

FUEL SHORTAGE MAY CLOSE LOCAL PLANT

Carroll Shop Has Only Ten Day Supply

OTHERS ARE SEEKING FUEL

Only One Manufacturing Plant Thus Far Menaced by Miners and Railroad Strike But Several Others Not in Comfortable Shape—Steam Coal Price Rocket Madly.

The combination of the coal strike and the miners' strike may force the shutting down of one of Bucyrus' most active industries within the next two weeks, unless relief comes, according to information secured in a canvass of the situation today. Several local users of steam coal are out in the market trying to secure a supply against a possible lasting of the strike for weeks to come. One factory using five cars a month has only two weeks supply in its bins and none in sight.

Industries feeling the coal shortage keenly are the Carroll Foundry & Machine Co., and the Dostal Products Co., while the Bucyrus Development Co. has only a four week supply, which is not much considering what a shut-down of that plant would do. The Carroll shop fears a forced shutdown but the Dostal plant sees immediate relief in sight and expects no trouble.

Steam coal price quotations have advanced 500 per cent over what they were 90 days ago, Mr. Faflick of the Dostal Co. stated today in an interview. Domestic coal prices have advanced from 50 cents to \$1 at wholesale.

Not a carload of domestic or steam coal has come into Bucyrus in ten days, and it is reported that the Toledo & Ohio Central is being forced to confiscate coal for its engines. Retail dealers are almost or completely sold out except in one or two cases, but they do not see trouble ahead for the domestic user unless the strike endures for months. One dealer estimated that about one-fourth of the domestic coal users have their coal laid in in the spring for the next winter. Another fourth of the domestic consumption is usually laid in in the fall, while half the consumers buy coal from time to time through the winter as they need it. On that basis, three-fourths of the domestic coal supply to be needed in Bucyrus is still to be supplied, but only one-fourth of it is likely to be ordered delivered before the starting of furnaces and stoves for the winter.

A canvass of the retail dealers today showed one dealer with approximately 100 tons on hand unsold, one with 60 to 70 tons, all sold but not yet delivered; one of the biggest dealers has his bins scraped bare, another reported eight tons on hand, another 50 tons.

The latest that any of these dealers has received coal was several weeks ago. Some have received no coal since May. A couple have cars in transit but owing to conditions have no assurance that they will arrive.

"Nobody needs domestic coal now, and if the strikes are settled within the next few weeks, we do not believe domestic consumers will be inconvenienced much, if any," is the way one dealer summed it up. He continued by saying that when the coal begins to move again, it will be moved rapidly.

Industries May Suffer

Of the local industries, the Carroll Foundry & Machine Co. is in a critical situation as regards to fuel. Word from that plant, employing upwards of 200 men steadily, is to the effect that only two weeks' supply of fuel is on hand and none in sight. The plant uses five cars of coal a month. Other industries generally, some of them not using a great deal of coal, since electrical power became available, are in much better situation.

The Dostal Products Co., using five cars of coal a month, has only a ten-day supply of coal on hand, but is making particularly careful plans to see its patronage is supplied even in the event of a fuel shortage. Several cars of coal are in transit to Bucyrus for the Dostal plant and two cars are confidently expected tomorrow. A. A. Faflick of the Dostal company stated today that arrangements had been made to protect the company's patrons in the matter of ice and other products regardless of whether the local fuel supply was exhausted or not, but he was confident that the fuel in transit would arrive.

The fact that the Bucyrus Ice & Storage Co. uses oil for fuel and has a good supply on hand, is another bulwark against a local fuel shortage.

Users of electricity for power and light are not likely to be disturbed. The Ohio Power Co. with its main producing source near the mines, and with water-power in another plant serving this line, expects to keep moving right along.

The Bucyrus Development Co. is in fair shape, having a four weeks coal supply. Supt. Deidrich says he is taking steps now to increase the margin of fuel on hand if possible, before the supply now at the pumping plant gets much lower.

Lt. Daisy Nance of the local Salvation Army, Joseph Carmean, Roland Timson, Helen Carmean and Jack Hunt have all returned from the Salvation Army meeting at the Chautauqua grounds near Franklin, O. They report a fine time and according to a report from Lt. Nance the open air meeting Sunday was attended by more than a thousand people, and there were seventy or more converts.

Brought Down the House.

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