

be said to have touched the pockets of the people as a whole? You know there are hosts of people who do not begin to think, who do not realize what is happening around them until their pockets are touched. By the way: if there are some in Pictou County earning inadequate wages there are others earning what may be called princely sums. I have been told of workers, piece workers probably, who are making as high as a hundred and twenty-five dollars a fortnight. That's not a bad wage, and should enable them to provide against the possible future rainy day.

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Scotsburn, Pictou County, is famous for its delicious butter, and, if he keeps at it, may also become famous for displays of delicious innocence by the secretary of its creamery. He must have been a man of the stamp of the secretary whom Sydney Smith had been conversing with when he uttered his atrocious libel about the Scot and the hammer. Rambler recognizes how much he misses in not being able to claim the secretary as even a distant acquaintance. That may not prevent Rambler from saying that the secretary is a guileless gentleman. I have a right to assume that, seeing the secretary as asserts that Rambler does not measure up to the standard, and surely no man would belittle another, who himself is below par. The secretary is very much put out over Rambler's article on "Farmer Barons." He declares that they are neither thieves nor robbers, and that they are not "highwaymen who take your goods—giving no returns." The secretary says he read Rambler's article twice. The first reading led him to conclude that a huge joke was being perpetrated, the second reading convinced him that Rambler really meant all he said, and, therefore, proved himself an unenlightened person. The secretary erred in not reading the article a third time. Had he done so he might have seen the point of my observations. But I am glad he didn't for his reply was so amusing that I had more than one pleasant chuckle. What was the stand Rambler took in reference to the farmer barons? He sought to show that if the coal operators were robber barons then farmers were a worse lot of banditti. Rambler never believed, though many people and many papers had asserted, that the operators were barefaced robbers, or anything of the kind, but if they were robber barons then they were eclipsed by a new order, who took two dollars more from the public, than in former days, for every one dollar taken by coal operators. If because they had increased the price of coal by five hundred thousand dollars to fifty thousand householders, they were held to be barons of the robber kind, then surely the farmers, who had increased prices by over a million dollars (revised figures), had won a prior right to the title. I am sorry the secretary's knowledge of coal mining is limited. He should not "dig" miners in the ribs seeing they are responsible in part, being good customers, for the high prices of farm produce prevailing in Pictou Co. Take this, from the secy.: "If the farmer could do as does the coal man, take his pick and shovel and dig butter by the ton from some part of his domain, it would be another question, but not so is the farmer's good fortune. Each and every pound of butter represents an amount of labor that the consumer has no idea of." For the secretary's information I might say

that in the digging of coal a shovel is unnecessary. After the coal is dug the shovel plays its part. Let me close by parodying the latter part of the sentence quoted: "Each and every ton of coal represents an amount of labor that the consumer—and the creamery secretary—has no idea of." Since 1839 to the present time is seventy-seven years. Of these years, to the coal operators seventy have been lean, and seven only fat. And yet the coal operators have been called robber barons. The sting of the secretary's letter is in its tail. He accuses the coal barons of being coal diggers. They'll never forgive him.

### NOT YET A DEMOCRATIC ARMY.

Although all classes have contributed to the formation of our new armies, I am afraid it is true that class is still an army institution. For example, an officer may not be seen eating with a private in a public restaurant. If an officer has a brother who is a private he cannot go with him to a place of entertainment. Presumably the rule is intended to promote and preserve discipline, but the discipline we want in the army is not one based upon class or rank, but upon that real respect which is always granted to the naturally superior man. When the cricket eleven chooses a captain it obeys him implicitly, not because he is of a different class, but because of the proper rank democratically conferred upon him. You shall see him on the cricket field move his finger, and one of his men, as much a "gentleman" as himself, obey the movement of that finger like lightning. That is the true discipline and that is the true democracy, and nothing short of it will avail in the long run either in the army that fights or in the army that works.

### CANADA'S DENTAL CORPS.

One of the remarkable developments of the war has been the creation of the Canadian Army Dental Corps. It is understood that there is no such corps in any of the allied armies, not even in the British army. The significance of this statement will be understood when it is stated that dental defects are responsible for more rejections of recruits than any other single cause. Of one time or another 10 per cent. of a dentally neglected army is rendered unfit for service by dental troubles, and trench life tends greatly to accentuate such troubles. Many thousands of men now serving in the Canadian expeditionary forces owe their admission to the army to the Canadian Dental Corps, which was created in 1915, and has already performed several hundred thousand operations upon recruits and casualties. It has a personnel of about 2,000, in Canada and overseas. It is represented in all of the larger military units of the Canadian army, and its services are much in demand beyond the Canadian lines, that is to say amongst the other allied forces. Its success has been such as to lead an observer to say that when the story of Canada's effort in the war comes to be written in sober English it will be found that the Canadian government and people have shown an adaptability and a quick efficiency seldom equaled in the world's history.

### ANOTHER WELLINGTON.

"It may well be that we are watching in Sir Douglas Haig the rise of a very great general indeed."—Sketch.