

## - Rubs by Rambler.

It is the bounden duty of every well-wisher of his country, of every one who desires to see the masses **prosper materially, socially, and intellectually**, to say or do nothing which may tend to provoke unnecessary discontent. Indeed, it lies to the heart of every patriot to do all possible to prevent conflicts, minor or major, between capital and labor. I am aware there are those who dispute such philosophy—and I am sorry. Some of these are to be found among the workmen sitting in the chief seats as leaders. Every leader of a workmen's union, alive to his opportunities and responsibilities, will, on the other hand, give ready assent. McDonald, the foremost leader the Scottish miners have had as yet, gave adhesion to similar sentiments after he had gone through his first big strike. Bell, the leader of the British Railway men, gave lately tacit assent to similar sentiments, when he would not hear tell of an open conflict until every other available resource had failed. He stood firm in the conviction that peace was preferable to strife, though many were ready to denounce him as a quitter. Bell is an ideal leader. And what is my idea of such a one? Well, Ramsay MacDonald, with all his fluency, is not one. He was annoyed that peace was arranged before a blow was struck. Who is an ideal leader? Well that is no poser. He is one who leads and who will not budge from his position, when convinced he is right, though howling hordes call upon him to alter his course. We have some little leaders, in some parts of this Province, who think it is the first duty of a leader to be continually cursing capitalists, to be fomenting strife by railing at capital and denouncing its greed, trickery and tyranny. The men who never have a kind word to say for their employees ought to be watched. Indeed, they should be cast out the workmen's synagogue for if they are not themselves selfish to the core, they are inexcessably ignorant and thoughtless. At the time of the Springhill strike a little leader is reported to have said: "Pioneer will bring out Mechanic Lodge." That was a very curious speech. It is to be hoped the Mechanics were not "brought," but came out without compulsion. Neither Pioneer, nor the Sub-Council, nor yet the Grand Council can "bring" out any lodge of the P. W. A. Thank goodness the walking delegate is as yet an unknown quantity in Nova Scotia—keep the rascals out

Many of our native workmen look upon Belgians, Austrians and other Europeans as being very much behind the times. They are looked at as half barbarians. It is very funny how we have got it into our heads that we are the people, the real stuff, and all the others are simply following far off. If a Yankee or an Englishman or a Nova

Scotian—a Scotchman knows better—thinks that because many poor and strange-looking people come from Europe that therefore the countries they hail from are but semi-civilized, they are a little bit mistaken. Why even from Austria we in this thought to be advanced civilization can learn something. In Britain, in America and in Nova Scotia boys of twelve years are permitted to work in the pit. They cannot now employ boys in Austrian mines below sixteen. A new Ministerial ordinance decrees that no young persons (boys under sixteen and girls under eighteen) shall be employed in mining work between 8 p. m. and 5 a. m., except that where there are two day shifts youths may work till 11 p. m. To prevent overstrain, the period of rest during work shall be an hour longer than in the case of adults, and except in special cases shall be so arranged that continuous work shall not exceed four hours at a time. No overtime is to be worked except when adult labor is not available, and even then the tasks must be suited to the strength of the workers. Any young persons kept at work on Sundays must be allowed a day off during the ensuing week. Exemptions from these regulations is only permitted when a medical certificate has been obtained to show that the young person (male) will not suffer in health from the task allotted. In the case of child labor (between the ages of twelve and fourteen), the mining officials before granting permission must satisfy themselves that the work (above ground only) is of suitable character, and that the hours do not conflict with school hours. No overtime, night work, or Sunday work is allowed.

We hear a good deal these days about the Chinaman and the Jap, and occasionally a growl about the Belgian, or other foreigner. Why are the Chinaman and the Jap so much denounced? They are undesirable, we are told, because they are immoral, etc., etc. Now I'm not so sure that these are the reasons. The most forcible reason operating in the minds of the workmen is, I think, that the Jap is ready to work at all times, and at a lower wage than the white man. Well, that is a good reason, perhaps, for the workmen bring opposed to an influx of Japanese, but it may not be a sufficiently strong reason for any government to keep them out. Sometimes the truth comes sputtering out. There is at least one labor leader who is candid enough to declare that he is not opposed to the sons of the Orient, because they are filthy; quite the opposite. This labor leader in the Transvaal lately gave utterance to these significant words: "It is not the vices of the Chinaman that we fear, but the virtues." What did he mean? He meant that the Chinaman was frugal, industrious, patient, painstaking, and willing to do the task allotted to him; and, above all, that he did not lose time by frequenting drinking saloons. The