ECONOMY IMPERATIVE FOR HARD COAL USERS SINCE INFLUENZA CUT DOWN ANTHRACITE SUPPLY

United States Fuel Administration Urges All Possible Conservation of Coal on Hand and General Use of Buckwheat Size and Wood.

The United States Fuel Administration calls upon all users of anthracite coal for the utmost conservation of coal this winter.

Where a hundred per cent. supply had been anticipated for every user of hard coal as a domestic fuel, a grave slump in production because of the effects of the influenza epidemic has made it apparent that the most extreme economy, coupled with the use of all available substitutes, will be necessary to prevent discomfort to a large number of householders.

Householders in the Middle West, hitherto accustomed to the use of anthracite coal, were placed on reduced allotments of hard coal this winter in order that the northeastern section of the country might have its customary full supply.

With distribution facilitated through the working of the zone system, the amount of hard coal available appeared to be more than ample for requirements. The anthracite miners had maintained a steady level of production during summer and fall months which seemed to provide a conservative basis for estimates.

A tremendous slump in production followed the sweep of the influenza epidemic, however. Hundreds of miners fell ill from the disease, and of those who recovered few were able to reach their former efficiency within several weeks.

The "tons mined" figures, after a slight upward trend from the worst of the "flu" effects, fell again when the miners joined hands with the rest of the country in the two celebrations of the signing of the armistice.

Between the two causes, the total anthracite production figures received a blow which will require the most extreme efforts of all available anthracite miners to remedy. Even before the signing of the armistice the Fuel Administration was obtaining the furlough of anthracite miners from the army to as great an extent as possible in order to meet the situation.

Few consumers have sufficient anthracite coal to last them through the entire winter. If you are one of those fortunates it is incumbent upon you to make the supply in your cellar go as many months as possible in order that less well supplied households will not have to do without.

Aside from the most extreme economy in the use of domestic sizes of anthracite coal, the Fuel Administration urges the following measures:

The use of No. 1 Buckwheat coal to supplement the larger sizes. (Buckwheat size cannot be used alone.)

The use of wood to as great an extent as possible.

The sifting of ashes to reclaim the considerable amount of half-burned or entirely unburned coal falling through grates.

Weather stripping of doors and windows so that less fuel will be required for heating.

"Cut-a-Cord" Clubs Give Winter Days Zest, Make Happy Evenings

Likewise Save Coal and Money, U. S. Food Administration Shows, in Urging All Possible Use of Wood Fuel.

Who would not rather spend an evening before a snapping wood fire in an open grate or fireplace than before a drowsy coal fire?

And who could ask a better excuse for a winter holiday than to go into the woods and set the echoes ringing and the chips flying by felling trees for such firewood?

These are the two chief appeals in the campaign now being instituted by the United States Fuel Administration to bring about a considerable use of wood to replace coal in states where domestic fuel is scarce. Of course, if you cut wood your do not have to buy coal and if you have wood piled up you will not worry over a coal shortage, such as is possible through the duty having cut down the production of anthracite coal.

New England, in particular, has much wood available within easy reach of large centers of population. The "Cut-a-Cord" Club of Belmont, six miles from Boston, was one of many similar organizations which proved vehicles for wholesome days of outdoor sport and happy social evenings.

The Forestry service will co-operate with the Fuel Administration, through state administrators, this winter in locating available supplies of standing timber and seeing that trees more valuable for other purposes will not be felled for firewood.

If there is not a "Cut-a-Cord" club in your community, why not organize one?

Here are some woodsmen's proverbs from the Forestry Service:

A cord of hardwood has a fuel value equal to two-thirds of a ton of hard coal.

Stumps should be cut as low as possible to avoid waste and save future trouble.

All wood large enough to be made into stove wood should be used. Split wood small enough so that one man can load it on a wagon.

Pine should be split smaller than hardwood so that it may dry out quickly. Hardwood burns fairly well even when green.

In cutting original growth forests, utilize old trees which are not fit for lumber.

Cut small trees of the poorer species.

Cut all dead, diseased, dead-topped, and otherwise inferior material.

The wood lot will be the better for the removal of old trees which have stopped making growth, and of scarred trees and stunted growths.

Leave trees that are more valuable for lumber, ties, or other salable products than they are for cordwood.

Leave your thrifty trees of the better species below 10 inches in diameter for the future crop.

Pile wood so that air can circulate freely through the pile.

USE OF BUCKWHEAT COAL WILL HELP RELIEVE ANTHRACITE SHORTAGE

United States Fuel Administration Urges Liberal Use of Smaller Size of Hard Coal, Which Cost Consumer Less.

As a most effective means of supplementing the supply of regular domestic sizes of anthracite coal, the United States Fuel Administration recommends the use of the No. 1 size of Buckwheat anthracite. Buckwheat size is fairly plentiful, while regular sizes are scant, and the ordinary furnace will burn effectively if fired with 25 per cent Buckwheat and 75 per cent. larger sizes.

Buckwheat coal may also be used with wood.

Here are some rules worked out by heating experts for the use of Buckwheat coal:

If there is a good bed of fire, put large coal on first and then add a top dressing of No. 1 Buckwheat.

If the fire is low, put on a small amount of Buckwheat first and, after a good bed of fire is formed, add the large coal and then the top dressing of Buckwheat.

The ordinary house heater does not have sufficient draft to produce satisfactory results when Buckwheat is used with either Chestnut or Pea Coal.

The exact proportion of the small and large coal should be determined by experience and weather conditions.

Keep the Buckwheat in a separate bin.

These suggestions apply to steam, hot water, vapor and warm air furnaces and stoves.

TRUE BLUE

By WARREN LEE BARTON.

(Copyright 1918, Western Newspaper Union.)

"How you feeling now, Roger?"

"Snug as a bug in a rug!"

"Mebbe we'd better forget digging gold and dig back for home, hey?"

"Everybody would laugh at us. No. I'll be all right in a day or two and we'll strike a fresh trail, see?"

Thus spoke Roger Small, rich man's son of Chesterton, fifty miles distant, to his fides Achates, Zeb Watts. They were in an old barn and lying on a heap of hay and covered to the chin with a ragged horse blanket, Roger, with mottled face, watched his chum and nurse bustle about.

The latter had set up light housekeeping. He had a small one-burner kerosene stove, a skillet and a few other kitchen accessories, a package of cereal, a bottle of milk and an old teapot. This was constantly simmering on the little oil burner and gave out an aromatic steam.

"You see, you've got the measles," said Zeb, "and all you can do for it is to lie still and keep warm, so I borrowed the blanket without asking, and as to the warm drinks you've got to have there's loads of pennyroyal in the fields and that's the tea you're getting. I found a letter with a regular and a special-delivery stamp on it and cut them off and sold them for ten cents and bought the cereal."

"Oh, Zeb! The letter was intended for some one."

"Course it was. It's addressed to a woman and some one dropped it before it was mailed. I'll hunt her up and deliver it."

"You're a true blue one, ain't you?" voiced Roger in grateful admiration.

"I try to be. You would run away from home and, having none myself, I was glad to join you. Now you're sick, think I'd drop you?"

Just then there were sounds of jolly juvenile voices outside. Half a dozen boys peered in curiously. "It's the two fellers we heard about running away from home," spoke their leader.

"Keep out! This is a hospital just now," warned Zeb.

"What do you mean?" was inquired.

"Just what I say. My chum's down with the measles and I'm nursing him," and Zeb went outside with the group.

"Huh!" muttered one of them. "He's lucky. Don't have to go to school. Wish I had his sickness."

"You do?" challenged Zeb, his eye brightening. "Look here, any of you fellows anxious to catch the measles so you don't have to go to school can be accommodated at ten cents per. All you've got to do is to pay a dime, come in and sit by the chum for an hour or two and there you are!"

Zeb laughed at his own conceit, but the boys were very thoughtful. At noon two of them reappeared with an air of mystery and twenty cents between them.

"Say," observed one of them, sheepishly, "we'd take twenty cents' worth of your measles between us."

"That's business," said Zeb, and was thereon deal beside his patient and proceeded down town to find some deficiencies for his medicine chest.

However infection did not occur and the would-be victims missed the opportunity of an unexpected vacation, but the story got out. Miss Ina Blair, schoolteacher, learned of the incident.

"I never heard of such cold-blooded deviltry," she told an assistant. "The Zeb Watts must be a horrible wretch. I shall see that he and his chum leave town at once."

She was pretty as a picture and gentle as a dove, but for a day or two had been laboring under disappointment and chagrin. Four days previous a certain shy, but adoring young man had whispered to her at a tennis party that he intended sending her a very important letter next day and it had not come.

Zeb, making a fresh infusion of pennyroyal tea, was challenged from outside the barn by a young lady waving her parasol at him.

"Come here, you young reprobate!" she called. "Are you the wretch who has been trying to scatter an epidemic of disease through the town?"

"No'm," dissented Zeb, "I've just been trying to keep my chum, Roger Small, comfortable."

"Well, you must move on and leave here or I'll have the authorities after you. I am Miss Blair, the schoolteacher, and I must protect my charges."

"Oh, say!" abruptly ejaculated Zeb. "I've got something for you," and he hauled out the letter from which he had clipped the stamps. Miss Blair examined it with trembling fingers. She read the inclosure.

"You dear boy!" she cried, almost hugging him. "Tell me where you got it."

"I found it," explained Zeb. "Was it stealing taking the stamps? Then I guess I'd steal for the best friend I ever had, Roger Small." Miss Blair led him on to tell all about his strange doings, ending in his fidelity to Roger and his vegetable diet.

"And you have been up all night and all day for me?" she said, not forgetting to add a further tribute over the letter. "But that was why you were constantly busy at the foot of the stairs and sent for all those supplies!" she added, having Zeb with the latter that he decided to take Zeb and make something of him.

And Miss Ina Blair was glad of all of this, for how her future might have been marred had the lost letter never been found!

SADDLE

Methods Have Diminished Rapidly as the Result of Events of the Last Fifty Years.

During the last 50 years, particularly since the dawn of the twentieth century, autocracy has been hard hit, and the rule of "the people, by and for the people," as Abraham Lincoln said nearly sixty years ago, has spread and is spreading throughout the earth.

When, in 1870, after the battle of Sedan, Napoleon III capitulated to the German emperor, neither of them foresaw that the French republic would be the result. Neither foresaw that that republic would fight another battle of Sedan in 1918 and that a German republic would follow. A historian says that "Sedan gave the final blow to the French empire." So will some future historian write that "Sedan also gave the final blow to the German empire."

The triumphal march of democracy in this last half century began, says the Brooklyn Eagle, in September, 1870, with the fall of "Bonaparte the Little" or Napoleon III. Since that day five other empires have given way to republics, or are fast on the road to become republics; Dom Pedro of Brazil, the emperor of China, the czar of all the Russias, the German kaiser and the Austrian kaiser. And added to this list should be the king of Portugal, though he was a parliamentary ruler.

FOR CORRECT METER READING

Device That Instantaneously Photographs the Exact Figures and Has Other Advantages.

An electrically operated film camera, described in the Electrical Experimenter, is especially intended for use by gas and electric meter readers. For the purpose of instantaneously photographing the exact reading of the meter it aims to provide a special interlocking arrangement between the film-exposing means or shutter and the meter.

Illumination lamps are placed in the front of the camera. During the operation of the device, certain checks are placed upon the user, so that he will be prevented from wasting film, also from making more than one exposure upon a single picture area of the film, and from operating the shutter in the belief that he is making a photographic record when, in fact, the proper film surface is not in position to receive exposure.

SURE OF IT.

A rookie at Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., had been transferred to one of the headquarters companies to fill the vacancy left by an orderly who had been sent to the hospital. He was sitting at the desk when the captain arrived.

"Good morning, general," he greeted the captain, executing a semaphore salute.

"I am not a general," the captain replied as he took his seat.

"Good morning, colonel," was the next salutation.

"I am not a colonel. I'm a captain," explained the other frigidly.

"I know it. I know it," chortled the rookie. "I was sure by your looks that you were one of the face cards in the deck."

THE SUGGESTION.

Miss Caustic—These men who criticize so severely the wearing of overalls and trousers by women at work amuse me.

Mr. Curious—Why so?

Miss Caustic—Because the men who are the loudest in denunciation are sure to be the ones whose wives wear the breeches at home.

CRUEL WORDS.

He (rapturously)—You accept me. Then it's a bargain.

She (calmly)—Certainly. I should not consider it if it wasn't.

NOTHING WRONG.

"I [illegible] at the club last night."

"Only a few of the [illegible] were present."

DEFINING THE AGONY.

"How does it feel to be kissed?"

"Why haven't you ever had to listen to a long-winded bore who wouldn't let anybody else get in a word edgeways?"

NEW YORK SLOW TO BRITONS

Otherwise, American Cities Which They Visited Impressed Business Men as "Less Leisurely."

Some of the many public men of England who have been engaged in war work in America, it must be confessed, were not so much impressed by the business methods they found in New York as in other parts of the country; as, for example, in Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington and the various busy cities of the middle West, Frank Dilnot writes in the Saturday Evening Post. There was a certain leisureliness in New York that was piquant. The work was carried through, but nobody was in any hurry. A lively open-mindedness here, as elsewhere, was a motive force; but in everyday executive detail I have heard more than one English business man remark that there was a slowness alien to the rest of America, even as it was alien to London.

That hustling New York should give this impression is indeed strange; but the fact remains. It was part of the unexpectedness which is one of the uplifting things in America to the European. There has, however, not been one, whether he be banker, ship constructor, munition expert or organizer, who has not spoken privately with enthusiasm of the cordiality in the American's heart and the virility in his mind.

RABBITS HURT WOOL SUPPLY

Pests Said to Cause Enormous Loss to Raisers of Sheep in New Zealand.

Rabbits keep down the wool supply in New Zealand, according to authentic information received at Philadelphia. At a discussion of what to do in order to eliminate or reduce the rabbit pest in New Zealand, a member of the New Zealand council of agriculture mentioned an area in the Auckland district of some 70,000 acres which carried, on a low estimate, 350,000 rabbits.

Inasmuch as ten rabbits will eat and destroy as much pasture as would feed one sheep, it was pointed out that these rabbits had destroyed the feed which might have kept 35,000 sheep, worth $137,746 a year to the country. Rabbits are being slaughtered by the millions and their skins prepared for export, of which the United States has taken very large numbers during the last year. A large number of rabbits are also being placed in cold storage awaiting shipment to Europe.

CASUS BELLI.

"I fear these two citizens are having a warm argument about the war."

"You are mistaken. Each is trying to convince the other he has the better furnace."

"Is that anything to quarrel about?"

"It wouldn't be if they had the same make, but they haven't, and since each one regards himself as an authority on heat units, hostilities are liable to begin at any moment."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

ADVANTAGE OF WEALTH.

"When airplanes become the everyday mode of conveyance the gentleman with a jag is going to get into trouble."

"Not necessarily."

"No?"

"For a long time, at any rate, a person who can afford an aerial limousine will also be able to hire a dependable aviator to drive it."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

THE LESSONS OF WAR.

The Airman—So you're saving up to buy an airship? You're quite an ambitious little boy.

"Yes, sir; I want to fly over Jimmie Mack's back yard and drop bricks on him."

CASHED IN.

"What became of the village belle whose face was her fortune?"

"She cashed in."

"Yes?"

"Married a millionaire."

HARD TO DO.

"Now, Willie, draw me up a list of the kings of Europe in alphabetical order."

"But, pop, nearly all of them are ex-kings."

NEW BOAT OF ODD DESIGN

Inventor Claims Many Good Points for Craft Which He Has Recently Had Constructed.

Interesting ideas are embodied in a power boat of unusual design that has been constructed in the South recently. A 40-foot hull, which has a beam of only 25 inches, supports a deck 16 feet wide. Adjustable pontoons are provided beneath the latter at its outer edges, but ordinarily these do not touch the water when the craft is under way.

Although equipped with only a 12-horsepower engine, it easily makes 12 miles an hour in a smooth sea. By lowering the pontoons so that they take the weight of the vessel, the hull may be raised out of the water. Thus the boat is able to navigate in very shallow water, and also form its own drydock. Supposedly it can neither be capsized nor swamped.

The inventor, who has applied for patent rights, thinks that the idea might well be adapted to vessels of larger tonnage. Cheapness of construction, economy of fuel, speed and safety are among the numerous advantages claimed for it.

IN AFRICA.

Pelican—There goes Hippo on the way to the Jungleville mask ball. But why all those spots painted on his hide?

Parrot—Oh, that is his ball costume. He's going as a giraffe.

HONEY CROP OF 1918.

The honey crop of the United States for 1918 having been placed by the department of agriculture at about 255,000,000 pounds, the American Botanist estimates that, as the nectar of flowers does not become honey until worked over and partly evaporated, the bees must move as much as 150,000 tons of material to produce this crop, exclusive of the honey eaten by themselves. Of this product, about one-half is from the nectar of white clover, with two other leguminous plants—alfalfa and sweet clover—as the next important sources. A honey that can be recognized is produced by a few plants, including cotton, basswood, tulip tree, buckwheat, goldenrod and mountain sage.

USING TRUCK AS HOIST.

Several concerns which have adopted the industrial truck and tractor system of internal haulage have found novel uses for their vehicles. In a government warehouse a platform type truck is being used to pile cork in tiers. With the use of a simple arrangement of block and tackle the loads are placed at the right point with little trouble and labor. The action is similar to a horse hoist but much faster.

CHOPPING HIM OFF.

"Ah, how do you do, sir?" saluted the book agent at the door. "I am introducing—'The Famous Orators and Poets of America,' and—"

"I am not making any new acquaintances," interrupted old Gaunt N. Grimm. "G'day!"—Kansas City Star.

THE NEED.

"I see where Moro girls have been graduated as war nurses."

"That's what they want—more—oh, girls!"

ANTIPATHY GRATIFIED.

"Wilhelm insists on eating himself account."

"I'm glad of it. I have always disapproved of counts."

THE MEASURE.

Hun—I thought you Americans loved peace.

Yank—So we do; we love it well enough to fight for it.