

- Rubs by Rambler. -

Scriptural texts have ramified interpretations, and taking advantage of the fact, I would through this one, "Let not your good be evil spoken of," deliver a short lecture. The Herald has a large circulation, and might be a power in the land were its articles, particularly on the Labor question, better balanced. A contemporary said lately, speaking of the attitude of the Herald, not possibly so much toward labor as to the featuring of certain labor leaders, and their vaporings, that if the miners took "drastic" action on the 1st Nov. or later came out on strike the Herald would be held in a large measure responsible. The statement cannot be called extreme. Rambler has a fearfully large mantle of mercy, but big as it is, it is not big enough to cover the Herald's shortcomings, and I am forced to endorse what a contemporary has said, and am sorry this is forced upon me, for I have known the Herald proprietor for over two score years. The very worst service a newspaper can do the workers is to so "feature" and thereby inflate rubber-headed leaders, that they become obsessed with their towering importance in the community. And when the featuring does not come at short intervals, then these leaders give utterance to further exercises of speech so that the "featuring" may be continued. Why, bless the Herald's innocent heart, does he not recognise that wild words are uttered solely that the Herald may take hold of them and do big featuring in big headlines and so keep them, the leaders, in the public gaze. I do not want the Herald's good to be evil spoken of, therefore it is that I ask it to shun evil ways and when it writes on labor questions to write sensibly, as in the following extracts from its issue of 5th inst. Then truly the Herald would be helping honest labor:—

We are not disposed to believe that there can be much real ground for the alarm now said to be felt at Ottawa. Nova Scotian miners have usually shown themselves cautious as well as intelligent men. It has been their disposition to look before they leap. There is little likelihood of their doing otherwise at present. It is only a few months since some of them had a fair taste of unemployment and consequent hard times. They cried loudly at that time for public assistance. They wanted the government to purchase and use Nova Scotia coal, regardless of price. They even insisted that this should be done; and ventured to threaten the premier with serious political consequences if he refused to comply with their wishes. They could see no reason why contracts for American coal should not be cast aside, and purchases made in Cape Breton for the purpose of giving employment to miners there, at the expense of the public.

Men who were talking in that way, and in such a tone so lately, would scarcely be in a position to strike, when all the coal they can produce will be in ready demand at good prices, providing abundant work at high wages for them. Besides they must know that general hard times are clearly in sight, when there must, and will be, almost universal

shortage of employment and reduction of wages. Now is their last chance of laying by something for the economic "rainy day," so near at hand. The American strike cannot but afford them a special opportunity. With so many mines wholly or partially shut down in the United States, there will be an unprecedented demand for coal, here and elsewhere. While the American strike lasts, there is certain to be a market for every ounce of coal which can be produced in Nova Scotia; and no miner need go unemployed, except by his own wish or rash act.

It would be worse than a rash act for them, or any of them, to attempt to dictate where or to whom the coal which they produce may be sold. All that concerns them is work for themselves, and good wages. The coal owners and the government will attend to the rest. If there is sufficient coal left to supply the needs of American vessels calling here after provision has been made for British requirements, it will undoubtedly be sold to them. The American government, in spite of its own difficulties, is most generously undertaking for the supply of Canada's needs. It has more than proportionately curtailed. It would be churlish, it would be grossly dishonest, were we to refuse or fail to accord them similar treatment.

Nova Scotia miners may therefore rest assured that nothing of the kind will be done or would be tolerated by the Canadian public, whatever they may think, say, or attempt to do. It will be better to have a clear understanding on this point at once. A miners' strike in Nova Scotia, at this time, or in the near future, would be a very deplorable thing, deplorable for the public, and still more deplorable for the miners and their families. However deplorable and disastrous it may be, it will have to be faced if necessary, and will be faced, just as it is being faced in the United States.

The issue between a very small section of the people—the coal miners—and the whole people will have to be definitely settled some time. It might as well be settled now. Those who force it to an early conclusion by unfair means, are likely to have little cause for self congratulation."

Around the Collieries.

A railway one and a quarter mile in length was built by construction Superintendent Thomson from Caledonia Mine sidings to Dom. 24 in three weeks.

Transmission lines have been built to Dominion No. 24 colliery, which pupils of the big three call Victory Number twenty-four, and the common people contentedly call "the Lake" colliery. These are used in lighting the surface and in the new deeps just started.

Development work by the Dom. Coal. Co is not confined by any means to new mines. Much is being done at Caledonia. In addition to what has already been stated a large trail rope engine is being installed in No. 13, east main level, for handling the full output of this level when its boundary line, some 7,500 feet from the entrance is reached. Late the haulage system was extended 2000 feet. The output of this one level is 400 tons daily.