

tion period.'

Thus speak the miners as we knew them in bygone days, and what does the speech declare? More than is verbally expressed. Its equivalent is this: "Never, never again, shall we, for a moment, entertain the notion that 'one' good union man is better than an indefinite number, of courteous, and benign bosses."

SUBMARINE AREAS QUESTION.

In the Chronicle of the 19th. ult. appeared an article declared to be "an interesting contribution to the discussion on the submarine areas"—from the pen of C. Ochiltree Macdonald, who, the Chronicle assures us, speaks "with the authority gained from 'long' study of submarine operations and areas."

We must, at this time, be content with the giving of the first paragraph, for the simple reason that the article, in full, could not be dissected, nor digested at one sitting. From this one extract there is sufficient to give readers delightful mental exercise, mystical and, or, amusing:

"As I was instrumental in creating the situation in the submarine coal fields of which you complain in your recent editorial 'Recall the Leases,' let me explain my part of it. The trouble began in a speculative raid, under the 'machinery' of the Mines Act, upon the submarine coal easements of Sydney Mines, which was made possible by an infirmity in the Mines Act, Coal areas which should have been reserved by the Government to provide room for the continuous undersea expansion of Sydney Mines, and which the operators of those famous old collieries undoubtedly expected would always be at their disposal, were vested in persons who handed them over to their keenest rivals, the Dominion Coal Company, Limited."

It is somewhat mystifying to understand how the writer in the Chronicle was instrumental in creating a situation which existed, looked at from one point of view, over sixty years ago; and from another point, fifty-one years ago, when the G. M. A. were stirred into action by parties taking up submarine areas for a long stretch along the sea shore. It is told us no one should have been permitted to come in front of the G. M. A. What would that have meant? Just this, that the company would never have thought of taking up a submarine area, until it suited them. It is gravely told us that the G. M. A. expected that the submarine areas would ever be at their disposal, for extension of operations. What simple souls must have been at the head of that corporation. The areas in front of those of the G. M. A. "were leased to persons who handed them over to their keenest rivals, the Dominion Coal Co'y." 'Handed them over' is a handy phrase—possibly the word 'sold' covers the point in shorter terms. From 1867 to 1893, a period of 26 years, the G. M. A. had an opportunity to purchase the areas now under discussion. Was it to be expected that the sellers to the Dominion Coal Co. were to refrain from selling to any but the G. M. A., and to await their buying pleasure?

The Record is a firm believer in giving honor to whom honor is due, and we are 'awfully' sorry we cannot give the Chronicle writer the credit of having been "instrumental in creating the situation". His creative energies were wholly expended in the

Glace Bay district, and consisted in his advising—so he tells us further on in the article—the late J. F. Stairs—then, presumably, President of Scotia—to play the Dominion a Roland for their Oliver, by taking up areas further seaward than those held by the Dominion. 'These areas have nothing in the world to do with the present 'situation'. The discussion centres round the areas at Florence, and not at all around those at, or near, Glace Bay. As we said we are 'awfully', that is, really and truly, sorry we cannot accept the Chronicle writers' assumption that he was a creator, not to say 'the' creator, of the present situation, around the shores of C. B. We have said the former G. M. A. heads must have been simple bodies. This is made clearer when we state that the Mines Act expressly gives permission to drier through areas held by others than the ones contemplating the 'driving', in order to reach areas outside those being worked. Of course there may be this excuse for the G. M. A.: they did not think—few thought fifty years ago—that it would ever be profitable to mine coal two miles under the sea.

It is told us that parties who sold the areas in front of 'Scotia' to the Dominion Coal Company had leased them from the Government owing to an 'infirmity' in the Mines Act. 'Infirmity' let it stand, but instead of glorying at being at the creation of the situation, instead of advising the late J. F. Stairs to take advantage of this alleged infirmity, he should have scorned the role of tempter, even though an honest attitude might possibly have precluded his having a share in the creation of the present situation.

OPERATORS AND WORKERS.

The results of the five days conference in Sydney, between the operators and mine workers, was satisfactory, and pleasing, to both parties, especially to the operators, who are relieved from the odious responsibility of increasing the price of coal to a large proportion of the community, and to industrial concerns who could not carry on were there any increase in fuel costs. The results were no surprise to those who had some, if not full, knowledge of the interview, in New York, between a leading coal operator of the province, and the two heads of the U. M. W., and the further meeting of operators, and officials of the A. M. W., in Montreal. When President Workman had been given the assurance that the U. M. W. would not be parties to any hasty action on the part of the A. M. W., he was content. Seeing the A. M. W. was at present fully recognized, and already had the check off, there could be no visible harm in continuing this system, in event of an amalgamation, the A. M. W. with the U. M. W.

In the matter of the eight hour day, the operators came to the conclusion that they better make seeming of having granted the concession, wholly voluntarily, than being compelled to grant it under compulsion from a vote seeking legislature. If it is proven, after a trial, that, as alleged, as much work can be done in eight hours, as in ten, the operators will be glad the concession was granted. The eight hour day will make little, if any, difference to the miners, many of whom do not now work eight hours at the face. The surface men, as a whole, will be the gainers, that is, if they prefer to work

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