RESOURCES

Pipelines Delayed

Construction of refineries also may be held up by shortage of steel now developing. Need dry weather months for laying new pipelines.

➤ A SHORTAGE of steel, already developing, means further delay in the construction of refineries and pipelines to decrease the threatened fuel oil and gasoline shortage. Production the first week of July was about three-fourths capacity.

Decreasing steel production is due to the increasing shortage of coal resulting from the miners' walkout in protest against the Taft-Hartley bill, according to the American Iron and Steel Institute.

An increased shortage of steel now will have far-reaching results. The good-weather period is here and ahead, when the construction of buildings and bridges proceeds rapidly. Dry-weather months are essential in laying new pipelines, and new lines are necessary before the Midwest will have a plentiful supply of liquid fuels again.

Industry expected, and was somewhat ready for the scheduled coal miners' two weeks vacation the first half of this month. It was not prepared for the early walk-out coupled with the vacation. It is almost entirely unprepared for any threatened extended "vacation" that may follow.

The threatened shortage of coal is also beginning to worry railroad officials. It is the season when crop movements and passenger travel are high. Electric and diesel locomotives have been widely advertised, but train movements are still principally powered by coal. This is particularly true of the freight engines that are now moving wheat and other crops.

Steel shortage will affect industry building expanded plants in all parts of the country. A summer shortage of coal will be serious to northern factories because the summer and early fall is the season when northern manufacturing plants stockpile coal for the winter. Industrial areas bordering lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan rely upon lake transportation for much of their fuel for heat and power. Delivery by boat must take place while the Great Lakes are still open.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1947

OCEANOGRAPHY

Lost—Large Iceberg

➤ A LARGE iceberg "lost" in the foggy weather of the North Atlantic is sufficiently menacing to steamship travel to cause the scheduled shift northward of trans-Atlantic routes due on July 1 to be postponed.

Last sighted on June 25 by the International Ice Patrol, the berg is believed to be between 100 and 200 feet long. Although the U. S. Coast Guard ships are equipped with radar and other new searching devices unknown in prewar days, foul weather over the Grand Banks has prevented them from picking up the great floating piece of ice since last Friday. It was then at 43 degrees, 55 minutes north latitude and 48 degrees, 59 minutes west longitude. This is too near for safety to scheduled new track C which "turns the corner" of the Atlantic when longitude 50 degrees west crosses 43 degrees north latitude for westward ships and 42 degrees north latitude for eastward ships.

Until the berg is located, which will be done quickly by air patrol as soon as the fog lifts, ships will stay on the more southerly track B. Those Europe-bound will travel farther east before they set a course on the great circle that will lead them most directly to the channel ports.

May is usually the month during which icebergs. coming down the Labrador current from their birthplaces in Greenland glaciers, are most plentiful. Sometimes there is another wave of floating ice toward the end of June, but usually it does not reach so far south and does not menace ships. The International Ice Patrol has a saying: "Home by the Fourth of July" but its sailors were still standing guard against another Titanic disaster this Fourth.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Tepexpan Man Is Young for His Age

➤ FOR ALL his age, Tepexpan Man is "modern," scientists studying him at the National Museum have found. His high-domed, thin-walled skull contained a brain of the same size as those of present-day Indians. His eyebrow ridges are rather prominent, but not more so than those of many a still-living head. His lower jaw is solidly built, but is not Neanderthaloid. In particular, a sharply prominent chin separates him from the Neanderthal type. (*See SNL,* July 5)

He was middle-aged when he fell on his face in the marsh and died. This is shown by the solidly united seams in his skull, and by the completely ossified ends of his arm and leg bones. He was probably 40 or over when he went on his fatal last hunt.

He had lived hard before he died. One of his right arm-bones had broken just short of the wrist and had healed again. He suffered from a stiff neck, for there are limy deposits on the vertebrae showing that arthritis had set in. There were only three teeth left in his upper jaw. All the molars had departed from his lower jaw some time before he died, for the place where their sockets had been is quite smoothly healed over. The remaining lower teeth — incisors, eye-teeth and premolars—are considerably worn but otherwise in good condition.

That much of his story Tepexpan Man

PUZZLE—This picture shows how the fragments of bone are painstakingly fitted together in restoring the ancient skull of Tepexpan Man.

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