

per ton of a wage increase," said Mr. Barrett, "but this would not entitle the company to jump their prices to the consumer first 60 cents and then 80 cents in the price has been made in order that the operators may meet our new demands, drafted at the Truro convention last week.

According to Mr. Barrett the miners intend to place their demands for further wage increases before the operators within a few weeks. "We are going to press for these increases too, in no uncertain manner," was the way Mr. Barrett referred to the demands formulated at Truro.

There is general indignation among the citizens of Sydney and Glace Bay over the recent increases in the price of coal and the statement by Mr. Barrett offsets any claim that the companies might have that this increase was necessary in view of the wage agreements recently entered into by the operators and miners."

Instead of asking for an investigation why not call Silby Barrett, as an expert witness, to the stand? He says the late increase in wages adds only twenty-three cents to the ton; that settles it—or may settle it in Silby Barrett's opinion. Will he therefore make public the figures on which he bases his statement? Before a man of Mr. Barrett's high standing, a man whose clear sightedness has brought eulogiums from President Lewis—would make the statement credited to him he must have had "first information" at hand. The public has a right to demand that he spread out this important information before them so that they may be in a position to censure or refrain from censuring the coal operators. Our opinion is that Mr. Barrett cannot even give an approximate of the cost, to the company, of the several increases in wages.

INCORPORATION OF TRADES UNIONS

The sentiment "all things come to those who wait" may be accounted by some as merely a poetical expression. Were the phrase altered to read "some things come to those who wait," many would be willing to accept it as a practical suggestion. The Mining Record has waited long for public opinion to veer around to the belief that Trades Unions, in order to best attain their objects, and secure general favor, should secure from the legislatures acts of incorporation. For the past year or two a voice, here and there, at intervals, has called for the incorporation of all Trade Unions, and the cry is spreading, and will soon make a demand in this direction which legislators may not well ignore. Ten days ago a despatch from Ottawa to a Halifax daily read as follows:—

"Legislation to place agreements between labor organizations and employers in the same class as legal contracts, enforced by the courts, is talked of here, as a result of certain "outlaw" strikes. Those strikes are in violation of agreements and contrary to the wishes of international executives.

For instance, in Montreal, certain printers have walked out, although their agreement has some time yet to run, and wages have been supplemented

by bonuses, and although their action has been disapproved by the executive officers of their international organization in Chicago. Such difficulties are regarded in some quarters here as menaces to international trade unionism. There have been suggestions that labor organizations should be incorporated and thus attain corporate entity which would permit of their suing or being sued in the courts. The talk here at present, however, is of the possibility of legislation being enacted to give agreements such a legal status that the parties thereto would be individually and collectively responsible for carrying out the obligations they have assumed."

Why has the Lemieux Act been a partial failure? Simply because there was no machinery whereby the workers might be constrained to live up to their agreements, while the other side, the employers, could be forced to a compliance with an award under penalties. In Britain, at the present time, the Government is searching for a scheme whereby not only the leaders, but the rank and file must carry out any agreement arrived at between them and the government, or between them and their employers. It is certainly a feather in the cap of the old P.W.A. that at the beginning of its activities it sought for, and secured, incorporation, and it was sought for, in part, for the reasons given in the above despatch. It cannot be denied that unincorporated Trades Unions are irresponsible affairs, as witness many of the late strikes that have occurred in the United States and also in Canada. When the P.W.A. was incorporated, high two score years ago, unions were looked upon as "outside the pale." The leaders of the society sought incorporation so that the term "outlaws" could not well be, for the future, applied to its members, and for the further reason that the members might have a possibly needed restraint in the exercise of their newly found power.

A curious thing about the incorporation of the Provincial Workmen's Association was that it became a party affair, and still more curiously had the support of the Conservatives while it was looked coldly upon, where not opposed, by the Liberals.

It may not be uninteresting to give the views of certain of the legislators, when the bill was before the House.

The Hon. Mr. Townshend introduced the bill, and was asked by the Attorney-General to explain its object. Mr. Townshend said he did not see there was anything to explain about it. It was simply to incorporate a number of workmen, principally miners, for benevolent purposes and to enable them to hold and deal with property as a corporation. Mr. McGillivray—afterwards Judge—thought it was a very peculiar bill, and deserved some consideration before being passed, and that it would be imprudent to deal with it until the real objects had been ascertained. There was nothing to show what the purpose of the Association, sought to be incorporated, was, except that it was to promote the moral, material, social and physical well being of its members, and to manage its pecuniary affairs. Now under so indefinite a purpose much harm might be concealed. The House had nothing to do with associations of the kind proposed. He therefore would move that the bill be read that day three

(Continued on page 14.)