

of the Dominion Coal Company's board in electing two of the high employees of the company to the vacant directorships. It was commonly expected that the usual corporation practice of choosing well known capitalists would be followed. Rumor had selected the men. Mr. Robert Meigher, Mr. James Crathern, and Mr. E. B. Greenshields were mentioned. A directorship was said to have been offered to Mr. Meigher and refused. The gentlemen named are all wealthy and experienced businessmen. Any board would be strengthened by the accession of any one of them. It may be that Mr. Ross's supposed domination of the coal company was the stumbling block. The gentlemen may have felt—if the positions were offered to them—that they were hardly willing to take the responsibility of acting as directors when the whole conduct of affairs was in the hands of one man. The bad blood caused by the recent dispute would naturally also act as a deterrent. At the same time it is to be observed that a good deal is to be said in favor of a judicious policy of occasionally elevating employees. For an employee to have the honor of being appointed a director should stimulate him to redouble his efforts in the company's behalf. And no doubt Mr. Ross found, in his handling the steel company matter, that the presence of some of his capitalistic directors was a considerable inconvenience."

Professor Carruthers has had something to say, and promises more, before the Sunday afternoon meeting of the Y. M. C. A. From the digest of his lecture in the Halifax papers I am not prepared to say he has given his subject exhaustive study. If I professed to understand socialism, in its many aspects, I might be inclined to criticize Mr. Carruthers position. He makes some statements that are revelations. For instance he said that it was only within the last thirty years that workmen have been coming into their own. I was under the impression that they had been evolving since the time of the French revolution, not to go further back. The Chartist movement came into being twice thirty years ago, and that movement broke, in some degree, the power of the land owners. Mr. Carruthers further said that the general name under which millions of workmen are banded together for reform is socialism. The general name I thought was Trades Unionism; and that a very large majority of the millions repudiate being called socialists is attested to by the fact that the socialists have not yet had their platform endorsed at the International meetings of workmen. The ablest and best of the workmen's representatives in Britain repudiate the name of socialists. John Burns, the best of them all, lately declared that he was no state socialist, which was equivalent to saying he was simply a reformer. Socialism is not new; that of the present day takes its cue from the motto of the French revolutionists. Mr. Carruthers says "Socialism does not propose to seize and divide the property of men," and then he quotes with approval the following part platform of the socialists:—

1. "That the land and all the machinery, tools and buildings used in making useful things, together with all the canals, rivers, roads, railways, ships and such like, used in distributing useful things, and all markets, scales, weights and all money used in selling or dividing

useful things, shall belong to the nation (the people)."

2. "That the land, tools, machines, trains, rivers, shops, scales, money, and all the other things belonging to the people, shall be worked, managed, divided and used by the whole people in such a way as the greatest number of the people shall deem best."

Is not confiscation involved in that programme.

How else can all these things be obtained. The programme goes too far or does not go far enough. Is the patent office to be abolished; is no account to be taken of brains, which are responsible for a large proportion of the wealth of today. Mr. Carruthers says the 'statement' setting forth the aims of socialism "is just what you hear from a large body of people to-day calling for when they say, Canada for the Canadians." Can that be so, I would think that the statement and the cry were wide apart as the polls. The foundation on which socialism is said to be built is the 'Brotherhood of man'. There is not much of that, is there, in Canada for the Canadians. Follow it out—Canada for the Canadians: Quebec for Quebecers, Nova Scotia for Nova Scotians, Halifax for Halifaxians, the Town for townies, family for family, every man for himself and the Old Harry take the brotherhood of man in Sydney does he mean a local brotherhood; if in Montreal, a provincial brotherhood; if in Ottawa, a national brotherhood. I thought there was no meaning in the phrase unless it implied universality. The first motto of socialism was reasonable. It was 'a fair field and no favor'; the second is scarcely so, as it is equal to a demand for all the field and all the favors.

I take it that the Pictou Advocate, though one of the papers that has had something to say on the dear coal in the province question, is amenable to reason, and if certain facts are presented to it will not turn away from them. In justice to the Advocate let me say that I understand its original criticism was not so much on the high price of coal as on the fact that consumers in towns not far distant from the collieries could not obtain coal when it was sorely needed. I admit it looked a little absurd that markets hundreds of miles distant from the mines should be well supplied with coal, while there was a dearth at the very doors of the mines. I can imagine what the feelings of consumers in Pictou might be under such circumstances, and if they resorted to strong language they were more or less excusable. I am assured by one operator that had the supply of cars been adequate there would have been less cause for complaint, but a chief reason given for inability to supply on demand was that contracts had been entered into to which must be filled, which demanded first attention. And there is much, it must be admitted, in this contention. In order that the operator may be in a position to conduct operations during the entire year to the best advantage, it is necessary that he goes searching for orders in the spring. The local trade is a small and an uncertain quantity, and he cannot build on receiving considerable orders at stated times. Therefore he takes contracts in the spring covering his probable output for the year. He does not pass Pictou or any other town in the county wantonly by. He will enter into a contract with any dealer for a given quantity. If no dealer will assume the risk of guaranteeing a stated quantity why should the operator forego a bird in the hand for a possible bird in the bush. As a rule the operators do not get orders in the spring equal to the anticipated output of the mine. Output is, however, un-