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THE SPRINGHILL STRIKE.

Since the Dominion Coal Company assumed control of the Springhill (N.S.) collieries, there has been little outward change in the situation. The leaders of the strike have rejected the proposals made through the good offices of the Attorney-General, and are still insisting upon recognition of the U.M.W.A. committee.

The proposals of the company were a genuine effort to meet the claims of the strikers, so often and so insistently urged, for a tonnage rate instead of the former method of paying by the loaded box; for an equitable "docking" arrangement, and for higher wages to the lowest paid classes of labourers and boys. It is admitted by all that some method of exercising a check on the stone loaded out with the coal is absolutely necessary, and this is the object of the "docking" clause. The tonnage rates offered are the same as are now being paid to the men at work, who are making good wages, even under the hampered conditions attending operations during the strike. The rates existing when the strike was called were such as to make it impossible to operate the mine without serious monetary loss, and to attempt to continue such rates is merely to court bankruptcy.

Much the same tactics are being pursued by the U.M.W.A. organizers at Springhill as were followed in Cape Breton. A rumour is being assiduously circulated among the Springhill strikers that the Cape Breton miners will strike en masse about the opening of navigation in sympathy with the Springhill men.

There are certain ardent but irresponsible spirits among the members of the U.M.W.A. in Cape Breton who preach strike on every possible occasion, and advocate it as the remedy for all industrial ills, apparently not knowing that the idea of strikes is as obsolete as the prejudice against labour-saving machinery. An example of the methods of some of these men is evidenced by the troubles at the North Atlantic Collieries at Port Morien. Here, although the company had explained to the men that it was in difficulties owing to the winter conditions, the U.M.W.A. continued to harass the management until eventually it was announced that the Eastern Trust Company had been appointed as receivers. In these circumstances the local secretary of the U.M.W.A. wired the Minister of Labour railing against the Industrial Disputes Act in general, and stating that if a Conciliation Board were not immediately appointed, the Port Morien men would strike forthwith. At a time when it was uncertain whether or not it would be even possible to operate the mine on a reduced basis, this threat was not a very terrible one. Not content with such absolute futility, the U.M.W.A. sympathizers are stating that the mine