

## MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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The RECORD is devoted to the Mining—particularly Coal Mining—Industries of the Maritime Provinces.

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## THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

We shall all be glad if the new Industrial Disputes Investigation Act accomplished, even in part, the good for which it was enacted. But it may not be in the best interests of the Act itself that it should get credit to which it may not rightly be entitled. In the last issue of the Labor Gazette appears the following, in reference to the stoppage of work at Springhill the beginning of April, when the union men stopped work in order to induce those out of union to join the P. W. A.:

"These telegrams were read by the Minister of Labour in the House of Commons on April 8th. Under the circumstances the establishment of the Board was not further proceeded with.

It appears that the men in suspending work in the mines at Springhill had been under the impression that the new legislation did not apply to the Province of Nova Scotia. They had not intended infringing its provisions, and when, as a result of enquiries addressed to the Department of Labour, they were assured that Nova Scotia was included in the scope of the Act, together with every other province in Canada, they returned to work without further delay. A few days subsequently, according to reports furnished to the Department, the non-unionists were persuaded to join the Provincial Workmen's Association, and the object of the unionists was thus attained."

Sometimes one's memory fails him, but our recollection of the incident is not that the men returned to work as soon as they were assured that the Act applied to Nova Scotia. Our impression was that they went back to work—to put it tersely as soon as they were ready—or in longer sentence, they went back to work after they had succeeded in inducing all the non-unionists to become members of one or other of the lodges. That is the impression remaining in our minds of the incident, and if the impression is correct then it follows that the Act played no part in the men returning to work. It has proven a success in one or two instances, and in an instance or two it has proved a disappointment. There are those inclined to the view that the Act cannot become a pronounced success until the federal authorities assume the responsibility of enforcing its provisions, and of course there are some who say they will not do that.

## THE NOVA SCOTIA STEEL &amp; COAL CO.'S. NEW FORGE.

In order to better cope with their rapidly increasing trade for their finished products, the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co.'s. are engaged in the erection of a large new forge. The building will be 75 feet wide by 240 feet long, and will be fitted throughout with the best machinery for the rapid and economical handling of heavy axles, etc. The building will be equipped with axle hammers, furnaces, and other machinery necessary for the production of no fewer than 300 axles per day. The new building so far as sidings, trains etc. go will have a capacity double that of the present hammer and machine department.

The siding for unloading billets and loading the axles will be inside of the building, and the unloading will be done by an electric crane and magnets instead of as at present by hand, a method tedious and expensive. The axles and billets will be carried to the hammers, to and fro, entirely by electric cranes, thus doing away with a large amount of manual labor. While the costs will be reduced, the efficiency will be materially increased. Everything in and in connection with the new forge will be of the most approved type, as up-to-date as it is possible to obtain. As was stated in a previous issue the building of a forge is not the only thing the company have in view in the way of extension and improvement, but these cannot be pushed forward at the present time as the company have all that they can do in overtaking the unprecedented demand for their products pouring in from all quarters of Canada.

## CONTROL OF MINING RIGHTS.

The new regulations respecting coal mining rights, the property of the Crown in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Yukon Territory, and Dominion lands generally, will delight the heart of Dr. Kendall. The new regulations provide that mining rights may be leased for twenty one years at an annual rental of ten dollars an acre, payable in advance, and no tract leased shall exceed four miles in its greatest dimension. Not only that, but the lessee will not be able to assign his rights without the consent of the Minister of Interior, and actual settlers shall be entitled to buy at the pit's mouth whatever coal they may require for their own use, but not for a barter or sale, at a price not to exceed one dollar and seventy-five cents a ton. The leases issued for coal rights are to be subject to these provisions. In addition to rent a royalty of five cents a ton of two thousand pounds will be levied on the output of the mine. The regulations also prevent the holding of coal for speculative purposes, and the lands must be operated or the leases will be liable to cancellation. It will be seen, says the Montreal Witness, that the government not only fixes the price, above which the mine operator must not charge the settler at the pit's mouth, but it forbids the settler to sell or barter such coal. Supposing, however, it happened that one settler in the severest weather had plenty of coal and another had none, would a little bartering be a crime? Any way, it is all "an interference with the liberty of the subject."