

Must Burn Lignite.

"We are going to burn lignite coal this winter or we are going to burn our fences and our buildings in order to keep warm," is the message the chairmen of twenty county councils of defense took to their home communities from the conference held with the state council of defense in Bismarck last week.

No eastern coal is going to be available in the state according to an announcement of the federal fuel administrator and the work of the county councils of defense is to be directed largely to an effort to bring the people of North to a realization of the seriousness of the situation.

"There is an actual coal shortage in the United States of a hundred million tons," said Dorr Carrol of Minot, member of the state council of defense, in addressing the county chairman, "and we in North Dakota will have to burn lignite. It's only a matter of education. Lignite is as good as any coal when you know how to use it and it is necessary that you get it in now. It will not decline any in heat value from being stored in the cellar.

"You've got to get it in now if you want to keep warm this winter," he continued, and it's your patriotic duty to place your own orders and to urge the people of your county to do the same thing."

Coal mines in the state are idle at the present time, or working far below their capacity, according to information in the hands of the state council on account of the fact that there are no orders. Many incidents were reported to the council where orders which were placed last spring for hard coal have not been filled yet and probably will not be at all.

There will be no holdup of the grain growers of the state by the threshing machine men this fall if the various county councils of defense can prevent it. Action was taken at a meeting of twenty chairman held in Bismarck by which a survey of threshing machines in each county will be made.

A maximum price will be fixed, to vary in different sections of the state, according to conditions. Threshing machine operators will be given an opportunity to sign a pledge or contract according to the maximum price fixed and if they do not care to do this will be given a chance to announce the price they are to charge.

It will be the object of the county chairmen to prevent a combine in any section whereby the threshing charges can be boosted to an unreasonable figure. Just what action will be taken where combines are discovered to be operating has not been announced.