

called strike in C. B. It is strange that men like Mr. Vannie Nicholson, whose looks betray no symptoms of insanity, should be possessed with the idea that the U. M. W.'s so far, have had the best of the fight, and that they will ultimately prevail. Master Vannie is reported to have said, while touring the mining districts in Pictou last week, that he knew more about the situation than the Record, and that what that paper said in reference to the Company steadily winning out was nonsense. He, Vannie, knew better. The Dominion Coal Co. were beaten badly, and they knew it. Suppose for argument's sake we admit the first part of Master Vannie's statement to be correct, the second part has not a vestige of truth in it. The Dominion Coal Co. have not the most remote idea that they are beaten, they 'don't' know it, and a further thing to be noted is that no one in the province knows it, outside of the U. M. W. encampment. If a man like Vannie can be carried away by such pitiable delusion, it is little wonder that his associates, Poles, Hungarians, Russians et al have also had their vision twisted.

If there is one who takes a keener delight, than any other, in watching the conflict which has waged the past three months between the Dominion Coal Co. and a portion of its workmen, that one is the supposed proprietor of the Sydney Post. Readers of that paper, rightly or wrongly, concluded that every movement of the foreign society had the unreserved benediction of the Post proprietor. Some evil minded persons even hint that he took special delight in following the conspiracy case. Some might even go the length of quoting the proverb about the dirty bird, but that scarcely applies as he was gently squeezed out the next years ago. From Mr. Morrow's cross examination, in the conspiracy case in Halifax, it appears that the one who is supposed to watch the prosecution gleefully was himself at one time a conspirator. The following telegram seems to bear this out: "International Pier, August 14, 1900: Mr. R. Morrow. Price screened coal raised to three dollars ton from to-morrow, fifteenth; will not sell any other grade."

J. S. McLennan.

It is possible that this J. S. McLennan is the same gentleman as he who was Sales Agent for the Dominion Coal Co. during the years the company's operations were not considered satisfactory.

At the Conservative convention in Truro no notice whatever was taken of the Legislative Council. The abolition of the Council the convention recognized was no good as a battle cry. The Halifax Herald referring to this omission says a Legislative Council might be permissible if it were an independent body free from party control. The Herald censures the President of the Council for appearing on a party platform. The procedure of the House of Lords governs the procedure of the Legislative Council, at least is supposed to do so. Some months ago there was a terrible fuss made in the House of Commons because a noble lord had written a letter favoring the candidature of a certain Tory. A committee was appointed to enquire into his conduct. The verdict was not guilty but don't do it again. Perhaps the Herald had this in mind when it rated the President of the Council. In this instance I must confess I have considerable sympathy with the Herald's opinion. If the Legislative Council is to be merely an echo of the government when its friends are

in power, or deadly opponents when its opponents hold the reins, then I might almost be tempted to say with the Herald *cui bono*. Of course there is no pleasure in confessing that the point made by the Herald is not a bad one. That paper's course of late has been so unpatriotic, not to use a harsher phrase, that one scarcely cares to hold any view in common with it.

Nothing in the way of political economy comes hard to some socialists. A stroke of the pen, and, what seems to others, complex problems, are finally settled. A New Glasgow philosopher who imagines he is a socialist tells us how to get cheap coal. Here is his way: "Profits come from the surplus labor of the men and in no other way To whom does the surplus belong? Surely to the workers. Then we come to the conclusion that the men are always right when they strike for more pay. But when the men get all the companies will go out of business, because there are no profits; the men can then afford to sell coal cheaper and have more pay, see?" How simple it is all. Don't you see it? Coal is selling say at three dollars. Of that labor gets \$2.50, and the government and capitalists get the remainder. Under the new regime the government and the capitalists are, in some miraculous way, to be cut out, and the men are 'to get it all.' Having got it all are they likely to part with it. You bet they won't. Like leeches they will hold on to it and the result is there cannot be any reduction in price to the consumer. Socialists declare they are under paid now. They want the masters profit. Having got it will they immediately part with it and give it to the general public. No, they will apply it to increase their wages which they declare are too low. Socialism as propounded by some uncertain of themselves people is a fearful and wonderful thing.

Some of the papers seem to be under the impression that a renewal of the contract between the P. W. A. and the Dominion Coal Co. is the death knell of the strike. That may be too hopeful a view. It is no doubt a big feather in the cap of the P. W. A. but it may not mean an immediate cessation of hostilities. It may be the signing is one of many death knells. The prosecution in Halifax is a knell, and the signing of the contract a louder knell, but there will still be some kicking and pretense of vitality. There must be no lulling to sleep, a vigorous warfare must be kept up until the enemy is driven out of the land. So long as they remain in C. B. or Inverness or Cumberland Co., the U. M. W.'s are a menace to the peace and prosperity of the province.

The Dominion Iron and Steel Co. has closed a contract with the Canada Foundry company, Toronto, for the construction of an additional blast furnace (complete) extension to Bessemer plant and two 500 hundred ton open hearth furnaces (complete) or new type and for carrying out of the new process in making of open hearth steel. This contract involves the expenditure of over half a million of dollars.

The contractors, the Canada Foundry Company, Limited, conduct the largest machine works in the Dominion, outside of the railway shops, are general engineers and founders and have large bridge works, pipe foundry, iron foundry, machine and boiler shops.