

# COAL DEALERS GIVE WARNING

### Danger Of Strike In Hard Coal Fields May Make Supply Uncertain

### BUY NOW FOR SAFETY

### Companies Able To Fill Summer Orders

"There's plenty of coal now, but we aren't at all sure about next winter," was the verdict of Wilmette and Winnetka coal dealers when approached on the coal situation this week. A possible anthracite strike, effective September 1, may mean trouble to hundreds of north shore householders who need to burn hard coal. In the soft coal field, however, the dealers are confident that there will be no shortage this winter, although they do predict that the price will rise as the winter advances if the anthracite strike occurs.

Speaking for Edinger and Sons, Clarence Edinger said, "it is almost a certainty that there will be a hard coal strike. In view of this fact a good many of our big buyers are stocking up now. The householders, however, are not buying coal as fast as they should under present conditions. The longer the average buyer waits before ordering his coal the greater is the danger of higher price and a scarcity of the product."

In common with all the other fuel concerns the Edinger company reported that it was fully prepared to meet all orders during the summer months. Deliveries in general were reported good, while reports on sales differed.

At the Kutten Brothers' plant, Joseph Kutten was a little more optimistic. "At the present time," he said, "the anthracite owners and operators are in a wage agreement conference at Atlantic City. The present contract between the two groups expires on the last day of August, and if the owners and operators have not come to an agreement before that time there may be a strike, if the government doesn't interfere.

"Out here," he continued, "we are too far from the scene of action to tell just what will happen. The only thing that we can do is to wait. If the strike does occur anthracite will go way out of sight and the price of soft coal will climb in unison. To be on the safe side people should fill up their bins while the coal is plentiful and delivery early."

At the Wilmette Building Material company's yards more than \$30,000 worth of anthracite coal has been stored in order to protect the company's customers. M. A. Gilbertson, who has had 21 years of experience in the coal business and who spoke for the company said, "There are two factors which will effect the

coal supply next winter. One of them is the supply of coal cars available, and the other is the possibility of a strike in the coal fields."

"It seems to me," continued Mr. Gilbertson, "that a strike is inevitable this year. That means that someone will suffer from the want of hard coal this winter. It is a well known fact that eastern coal fields supply the needs of the northwest before any other section of the country. Such a situation ensures the people of Minnesota, the Dakotas and beyond, but guarantees nothing for this vicinity. The situation is made all the more dangerous because this same tendency is apparent in the soft coal industry, and if hard coal is short there will also be a shortage of other varieties because of the increased demand."

E. C. Weissenberg, head of the company that bears his name, has just returned from a trip through the anthracite coal fields. He confirms the current belief in a coming strike, saying that the "union officials are a radical lot, and the men themselves are dissatisfied." Because of the danger of a drop in supply and a rise in price his company is advertising that it can take care of immediate orders but can promise nothing about fall delivery.

A condensation of the delivery made by the coal dealers shows that the following four points are the outstanding reasons favoring immediate buying of coal:

1. Lower price.
2. Immediate delivery and better service.
3. Better working conditions in summer permit greater efficiency on the part of the companies.
4. The householder can get anything in the fuel line he wants now, but may be unable to do so next winter.

### Park Board Tournament Holds Golfers' Interest

Attention of the members of the Winnetka Playfield association is still centering around the Park Board tournament. In the play for the Cup last week the results were as follows: Fahey beat Dunlop, A. Thorsen beat Cook, Borncamp beat Wildman, R. Stoddard beat E. Ellis, and Ball beat F. Stoddard.

Among the matches this week are: O. Fossum vs. G. Rettie, R. Nelson vs. F. Richardson, Borncamp vs. R. Stoddard, Hoyt vs. Brochu, Gillies vs. Webbe and Ball vs. Runnfeldt.

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