

hesitancy to be lavish of truth when age is referred to. The ages given in this case were those given the inquisitors. The report has now been in the hands of those interested for several weeks and appears to have been generally well received. The government also has approved of it to, at least, some extent though evidently not inclined to go so far as the Commissioners in the matter of amounts to be given beneficiaries, or more properly perhaps contributors. The scheme of the government cannot correctly be called an old age pension scheme. It is better than that. It might also be called a conditional compulsory thrift scheme, and I much prefer that to a pension pure and simple from the state.

A Glace Bay member of the P. W. A. asked by movement among some of the lodges of the order for connection with the U. M. W. of America, said it was from a desire to annex themselves to a strong body which could give large financial support in case of a strike. This member said that the P. W. A., either to establish a strong strike fund or join the U. M. W. This members name is given in a C. B. paper as McDougall. I have met one of that name and if he is the one who was in communication with the reporter of the C. B. paper I am not a little surprised. I took him, and take him still, notwithstanding this reported utterance, to be a man of strong common sense and sound judgement. I may at one time have thought that a strike fund was a formidable weapon, offensive and defensive, I have been taught by experience, and no longer think so. If a strike fund is necessary in Britain or America it is not necessary in Nova Scotia. The strongest trades union society in the world, if not in numbers then on the justice of its cause, thought it would try conclusions with the British Master Engineers. We all know what the result was, defeat. And so in other cases, where the strength of their funds led societies to try conclusions, the results were similar. Supposing the P. W. A. had had for the last quarter of a century a million dollars in fund, would more progress have been made materially, socially or physically? I stoutly maintain the negative, indeed, on the contrary, the miners of Nova Scotia might not to-day be in advance of those of any other country. The Knights of Labor, their predecessors and successors, relied a good deal on their bank balances. And what came of it all? Precious little. The Knights of Labor, the U. M. W. this Federation and that, did not secure for their members a tithe as much as did the P. W. A. for its adherents. To-day there is one thing that stands in good stead of a big strike fund, and that is public opinion. I would rather have a good cause and public opinion on my side, than a doubtful cause and a million dollars of a strike fund. In some isolated cases might may still be right, in a majority right sweeps the field. I would ask Mr. McDougall calmly and quietly if the miners of Nova Scotia have not made great progress during the last twenty-five years at an amazingly trifling cost. He cannot deny it. I ask him if we have not a more intelligent, and as capable a class of workmen as they have across the line. He cannot

gainsay that either. Why then any desire for a change? A defence fund may be of service, but not for a moment must it be considered an essential let alone a sine qui non.

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### THE STEEL—COAL LITIGATION.

"If the Dominion Coal Company and the Dominion Iron & Steel Company were ordinary litigants no one outside their proprietary would have any right to ask them to stop their protracted duel in the law courts. But the Canadian people have an enormously large interest at stake. It is getting on for thirty years since a duty was imposed on coal to bring about the development of the Nova Scotia mines. Since then the cost of every ton burnt in Canada has been augmented by that act, the burden falling for the most part upon Ontario, the chief manufacturing Province. Where the duty is paid in the first instance by the railways it is, of course, transferred in the form of higher rates to the shoulders of shipper and consignee. Exactly how much it has cost Canadians since 1878 is difficult to say; we know what it has yielded in revenue to the Federal treasury, but cannot ascertain how many millions it has conveyed to the revenues of the interested industries. And, after all, there is not a great deal in the way of national development to show for it, Nova Scotia coal being still unable to compete with American anywhere west of Montreal."

"We do not, of course, ask the Government to interfere in this affair that the National Policy may be saved from its friends, but in order that the generous sacrifices made by the community towards the building up of these two great companies may not be dissipated in a huge lawsuit into which an undue amount of personal acrimony seems to have entered, and which, whatever the result may be, can only embitter the existing situation and postpone any final settlement upon a just and equitable basis."

The above is from the Toronto Globe, and is in line with almost everything that has been written favoring Government interference in the big Steel-Coal dispute. All were anxious that the Government, if it were within its province, should intervene in the interests of a speedy and reasonable settlement, but all are not agreed upon the grounds, as stated in the Globe, justifying interference. The settlement is desirable in the interests of the industrial development o