

Fuel Production Hard Hit By Influenza Conditions

CONNELLSVILLE, PA., Oct. 24.—
The Weekly Courier says:

The loss of approximately 9,000 tons of coke and 20,000 tons of coal, or a total of almost 34,000, with coke reduced to the coal equivalent, measures the extent to which the Connellsville region was affected by the prevailing epidemic of Spanish influenza last week.

There was not a shortage in the sense that no cars were available, but that the cars could not be moved from distribution points to plant siding, because the more general prevalence of influenza among railroad trainmen, and the actual need of more crews, amounted to precisely the same thing as a shortage of cars at the coke yards.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has suffered most from reduction in the strength of men fit for duty.

The actual shortage in coke cars during the week is placed at 263, while the deficiency in coal cars was proportionately greater. Some coal loading plants did not receive a single car during the last three days of the week.

For most part the men are sticking to the job with commendable fidelity despite the current malady that is requiring many to temporarily relinquish their jobs.

There is every indication that the production of both coal and coke during the present week will show a further falling off.

The estimated production of coke for the past week was 314,045 tons, contributed by the districts as follows: Connellsville, 155,687 tons, a loss of 4,400 tons; Lower Connellsville, 158,358 tons, a loss of 4,475 tons, or a total loss of 8,875 tons. By interests the production was: Furnace, 162,760 tons, a loss of 4,602 tons; merchant, 151,285 tons, a loss of 4,273 tons.

Reducing the coke to a coal basis, 471,068 tons, the aggregate tonnage of the week becomes 714,118 tons, a decrease of 32,726 tons from the preceding week.