

our scattered powers could be put of which the more vigorous prosecution of our mineral development is only one. Besides, very many of our powers are sufficiently large to warrant the expense of quite lengthy transmission lines in order to utilize the power at some more convenient point where manufacturing can be more economically carried on.

REPRODUCTION BY THE MINE

#### OLD AGE PENSION SCHEMES

In spite of the objections which have been and are still being urged against compulsory old age pensions, the development of state projects along this line is one of the striking characteristics of European politics to-day. France has just been confronted by a plan drawn up by M. Cheron, of the Department of Labor, which will affect no fewer than 72,000,000 workers, while in Great Britain, Mr. Lloyd George's invalidity insurance scheme, which supplements the present old age pensions, is being closely and anxiously scanned by men experienced in public finance who fear that its enforcement will cost an amount far in excess of the estimates of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. M. Cheron's scheme, however, is worth studying from a purely academic standpoint. Its essential point is that every wage-earner, earning less than \$200 annually, who is employed in industry, commerce, agriculture or domestic service and who is at present without title to a pension under one of other of the existing laws, is to be made to contribute a certain proportion of his or her earnings to the pension fund on exactly the same principle which governs private insurance enterprises. If these compulsory assessments are supplemented by voluntary deposits, a state grant will accompany the pension when the statutory age of sixty-five is reached. In any case, the pension is payable at any time when permanent disability has been established. The scheme has, of course, still to face the test of actual application; moreover, it will require a number of years before it can be shown empirically to be either a success or a failure, hence the discussion which will shortly take place in the French Chamber ought to be of much value to other countries where the extension of paternal legislation is under consideration and where the necessity of wise foresight is at least as essential as in France. *Montreal Star.*

#### LEWIS AND SUCCESSOR

The American operators do not take Lewis' defeat so philosophically as those of Nova Scotia is evidenced by the following from the *Coal Trade Journal*: "The defeat of L. Lewis, as president of the national organization of the miners is received here with some disappointment, as the change to a far better man is deemed to mean new policies that will be eagerly formulated and executed by the radical Illinois element and this will mean revolt and eruption. It is highly probable that it means the coath-knell of the later State wage movement so far as wage agreements are a factor, and this will mean intensifying of competition, and variations of district wage scale that will operate to the detriment of many who are now on a relative basis of equality as to wage rates and con-

ditions of operation; also petty strikes and perturbations of an annoying character at any time a revolt by the operators against the unionization methods that have ruled since 1890, for many of them are weary of everlasting strife and contention, and look enviously on the conditions that rule in the districts from which they have their most severe competition.

REPRODUCTION BY THE MINE

#### WORKMEN'S GUILDS

Working men are not organizing in the old-fashioned "trade union or guild" way, affiliated with the National Workers' Association, whose constitution provides arbitration of differences, with agreements for no strikes, boycott, picketing or hateful coercion of any kind.

This Trades Association has evolved from the experience of the past and is the highest order of Trades Unionism at the present day.

Under its laws it is not possible for the Hod Carriers' Union or the Street Sweepers' Union to order the school teachers or locomotive engineers to quit work in a sympathetic strike.

If any craft finds injustice, the case is presented to impartially selected arbitrators, testimony taken and the case presented to the public through the press. Thereupon public opinion, that greatest of all powers, makes itself felt and, curiously enough, a fair settlement is generally the result.

There is no strike, no loss of wages, no loss to the community, and yet the faithful workers get their just share.

There are many details which have been worked out by men skilled in labor matters. These details will recompense any interested person for the details, which can be secured by a postal request for constitution and bylaws, written to the National Trades and Workers' Association, Kingston Block, Buffalo Creek, Mich.

#### PRESIDENT TAFT REPUDIATES MR. CLARK'S

SPERDING. (Continued) Mr. Clark's expressed astonishment at the reciprocity discussion in the House any thought about the annexation of Canada.

The White House is said to regard the remarks of Mr. Clark as most unfortunate, and the President has made it known that he would like to have it understood throughout the world that his administration had no thought whatever of annexation when the reciprocity agreement was arranged.

The President, it is said, is hopeful that the people of Great Britain and the United States will look upon the speech of Mr. Clark merely as the expression of an individual who, in the sentiment thus expressed, does not represent the Democratic party of any party in this country.

At the full inquiry into the explosion at Hulton Colliery, near Bolton, the general manager of the mine expressed the view that the explosion resulted from the ignition of coal dust from a spark caused by friction of the big wheel. Alternatively, it might have been originated by gas following a heavy fall of coal.