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## KITCHEN WORK MADE EASY.

Blackening stoves is not a pleasant task for the housewife. Try slipping a paper bag over the hand holding the brush, thus preventing the hand and nails from getting black.

As paraffin is removed from the jelly, wash it well and drop in a discarded clean coffee-pot, where it is kept from dust. When wanted, put the pot on the stove, melt paraffin and pour from pot on jelly, etc.

A tin pie-plate used on your oil-stove under saucepans will save the time and cost of cleaning the chimneys of your stove when the contents boil over.

In order to keep all hints and helps in a convenient form, put a small wooden file box with a card-index. Paste the suggestions on the cards under their proper headings as, sewing, cleaning, etc.

When the bristles of the carpet-sweeper become soft from use, put a little common baking-soda in some hot water, take the brush from the sweeper, dip it up and down in this solution and let dry in the sun. It will resemble a new brush.

Salt sprinkled on any substance burning on the stove, or in the oven, will stop the smoke and smell.

In the absence of scouring-powder, wipe the sink dry and then dampen a cloth with kerosene and scrub.

Soak all old papers well in water, fold them into rolls, dry, and you have excellent kindling for the fire.

When scouring knives and forks, use a cork instead of a cloth, and you will be delighted to see how easily they clean.

Save old hot-water bags and cut in to mats for use under flower-pots. They save the table.

The cane seats of chairs can be tightened by sponging them with hot water.

White twine knitted or crocheted in squares makes fine dish-cloths. Two or three of these sewed together make good pads to put under hot dishes.

## "NOVA SCOTIA EVENING" IN FLORIDA

(From "Tourist News", St. Petersburg, Fla.)

"Nova Scotia Evening" was observed by the Canadian Society at the last regular meeting in the city hall, and Mrs. A. D. Elderkin, of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, was in charge.

Mrs. Lewis Chipman, of Yarmouth, N. S., acted as chairman.

Three addresses of fifteen minutes each were given as follows: "Problems of Nova Scotia and the Maritime Provinces", by Mr. R. W. Hendry, of Halifax, N. S.; "The Fisheries of Nova Scotia", Mr. H. B. Short, Digby, N. S.; "Sketches of Nova Scotia", Mrs. A. D. Elderkin, Wolfville, N. S.

The speakers were all prominent in their provinces, which added interest to their talks. Mr. Hendry is well known in shipping circles. Mr. Short is president of the Maritime Fish Corporation and Mrs. Elderkin is a prominent club woman.

Mr. Scott delighted the audience with a series of vocal selections and was heartily cheered. Miss Craig entertained with several violinello numbers which were enthusiastically received.

A pleasant social half hour with dainty refreshments followed the meeting.

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## WESTERN BACHELORS NEED NOT BE LONELY

Winnipeg—Winnipeg bachelors will not need to search England and Ireland for brides. More than 100 letters have been received up to date by the Secretary of the Winnipeg Citizen's League from lonely maids in all sections of Canada and the United States asking for particulars of the sixty-three bachelors of this district and giving all sorts of encouragement to the most bashful of them to step out and propose right away.

And so the appointment of the overseas envoy was cancelled at the last meeting of the League and a scheme of advertising for Canadian girls adopted in its stead.

The waitress was very much out of sorts. She called haughtily up to the table at which sat the grumpy customer. She slammed down the cutlery, snatched a napkin from a pile and tossed it in front of him. Then, striking a furious pose, she glared at him.

"What's the matter?" she snapped. "Couple of eggs," growled the diner. "How ya want 'em?" "Just like you."

## Here and There

In conjunction with the further loan of \$3,000,000 for colonization to be authorized by the Quebec legislature this season, it is also intended to raise the bounty to settlers on the acreage cleared. At present the government gives a bonus of \$6 an acre. It will be raised to \$8 an acre. The province spent \$30,000 in this way in the last fiscal year.

The amount of butter exported to Japan through Vancouver during 1924 was nearly twice that of 1923, according to figures supplied by the Japanese consulate at that point. The report shows that in 1924 the quantity was 476,454 pounds, as compared with only 299,695 pounds in 1923. Total cheese shipments to the same destination last year amounted to 2,635 pounds, as against only 40 in 1923.

A recent analysis of immigration according to occupation of immigrants arriving in Canada since 1920 shows a steady increase in the ratio of agriculturists and domestics towards all others. In 1921 the figure was 35 per cent. In 1922 it was 44 per cent for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1922, 47 per cent for the fiscal year 1923-24 and 51 per cent for the nine months April to December, 1924.

One of the outstanding features of the Grain Commission Board's report for the season 1922-23, was the tribute paid to the excellent service rendered by the Canadian Pacific Railway in handling the western crop. Though the company handled 105,000 cars of grain, it received only six complaints about lack of cars from the railway and commission combined. In 1923-24, with an even larger number handled, there were only eight complaints.

Orchestras from the Canadian Pacific steamships "Empress of France" and "Empress of Scotland", when they arrived recently at New York and before sailing on their round the world and Mediterranean cruises which the company starts annually from that port broadcasted through WJZ a forty-five minute programme of selected Scots, English, Welsh, Irish and Canadian airs, while the "Montroyal", on her return from the company's cruise to the West Indies, broadcasted British and Spanish music through WJY of New York.

Information furnished by J. Frank Callbreath, packing contractor and general merchant, shows that during the 1924 hunting season, parties secured 12 moose, 25 caribou, 26 goat, 31 sheep, 15 black bear and 11 grizzlies in the Telegraph Creek district of British Columbia. Of the caribou, the largest, shot by J. J. Sartori, of Brooklyn, N.Y., has a spread of 47 inches, is 39 1/2 inches long and has 27 points. The largest sheep horns were 41 1/2 inches long, with a spread of 31 inches, and were secured by A. D. Stewart, of New York.

The third annual Derby International Dog Sledding, run off at Quebec on February 19, 20 and 21, was a tremendous success. Twenty-two mushers and their teams from many parts of Canada and the United States competed over the 120-mile course, the race being won by Emile St. Godard, of Le Pas, Man., who also won this year's derby at that place. The last day's lap was run through a blinding snowstorm, which gave the thousands of sports visitors from Canada and the United States who witnessed it, a vivid impression of normal conditions experienced by these outfits.

## MOTHERS PRAISE BABY'S OWN TABLETS

Mrs. L. M. Brown, Walton, N. S., says:—"I cannot recommend Baby's Own Tablets too highly. I have found them invaluable for the ailments of little ones." Mrs. Brown's testimony is the same as that of thousands of other mothers who have used the Tablets. To use them once is a guarantee that they will always be kept in the home as long as there are babies or young children to be cared for. The Tablets are a laxative—mild but thorough in action—which never fail to regulate the stomach and bowels; relieve constipation and indigestion; break up colds and simple fevers and make the dreaded teething period easy. In fact they banish all the minor ills from which little ones suffer. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

## BRITISH EMPIRE STEEL CORPORATION AFFAIRS SHOULD HAVE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION

Up to Date Steel and Coal Merger Has Failed to Justify Existence by Increasing Employment, Production, Economy or Dividends—There May Be Reasons But State of Public Mind in Nova Scotia Makes It Desirable For Company and Public Alike That The Matter Be Probed to the Bottom—Some Basic Facts About The Situation.

(By L. D. MacDOUGALL, M. A.)

(From Toronto Saturday Night.)

The following article is peculiarly appropriate at the present moment in view of the breaking out once more of the perennial trouble between the British Empire Steel Corporation and the Public Mind in Nova Scotia. The article was associated with the United Mine Workers in the United States and this has had an excellent opportunity to know conditions in both countries from the men's side. As the article is written from the standpoint of a man who is anxious to see the industry succeed in Nova Scotia, and who has had firsthand acquaintance with the men and the mines for some time, our opinion is that it will repay careful consideration.—(Ed. Note.)

Someone has said that only two things are certain—death and taxes. In Nova Scotia there would seem to be three—death, taxes and trouble in our coal-fields. Fifty-five per cent of the coal mined in Nova Scotia comes from mines owned and operated by the British Empire Steel Corporation. This steel and coal merger came into being in 1920. And since that date, each New Year has brought Nova Scotia a new wave dispute, ultimately resulting in a strike or a lock-out. 1925 does not give earnest of a change.

Some weeks ago the British Empire Steel Corporation announced its intention to reduce the wages of all employees ten per cent. The employees, who are members of The United Mine Workers of America, refuse to accept any reduction. The corporation has not yet put its reduction into effect. And whatever work is available at the mines is paid for according to the 1924 wage-schedule. The present arrangement cannot long continue. There must be a settlement or a complete cessation of work.

The annually recurring trouble in our coal-fields has worked immeasurable harm to the corporation—its stockholders—the consuming public—the miners and the whole province. Nova Scotia's "little body is afeary" of this strife and turmoil. Our people should not stand it longer. Our coal industry cannot stand it longer—and live.

It is sometimes said—"the miner's earnings should be reduced." Nothing could be more absurd. If there is one thing about the coal industry in Nova Scotia that stands out clear and unmistakable—about which there should be no conflict of opinion or confusion

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It is that the earnings of the miners for the last eight months have been entirely inadequate and must be increased. The majority of the miners for the period above mentioned were unable to provide with their earnings the bare necessities of life. This condition was due in the main not to low wage-rates but to lack of employment. For the last eight months the British Empire Steel Corporation's mines worked very irregularly—sometimes two days a week; on an average not more than three. Even if the rates of pay were much higher the miners would not have been able to earn living wages on the amount of employment furnished. So that the small earnings of the last number of months do not of themselves prove that the rates of pay are too low.

If the miners worked regularly the majority of B. E. S. Co. employees would do fairly well under present wage-rates. A few known as local-contract men could earn with steady work perhaps more than living wages. In fairness it should be stated that this class constitute a very small percentage of the total number employed. Contract miners with steady work would average under present rates, about \$5.50 a day. While the wages of day laborers would average about four dollars a day. The lowest rate paid underground to datalaborers is \$3.60 and \$3.50 is the lowest datal rate on the surface. (There is a lower rate both underground and surface for boys.)

These rates may appear high when compared with rates in a number of other trades. But it should be remembered that mining is skilled labor. It should also be remembered that he who toils in a coal mine does so in constant danger to life and limb. It was only within very recent years that life insurance companies would sell insurance to miners. Though miners can get insurance now, still coal-mining holds a prominent place in the extra-hazardous occupation list of all insurance companies. Indeed every million tons of coal produced in Nova Scotia is smothered with the precious life blood of seven unfortunate workmen. It should be noted, too, that when compared with other organized coal-fields the wages paid miners in Nova Scotia are found to be substantially lower than the wages paid coal-miners in any other organized field in the North American continent.

Labor constitutes the largest single item in the cost of producing a ton of coal in Nova Scotia. This is probably true of coal-mining costs the world over. But is the Labor Cost of Nova Scotia in any way out of proportion when considered in relation to the total production cost? Hon. E. H. Armstrong, Premier, and until recently Minister of Mines in the Nova Scotia said—"My coal prices were reduced in Nova Scotia. It would mean that the miners would receive lower wages. For Labor constitutes between sixty and seventy per cent of the total cost of a ton of coal. And I do not wish to see the miner's wage reduced. I sympathize with the miner in his hazardous work."

The foregoing is the Premier's answer to those who contend that the retail prices of coal in Nova Scotia are too high. It is an effective answer politically. But we think it is not exactly fair to the coal-miners with whom the Premier sympathizes. It represents them as getting a larger share of the product that they actually receive. In 1922 we saw a cost-



## IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Deth. Rate in Nova Scotia The Lowest in Years.

Improvement in the public health of Nova Scotia is shown by the report of the Department of Public Health tabled in the House of Assembly Tuesday. The estimated standardized death rate in Nova Scotia for 1922-23, the latest year for which statistics are available, was 11.4 per thousand. The report says there is an improvement shown in the public health of the Province through the statistics despite the fact that the statistics of death are being reported much more carefully and with more accuracy than formerly. There is improvement in the infantile rate, the number of deaths of children under one year of age in one thousand is 18.5. The improvement in respect of tuberculosis appears to be maintained, the report states.

There can be little doubt but that our cancer deaths are becoming more frequent. The height of the rate for the year 1922 was one never hitherto attained. There has, moreover, been a constant tendency for the rate to rise, observable since records were first kept.

The activities of the Department of Public Health have been fully maintained, the report states. During the year the construction of a building in which, when completed, there will be available greatly improved quarters for the Provincial Laboratory, was begun, and now nearly completed.

The Maritime Provinces do not, and in their present stage of industrial development, cannot consume the total output of the Nova Scotia collieries. Much of the coal produced by B. E. S. Co. must be sold at all in the St. Lawrence market; where it comes into direct competition with American coal. By reason of high transportation costs shipments of coal by rail to Montreal are out of the question. Coal to the St. Lawrence market is therefore waterborne. In Nova Scotia the navigation season generally opens in April and closes in November. If the B. E. S. Co. mines are to work regularly from November to April coal must be banked. This banking of coal is expensive business for two reasons. In the first place the cost of banking and removing the coal in the spring adds about twenty-two cents to the cost per ton. Then coal in bank deteriorates—the percentage of slack increases—and the coal is not as attractive-looking as newly mined coal. All of which tend to detract from its saleability when competition is keen.

(To Be Continued)

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