

at the hands of the Government. In answer to three questions, kindred to each other, the Government admitted that it had communications, relative to oil, from the Imperial Government, but that they were of so confidential a nature as to preclude their submission to the members of Senate. In his answer to this, Senator Domville made a startling, nay, an astounding answer. He demanded to know why documents, too confidential to be submitted to the Senators, should have been submitted to the Imperial Oil Company, and that without the knowledge or consent of the company who were making efforts to develop the oil from shale business—presumably in New Brunswick. The Secretary of the Interior, or whoever should have replied to the almost unbelievable assertion of Senator Domville, made no reply, if Hansard is to be credited. The Record might not be so perturbed at the Senator's uncontradicted assertions, were not ugly rumors afloat that the same oil company, which has seemingly wormed itself into the good graces of the Federal authorities, is attempting, nay, rather has succeeded in securing, through parties credited with a strong political pull, concessions from the Nova Scotia government that will result in the relegation of any exploitation of oil shales to an indefinite future. The concessions go far beyond any interpretation of the law as contained in the Mines and Minerals Act; are indeed nothing short of the unblushing setting aside—confiscation—of the rights of others, who have a fervent desire to see the establishment of oil shale works in Nova Scotia. It is proposed by the Department of Mines to take the 'Rights' of certain parties in shale lands summarily from them, and that without giving them any opportunity of saying why this should not be done. The lease applied for but not yet granted, would give the known shale lands in Pictou County, almost wholly to one individual. The Government may have some justification in granting the asked for lease, if explicit and substantial guarantees are given, by the lessee, that the one object, in asking for the lease, is the immediate development of the oil shale industry, and that a substantial sum has been deposited with the government, which shall be forfeited if the stringent conditions to be embodied in the lease, are not faithfully complied with.

It may be asked why attach stringent conditions to a lease in this instance and not in others? For the simple reason that this is no ordinary lease, which gives the holder certain inherent rights and privileges, but a lease that is boldly, unblushingly and unreasonably encroaching on the rights of others. Possibly the holders would yield these rights with more or less grace if they thought the surrender—or confiscation—was to result in good to the community. But they are not so convinced; rather are they of opinion that they are being despoiled so that some one individual or corporation may be enriched, or get rid of possible competition. We do not intend to let the subject drop, but will keep at it until satisfied further protest will result in no gain to the province, or until sufficient reasons are given by the Dept. of Mines for its most extraordinary decision.

At Dominion No. 2 the haulage is being extended on both No's. 3, north and south. Haulage also is being extended on No. 1 of this mine:

- Rubs by Rambler. -

The Sec'y.-Treas. of the Nova Scotia U. M. W. has returned from the several conventions held at distant points in Canada and the United States, refreshed in body and—if we are to believe certain of the newspapers—renewed in mind. It is said truly of travel that it widens ones vision, and—again if we are to believe the papers—it has given the Sec.-Treas. a new and unclouded vision.

The Sec'y.-Treas. in his old role gained some notoriety; if he plays his new role sensibly he will secure fame, a far more desirable asset. If the Sec'y.-Treas. persists in adhering to his expressed opinion that there shall be no sixty per cent. increase of wages demand, then he will have as a colleague Vice-Pres. Ryan, whose one public utterance since his election contained more common sense than all the utterances of the union leaders, that the Halifax Herald so industriously and so foolishly 'featured'. The Mining Record has hitherto been unable to place the Sec'y.-Treas. on one of its prized pedestals, but if he continues to tread boldly and consistently, the path upon which it is said he has entered, we shall not be slow in extending to him a due modicum of appreciation.

OFFICIAL DENIALS.—Funny things, arn't they? Hard to fathom their depth; almost as hard at times to conclude that they are only vaneer. It has been 'officially' denied that there is any truth in the reported merger of 'Scotia' and the Dominion Coal Co., and it is 'officially' denied that the negotiations between 'Scotia' and the Acadia are still off. The wording of the official denial of a merger is 'nothing doing' and of the negotiations for the purchase of the Acadia 'all off'. Do you believe it—I cannot say I do, for after the words 'nothing doing' and also after the words 'all off' one hears the words 'for the present'. We are told 'put not your faith in princes' this may be extended to 'nor official denials'. And that is the way of the Record, for its experience is that high officials are sometimes hell—eh. What? Well, sort of uncensored story tellers. You see, many, if not most, of the 'high' officials have taken a post graduate course in diplomacy, and as a finished diplomat is, as a rule, expected to be a polished—Eh, what again—A person who can so guild an apparent mis-statement that it be taken as a literal truth. Not the slightest information to the hasty reader is contained in the words 'for the present', but I am quite content to appropriate them as meaning 'bide avree.' I do not know what Lord Beaverbrook was over here about a few months back, but he was over for something you may bank on that, assured that at some time in the near future, something will happen.

"What District 26. (Nova Scotia) will do, cannot be stated as yet. Board member Barrett is here for the purpose of looking over the situation. He will wire Indianapolis if he thinks a strike in this district is advisable."—Glance Bay Gazette.

And, so, Mr. Baxter is the deciding factor. Suppose Indianapolis says 'strike', will the U. M. W.