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There are few diseases more prevalent than Asthma, few more distressing and painful and few more tenacious and dangerous. The several forms are known to medical science as Bronchial Asthma, Catarrhal Asthma, Hay Asthma (latter more commonly known as Hay Fever).

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METHODISTS REVIVE ANCIENT CUSTOMS

TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION MEMBERS TO OBSERVE DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER.

Centenary Commission Starts Movement to Establish 100,000 Family Altars—Following the Plan of Old Circuit Riders.

Nashville Tenn.—The Centenary Commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has named August 28th as a special day of fasting and prayer for the two and a half million members of the church. The Commission has also started a movement to establish 100,000 Family Altars, by having that many homes pledged to observe daily devotions.

This is the revival of ancient customs in the church. It is the part of an intensive campaign which the church has launched in connection with the spiritual side of the Centenary program of the Centenary Movement, through which the Methodists raised \$53,000,000 in an eight-day drive last May.

The object of the present campaign, as stated by Rev. S. A. Neblett, Secretary of the Department of Spiritual Resources, is to enroll at least 40% of the church members in the prayer league known as the Fellowship of Intercession, to establish 100,000 Family Altars, and to assist in finding a thousand young people to go abroad as missionaries.

August 24-31 is known as Enlistment Week. During this period the seven thousand pastors will urge their members to join the Fellowship of Intercession, to establish Family Altars, and to observe the day of fasting and prayer.

SOUTHERNERS PLAN RECONSTRUCTION

IN EUROPE—WORK IS TO BE OPENED IN BELGIUM AT ONCE.

Commission Abroad To Study the Situation—Extensive Program is Planned—Church Busy in Other Lands.

Nashville Tenn. (Special Correspondence)—On August 29th a commission composed of Bishop James Atkins, of North Carolina, John R. Pepper, of Tennessee, Dr. Belle H. Bennett, of Kentucky, and Mrs. Luke G. Johnson, of Georgia, sailed for Europe to arrange for the opening of extensive religious and philanthropic work in Belgium, France and other war-torn countries.

They represent the Centenary Commission and the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which have set aside \$5,000,000 of Centenary funds for religious reconstruction in Europe.

They go with authority to purchase property and open work at once in Belgium and to make a careful survey of the needs in other countries and recommend an adequate program. Orphanages, schools, social centers, religious literature and direct evangelism will be the methods employed.

In some of the countries to be entered the work will be conducted in cooperation with the Methodist Episcopal Church, which is already operating in France, Italy and the Balkans, and is planning to expand its work greatly as a result of the Centenary, which in the two churches brought missionary pledges aggregating more than \$150,000,000.

"NO SOFT COAL PRICE COMBINE" SAYS WITNESS

J. D. A. MORROW TELLS SENATE COMMITTEE SUCH A COMBINATION WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

"PRICES AT THE MINES LOWER THAN LAST YEAR"

Better Grades of Coal Have Advanced, But Lower Grades Declined, Making Average of All Grades Less.

Washington—(Special)—A combination among bituminous coal operators to maintain or fix price does not exist and would be impossible if attempted, J. D. A. Morrow, vice-president of the National Coal Association, told the senate sub-committee in its first day's inquiry here into the coal situation. Prices at the mine, Mr. Morrow added, have declined under the competition which prevails and are lower now than they were a year ago.

"There are about 5,000 separate commercial producers operating approximately seven thousand mines, from which bituminous coal is regularly shipped," Mr. Morrow said. "In addition there are some two thousand operators with about three thousand mines, who begin producing and selling coal whenever the price goes up a little and offers a profit to them. Thus in 1917 coal production was reported to the United States geological survey from 10,534 mines. Moreover, there are hundreds of thousands of acres of coal lands along railroads on which new mines can be readily and quickly opened by any one so disposed.

"Such a condition obviously does not lend itself to restrictive combination among producers. In addition the operators of each mining field are subject to competition from the producers of other fields, so that buyers have many different sources of supply available to them.

"Any one who alleges that there is a nation wide combination among bituminous coal producers, when these are the conditions of bituminous coal production and distribution, merely advertises his own ignorance or convicts himself of deliberate and vicious misstatements.

"Of the five thousand separate bituminous coal producers in the United States, 2,294, approximately 45 per cent, hold membership in the National Coal Association. They produce about 80 per cent of the total output of bituminous coal in the country.

"Charges that the National Coal Association is a combination to maintain prices are without foundation in fact; they doubtless proceed simply from ignorance of its purpose and activities. The National Coal Association neither buys nor sells coal; neither does it have anything whatever to do with the prices which its members ask or sell at, nor with the territory into which they ship their coal, nor the quantity which they produce."

Mr. Morrow stated that bituminous coal prices have declined since the armistice, and in general are lower than the prices fixed by the United States fuel administration. He submitted charts to the committee graphically showing the prices at which bituminous coal sold at the mines in different districts of the United States from April 1 to August 1, 1919. In connection with these charts Mr. Morrow explained that when the price restrictions of the fuel administration were removed on February 1 last, the better, more desirable coals went to a premium in the open competitive market and the less desirable coals declined in price. This was the action to be expected, he said, in a market where the buyer exercises his choice and can obtain the kind he prefers. As a result, instead of the uniform prices in different districts, which were fixed by the United States fuel administration, prices promptly spread out, some coal going higher and some lower than they had been.

"Meantime," Mr. Morrow said, "the cost of producing bituminous coal is higher now than it was a year ago, due to the fact that the mines then were operating six days a week and in many cases now are operating only three days per week. The overhead expense of maintaining mines goes on just the same whether coal is produced or not. These idle day expenses have resulted in increased costs per ton as compared with last year. When these increased costs are considered in connection with the general decrease in prices, it is clear that profits of bituminous coal operators are materially less than a year ago."

Referring to statements by Representative Huddleston of Alabama, Director General Hines of the railroad administration and others, to the effect that bituminous coal prices at the mines are unduly high, Mr. Morrow said:

"I wish to deny publicly and emphatically these allegations that bituminous coal prices are being maintained in some improper manner and are unduly high. I am convinced that these statements proceed simply from a lack of understanding of the facts."

APPEL

--- AUX ---

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