

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association
TWO PHONES—26 and 2020

Published Every Thursday by

GEO. LAKE, Owner and Publisher

Subscription Rates:

Canada—\$2.00 Per Year. United States—\$3.00 Per Year.

Timmins, Ontario, Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, 1941

CHRISTMAS WISHES, 1941

Once more The Advance extends to its readers and to all others very sincere good wishes for a happy Christmas and a glad New Year.

To some it may appear that Christmas wishes this year are out of place, in view of the fact that there seems no peace on earth and no good will among men. Indeed, there are good people who are quite sincere in suggesting that it would be well to forego Christmas this year. In view of the anti-Christmas spirit rampant in the world, these good people look upon a 1941 Christmas celebration as a mockery. They urge that spending might be curtailed and waste eliminated by avoiding Christmas this year. The logic of this sort of reasoning is not to be commended. It is true that governments have been urging saving—while themselves spending in lavish way where it will do the part of a party in power the most good—but accepting the need for thrift and economy, saving should be done in the right way and in the right place. So long as millions are spent with the implied approval of the powers-that-be on pleasures that are neither necessary nor harmless, it is little short of criminal to suggest elimination of Christmas purchases. In the British Isles it has been necessary to forego Christmas cards this year on account of the shortage of paper, but Old Country people have already done away with so many luxuries and pleasures that the Christmas card sacrifice is looked upon as only a minor affair. For months now business people in Britain have been saving envelopes to use them again and again, and writing replies on the back of letters. Christmas itself, however, will be celebrated in the Old Land this year with even greater enthusiasm than ever before. In many cases it will be observed under difficulties. There will be Christmas trees in shelters and in dug-outs. But it is a certainty that Christmas will be a merry time this year in Britain, because the British people have the Christmas spirit, and the cleverness to perceive that this year above all years Christmas should not be forgotten nor neglected.

As a matter of logic, the honourable people of the world to-day are really fighting for the right to observe Christmas. All the totalitarian states have openly campaigned against Christmas and all that the celebration implies. German children years ago were forcibly taught that there is only one Santa Claus—and that is Adolf Hitler. Years ago the Russian Bolsheviks boasted that they had killed Christmas. In the days before the war Italians were bulldozed into the dogma that they should not hang up their stockings for Christmas, but empty them out for Mussolini. To celebrate Christmas this year is to openly defy the gangster nations.

As for the argument that there is no peace on earth, no goodwill among men, and no observance of the Christmas season is out of place, it should be remembered that gangsters have always existed to greater or lesser extent. Because they are a little more blatant and brutal and unbridled to-day is that any excuse for letting them have their way?

In the earnest words of Grace Noll Crowell, used to cover the message of the Christmas section of this issue:—

Whatever else be lost among the years
Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing;
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,
Let us hold close one day, remembering
Its poignant meaning for the hearts of men.

So, boldly, buoyantly, bravely, yet, boisterously,
The Advance wishes honestly and earnestly and seriously to one and all, A Very Merry Christmas.

WOULD YOU ROB CHILDREN?

As noted in another editorial article to-day, there are some good people who advocate the foregoing of the general observance of Christmas this year. Now, Christmas is the family festival, the children's celebration, the happy time for those whose hearts are young. Is there a man or woman who does not look back upon some Christmas—perhaps, a whole series of Christmas times—as days of idyllic joy never to be forgotten? Find such a man or woman, and there is one to be sincerely pitied. Just as there are those who look back with happy memories to the Christmas days of the past, so the children of to-day in the years to come will find joyous memories in the home festival of 1941. Is there any thoughtful man or woman to-day, after due consideration who would rob the children of the happiness of Christmas of this year? Of course, this Christmas should not be one of senseless ostentation. But is there ever justification for that? There should be no waste this year. But should there ever be any lack of thrift and care? This Christmas should be a home festival—a day of thought for others, of gifts for others, of love for others—a day of jollity, of freedom from undue care—an escape from the evil and the nerve-tearing burden of life in a wanton world, through the true spirit of Christmas, the spirit of friendship, of affection, of the simpler and deeper joys of life.

FALSE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

From Ottawa there come despatches saying that all German and Italian prisoners in Canada are to have a full Christmas dinner of turkey and all the trimmings. Some people may hail this as an evidence of the true Christmas spirit. It is nothing of the sort. It is either the meanest form of hypocrisy, or a fairly criminal type of treachery and Quislingism.

To treat thieves, gangsters, murderers, better than we treat our own folk is far from the spirit of Christmas. If the plan is carried out for any ulterior motive—in the silly hope that prisoners in German or Italian hands may be more gently used—or to impress the world with the thought that this country has a Christmas love and tolerance for gangsters—then it is the vilest form of hypocrisy. If the game is prompted by an actual regard for the contemptible gangsters now imprisoned in Canada, then it is treachery to the loyal people of this Dominion who are footing the bill.

Consider some of the facts of this Christmas in Canada:—

German and Italian thugs and gangsters feasting on roast turkey with all the trimmings!

Many loyal Canadian families on short rations from necessity.

Soldiers begging or stealing rides to get home on leave for a Christmas dinner of fish and chips.

Families of soldiers, sailors and airmen not able to afford turkey for Christmas.

Relatives in Canada of noble fellows in German and Italian prison camps worried to death for fear that their loved ones do not get enough to eat of any kind of food at any time, and scarcely able to hope that the parcels sent these good men for Christmas will get any farther than the brutal guards of the German and Italian prison camps.

Add to all this, the known fact that literally millions of people in Europe have been practically starved to death by the German and Italian gangsters in the past two years, and if you can see any Christmas spirit in skipping honest and loyal people of good will to feed thugs and thieves and degenerates on turkey and cranberry sauce, then you qualify yourself for a place in the demented rogues' gallery, with the Quislings, the Lavalis, and all the rest of the breed of illogical degenerates.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

A Merry Christmas to all people of good will—and to the devil with Hysterical Hitler, Mugwump Mussolini and the Japanese apes.

Next week The Advance will wish everybody a Happy New Year. Read all about it.

Still stands the motto of the King:

"Put into your task whatever it may be all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshakable. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips and our heads held high, and with God's help we shall not fail."

There are the usual sentimental tales to the effect that many, or "most" of the Japanese in Canada are loyal to this country. Tell that one to the Marines. It will give the sailors a laugh. If Canada wishes to be free from the peril that destroyed scores of European countries, every Japanese in Canada will be imprisoned at once.

It would be well to remember the case of the Japanese shopkeeper in Manila. For years past he conducted a confectionery store in Manila, and was famous for his loyalty and politeness, under the name of Hara. At the outbreak of hostilities he was arrested as a spy, but when the first Japanese troops landed at Manila on Dec. 10th, they proceeded to the jail and released him. He then donned his major's uniform, for the treacherous little citizen was none other than Major Hara of the Imperial Japanese army.

It is said that Premier Hepburn intends to reduce the age limit for attendance at school. Thanks to the teachers of the province, the new style of education (or lack of education) has not taken full effect, or it might be a good idea to shorten school attendance, or cut it out altogether. As it is, however, the proposal to reduce the time of school attendance is just another of those fad ideas that are so often blamed on the war.

Perhaps, it will take some time for the regulations in regard to wartime restrictions on products to get working sensibly and satisfactorily. Those attempting to control these things certainly have an immense and very complicated job on their hands. Criticism may help a little, perhaps. There is the matter of restrictions on the sale of tires for example. To the wayfaring man it looks like a mistake to have this apply to bicycle tires. In many cases the bicycle means that a motor car will be put out of commission. In such an event there is a saving of both rubber and gasoline. In Timmins and district, for example, there are many men working at the mines in the district who live far enough from their work to make some form of mechanical transportation necessary. Hitherto they have been using motor cars. Some of them have put their cars away and use bicycles to go to work.

There are few people who would deliberately spoil their own Christmas or make the season a time of sorrow for others. That is exactly what accidents do, however, so those who truly have the Christmas spirit will follow the advice of the Tim-

mins Chief of Police and either take no spirits or leave their cars locked up. It would be in keeping with the true Christmas also to take all the necessary precautions to prevent not only street accidents but accidents in the home and store and hall by being especially careful in the use of decorations or devices that may endanger the public in the way of fires or other accidents.

It is said that most Japanese wear glasses. It is likely that they will all wear them in the present fighting and following the tactics of their Nazi masters complain that it is unfair and against international law to hit a man wearing glasses.

Only a few weeks ago Hitler described the German successes in Russia as "the greatest victory in military history." He also noted a couple of times that the Russian military forces were "completely annihilated." No wonder he is reported as being quite sick at the present time.

Mussolini, may now be able to say to his big boss, Hitler, "Well, anyway, Dolphie, you, too, are now among the 'also-rans'."

Some members of the Teck township council want to have the police commission abolished. Towns and cities have the option of controlling the police force directly by the municipal council or through a commission composed of three men—the county judge, the police magistrate and the head of the municipality. Timmins council at one time was very anxious to have a police commission,

instead of council control. It was not long, however, before some Timmins folks were just as anxious to revert to the old method of police supervision. This is not an argument against the commission idea, but simply another example of the human trait to desire to have things run as they wish without having any trouble or responsibility in the matter. It appears as if this were the case in Teck township. In Timmins for a long term of years police control through the council worked well. To-day it works well under the police commission. From this distance it seems that Kirkland lake has had similar experience. It is worthy of special note that Reeve Carter, of Teck township is opposed to the idea of discontinuing the police commission. This does not mean so much that he differs in opinion from some of his colleagues but that he has different ideas on law and order and fair play.

Add to similes:—"As treacherous as a Jap."

There have been comments in regard to people refusing to buy goods "made in Japan." One line of thought suggested is that this is penalizing the merchant, rather than the Japanese, as the goods were bought and paid for before the Japanese went to war. Against that argument is the fact that three years ago popular indignation was shown in Canada because of the Japanese nation's brutal attack on China. After that warning, merchants who bought Japanese goods have little excuse.

"CANADA AT WAR"

No. 6—FIELD GUNS

By C. EARL RICE,
formerly of the Springfield Times, Lac Du Bonnet, Man.

One of the most interesting stories concerning our war effort, deals with the production of 25-pounder field guns.

Shortly after the outbreak of war, a firm in the Province of Quebec, was asked to undertake the manufacture of 25-pounder field guns, for the British and French Governments. Its existing plant was inadequate and there was no trained personnel for this kind of work. But trained men came over from France to assist, new buildings were got under way, and plans made to start production in the new factory during the summer of 1940.

The whole picture was changed however, by the fall of France. The technical advisers returned home after the German occupation of their country and the Department of Munitions asked one of the automobile companies if it would undertake to get the plant into production.

This automotive company started to work, and many of its highly trained men were taken from their commercial positions and sent to this town in Quebec to assist in the new war industry. Today, this gun factory is in full production, producing not only 25-pounder field guns, but naval gun barrels as well.

The plant, in the heart of Quebec Province, consists of three large, modern, light, airy buildings, with a total floor space of 600,000 square feet. The complete gun and carriage is made in this plant.

Of the 2,111 men employed, about 75 per cent were recruited from the district immediately surrounding the plant. The rest are from various large cities in the province. There are also more than a hundred young women who do inspecting of various operations. In the apprentice school 375 men are being given training in specialized work to take care of further expansion.

Steel Made in Plant
The steel for these guns is made right in the plant from scrap metal. The scrap pile looks like a small mountain and several thousand tons are piled up at the present time. A huge press, which exerts a pressure of 2,000 tons, squeezes the ingot until it is brought to the desired size and length. The ingot is then shaped on a huge forge.

The approximate weight of a rough barrel forging is 2,470 pounds, and the approximate weight of a finished barrel is 420 pounds. The operations through which the barrel passes from the rough forging to the finished article are many and varied.

Following the heat treatment, the barrel is tested for physical properties and if satisfactory is passed by inspection. A sample must be cut from the barrel and sent to the lab for testing.

Seldom is a gun barrel cut to the desired length in one operation. If the barrel were cut to length in one operation, and a subsequent heat treatment required another sample for test-

ing, there would be no way of obtaining it.

Precision Work
The inside of the barrel is given two boring operations, which require 22 hours. After this it is honed for 5 hours. The outside diameter is then turned again, taking 10½ hours, following which, both ends are threaded, for the autofretage test, this operation also taking 10 hours.

Autofretage is in many respects the most interesting part of the whole procedure. This is where the physical properties of the gun steel are raised beyond those which could be obtained by heat treatment. Four gauges are placed around the barrel, two near the breech end, one in the middle, and one at the muzzle end. The size of the barrel is measured at these points down to one 10-thousandth of an inch. Both ends of the barrel are then plugged, and through the breech end glycerine is pumped into the barrel by a high pressure pump, until a pressure of 20 tons to the square inch is attained. Readings are then taken of the gauges on the outside of the barrel. If there is no indication of strain or undue stretching, the pressure is then brought up to 24 tons, then to 28, then to autofretage pressure varying between 28½ and 33 tons. It is impossible to use water for these tests, a water freezes as great as those used. Under the extreme pressure the outside of the barrel will expand by as much as 2 to 20, 10-thousandths of an inch. This test is important because it checks any weakness that might cause the barrel to expand unevenly throughout its length, when the gun is being fired.

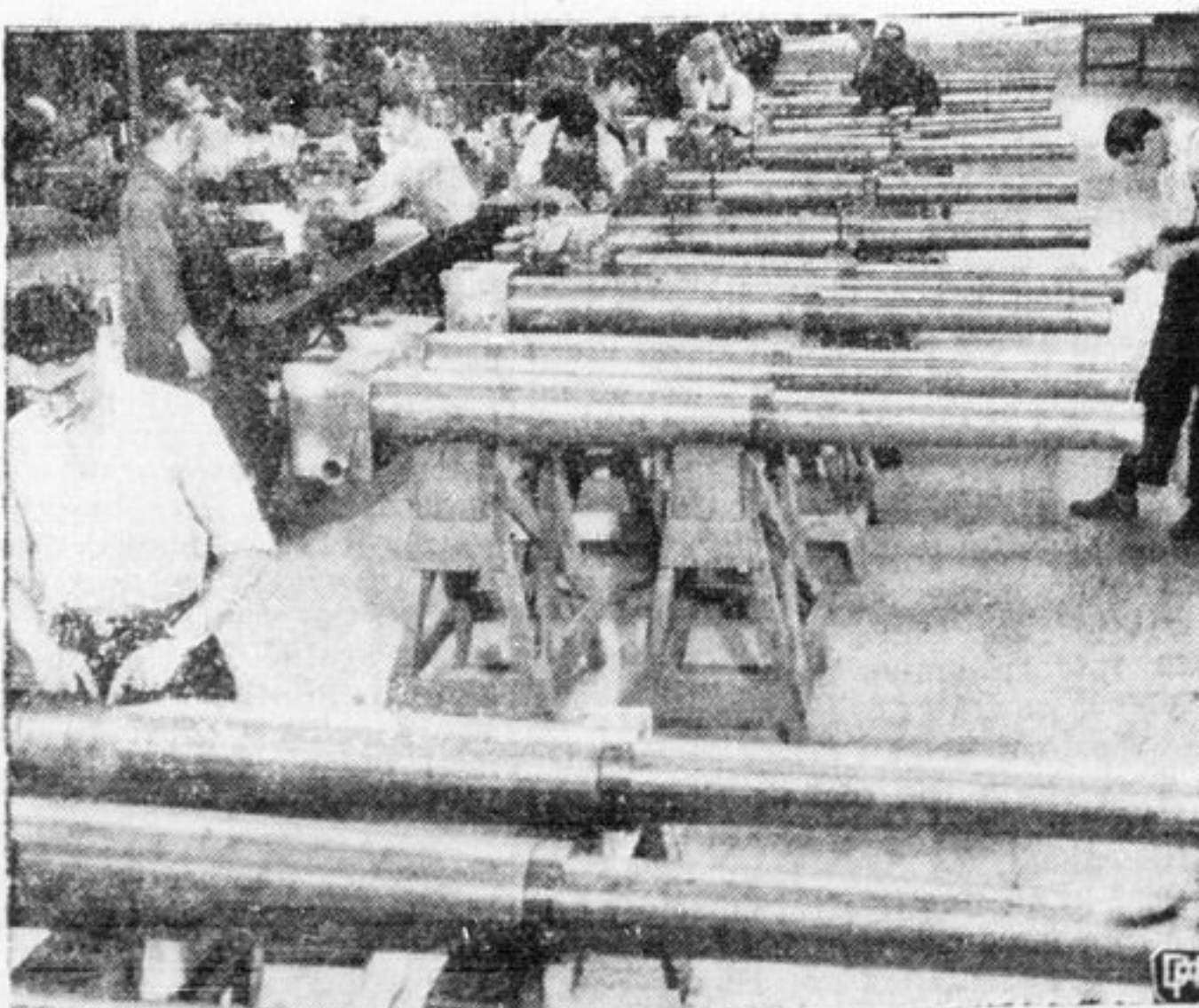
The carriage for the gun is built on assembly line methods. Each man does his one job, and the carriage is then passed on to the next operator. Unlike the motor industry, however, each operation takes a great deal of time. There is much work that must be done by hand, and the detail is very exacting, and often one operation requires several hours to complete.

The same care and detail that goes into the manufacture of the barrel, goes into the production of all the component parts of the gun. When the gun is completed and checked, it is sent to the proving grounds.

Globe and Mail—For forty-seven long years, from 1872 to 1919, Wilfrid Laurier in various capacities gave faithful service to his country according to his lights, and his long Premiership saw her feet set on the path to full nationhood. She has had no more distinguished son, and Canadians of all races, creeds and political faiths should keep his memory green.

Toronto Telegram—Streams in Iceland run with hot water. It would be mighty hard to cool off in hot water.

PRODUCT OF CANADIAN HANDS



Twenty-five pounder field guns, requiring in their manufacture infinite skill and workmanship, are now being turned out in large numbers from a Canadian plant. Photo shows barrels passing through one of the many operations between the melting of the scrap iron and the completion of the finished gun, ready to fire. The entire process takes place under the one roof.

ACI Cecil Gibson is Guest-of-Honour at Party Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Gibson Entertains for Airman on Leave.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Gibson, of Rae street, entertained on Saturday evening at a party in honour of the host's brother, ACI Cecil Gibson, of the R.C. A.F., who spent part of his Christmas leave in town, before leaving on Sunday for his home in Trout Creek.

About twenty-five guests enjoyed an evening of dancing and games, and a delicious lunch was served by the hostess. His friends extended their best wishes to the airman for success in his part in Canada's war effort.

THOUSANDS ANYWAY

Recently a Canadian editor was in a gun plant where extremely fine tooling operations were being carried on.

"What are your tolerances on this job?" He asked a man at a lathe.

"One five thousandth of an inch," replied the workman.

The figure conveyed little to the editor. He asked, "How fine is that?"

The workman, too, seemed puzzled. He called to his neighbour on the next machine. "Bill, how many five thousandths are there in an inch?"

Bill scratched his head. "Gee I don't know. But there must be millions of them."—The Financial Post.



TIRED EYES

Soon Lose Their Charm

Women who hesitate to wear glasses forget the fact that strained tired eyes soon lose their clearness and sparkle. They become old before their time. Come in for an examination today. You may find it necessary to wear glasses only for close work, if you do not neglect your eyes too long.

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EASY ENOUGH

Walking in the Highlands, a man found that his watch had stopped. Entering a farmhouse and noticing an old grandfather clock, he said: "Your clock is surely wrong."

"Naething wrong wi' it," answered the farmer. "Its you that doema understand it. When the wee haun's straight up and the big haun's straight down, it strikes 10, but the richt time's 5 o'clock. After that," he continued, "ye've naething to dae but calculate."

MEANING WHAT

A man had met with an accident and was carried into his home and a doctor called. When the doctor arrived and started to take care of the patient, he agitatedly asked:

"What's that stuff you're giving my husband?"

"An anaesthetic," replied the doctor. "After he has taken it he won't know anything."

"Then don't give it to him," the wife exclaimed. "He doesn't need it."

—Globe and Mail.

WANTED SECOND BEST

Maybe you've heard the story about the local rouser who went to a doctor and after undergoing a thorough physical examination was told: "The best thing you can do to give up smoking liquor and women."

The rouser pondered the advice, then asked: "What's the next best thing, Doc?"—Exchange.

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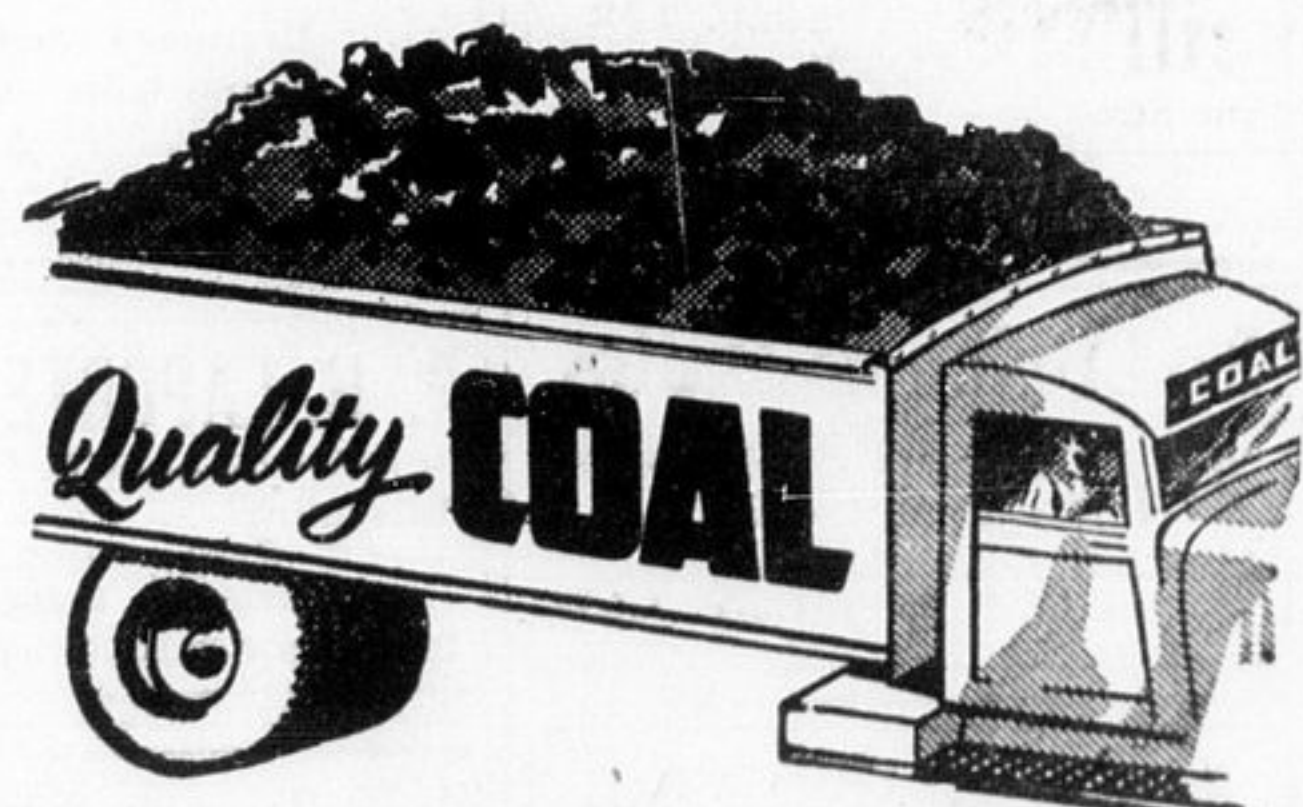
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