eastern Montana. It includes an area of about 1,800 square miles in Slope, Bowman, Golden Valley, and Billings counties, lying principally within the valley of the Little Missouri River. The coal occurs in beds that are commonly as much as 8 to 10 feet thick, and one bed ranges from 20 to 30 feet in thickness over a large area.

As a rule the lignite is extremely tough, owing largely to its woody structure, and for that reason it is mined with considerable difficulty. Throughout the area covered by this report the small quantity of lignite needed to supply the wants of the people is almost entirely obtained from open pits. The cover is removed by stripping, or in some places advantage is taken of the undercut-

ting of the river and the lignite is easily dug from cut banks.

Part of the coal used in Bowman, Rhame, and Marmarth is shipped from the lignite mines at Scranton and Haynes, but a considerable quantity of higher-rank coal from Round-up, Montana, and other places is shipped into this area and distributed from the towns along the railroad. Sometimes the lignite is mixed with the higher-rank coal and is used advantageously in steam tractors.

Fifteen Billion Tons

As a result of the Geological Survey's examination it was found that the field now contains a reserve of lignite estimated at more than 15,000,000,000 tons, although more than half of the original quantity of lignite in the field has been eroded away by the streams, which are still engaged in cutting this valley and in extending the area of its noted badlands. The coal in this one field constitutes an amount comparable with the total quantity of coal mined in the United States since coal was discovered—18,000,000,000 tons.

No definite forecast as to the future development of these abundant lignite reserves can be made at present. Undoubtedly the lignite is a great potential resource, but it may not be developed extensively until competition with the higher-rank coals of other fields is less keen or unless the advantage of superior heating and stocking qualities of other coals can be overcome by low-cost mining or by special treatment of the lignite. The geographic position of the field with reference to present markets is unfavorable to early development, as are neither large centers of population nor large industrial concerns in or near the field. If the lignite is dried and used as powdered fuel, or if it is partly carbonized and briquetted, its desirability as a fuel may be so increased as to enable it to invade markets now exclusively supplied from fields yielding coals of higher rank.

Modern clothing, we are assured, is nothing if not sensible, and, so it seems to us, even if it is sensible.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Judged by Their Acts

A tourist is a person who thinks a farmer wouldn't care if somebody took a dozen ears of corn.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Many big jobs are held by men who don't know or give a darn what men will wear this winter.—Washington Post.

**TRAFFIC LESSONS
AID TO CHILDREN**

**Motor Club President Predicts
That Next Generation Will
Be Traffic-Wise**

The next generation in the United States will be "traffic-wise," predicts Charles M. Hayes, president of the Chicago Motor club.

Mr. Hayes based his prediction on the practical safety lessons that are being expounded every day by the school boy's patrol; the weekly discussions between teachers and classes about safety posters, and educational work along the same lines in the home.

"The greater part of this program is sponsored by automobile clubs affiliated with the American Automobile association," explained Mr. Hayes. "There are nearly 1,100 of them in the United States. As an example, the Chicago Motor club has assisted in organizing and maintaining patrols numbering more than 14,000 members in the fifty-one counties in which it operates. White belts and badges are supplied free to those young officers, who guard the life and limb of approximately 1,250,000 pupils.

"We also issue more than 50,000 two-color posters, portraying a vivid lesson in safety, free of charge each month to schools in our territory. The posters, like the patrol, are the result of a vast amount of research in determining the best methods of warning the youngsters against the dangers of the street.

"The lessons conveyed by the patrol and posters are stamped on the young mind while it is still receptive and pliable. We believe that they will be remembered by the pupils throughout their lives, like the A B C's or the multiplication table. Material assistance is given by parents who continue these lessons in the home."

WHY NOT TRY IT?

Maybe the plain gospel, preached with reference to the saving of souls would be appropriate as a drawing attraction these days in building up churches.—Portland Oregonian.

What, No Soap?

The vacation widower was noted in his backyard last summer with the garden hose and two bushels of crockery.—The Detroit News.

The average Vice President feels like a spare tire strapped on behind.—Shoe and Leather Reporter.

**MECHANICAL BRAIN IS
FOR BYRD EXPEDITION**

A machine which will perform multiplication, subtraction, addition, division and extract square and cube root is included in the mathematical equipment of the Byrd expedition. With these metal brains all the scientific data will be computed and tabulated. It will also perform the busbier but necessary service of keeping the commissary accounts straight. It is a calculating machine presented by J. R. Monroe of Orange, N. J.

One way to make the punishment fit the crime would be to have every man who criticizes the modern apparel of woman sentenced to spend one hour every day looking through the old family album.—Louisville Times.

NAILING A WHISPER

Just because Prince Edward of Wales is playing golf in Africa it need not be inferred that he is playing African golf.—Waterbury American.

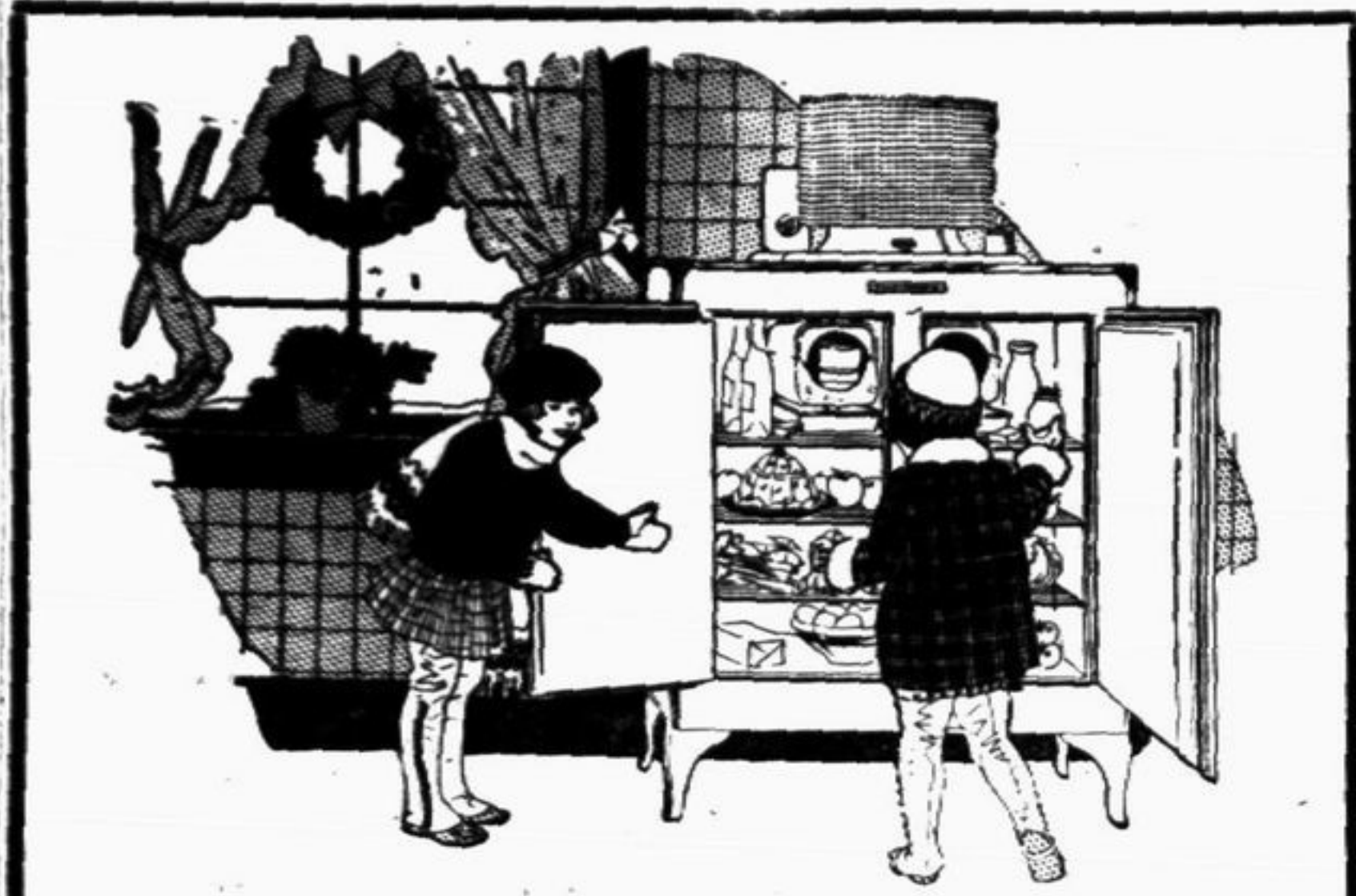


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