

TUG STRIKE PARALYSES NEW YORK.

New York had a severe ^{loss} ~~case~~ of going without fuel in the ten day strikes of the ~~MILKMAN~~ city's four hundred tug boats. Across the river lay all the coal and oil the Metropolis could wish, but with no tugs to bring it over New York went without. Mayor D'Dwyer summoned a disaster control committee and closed down all buildings ~~and~~ except homes and hospitals. Wall Street, was deserted on a week day for the first time. In the busiest business centre in the world every store, office and theatre was closed.

The tiny fuel stocks were rationed for sick people only. Then to everybody's great joy the strike was called off, the city went back to work and, for New York, austerity was all over.

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February 15, 1946

1. TITLE: NEW YORK -- GHOST TOWN FOR A DAY!
2. The greatest city in the world is a ghost town for a day, crucial point in the 10-day strike of New York's four hundred tug-boats! With harbor traffic virtually at a standstill, seven and a half million New Yorkers suddenly awoken to the fact that four out of five boroughs are surrounded by water...and without tugs to haul in food and fuel, the city can either freeze or starve in short order. Across the river, coal and oil aplenty, but no way to get it to Manhattan.
13. As the shipping crisis reached a danger point, New York's new mayor, William O'Dwyer, calls the City's Disaster Control Board into session. They act swiftly: immediate shutdown of most buildings, except homes and hospitals, curtailment of lighting and transportation...emergency orders stricter than London's even at the height of war.
19. Manhattanites next morning looked down on strangely empty streets. Never in New York's long history had the city been paralyzed so completely. The Board of Trade claimed incalculable losses -- five million dollars in the famous garment center alone. Almost all stores, businesses and industries shut down. Citizens, unless essential to public welfare, were told to stay home. But what difference anyway? with no place to go...Saddest of all, a feller couldn't even go to school!
31. So the big city shivered at home -- wood was a substitute for coal that was scarce -- as never before!
35. And for eighteen hours, with all fuel on emergency rations, America's greatest metropolis resembled some city in stricken Europe. A little fuel oil rolled into the city by truck -- a mere trickle compared to its normal consumption of three million gallons daily -- it went directly to power plants and hospitals. Then --

47. The stubby, long-forgotten little tugs were back in action, the ten-day strike was settled. New York licked its wounds and counted its financial loss. Though it would not soon forget the great tug strike of 1946, the big town was itself once more.