

statement is correct, how can the U. M. W.'s, possibly win. If the U. M. W.'s can beat the local government as well as the P. W. A., the sooner the federal government makes overtures for annexation the better. Simpson reaches the limit when he says that the P. W. A., a society with thirty years of splendid work behind it, a society which has so advanced its members, mentally, materially, and physically, as to make the American members of the U. M. W. appear pigmen beside them, is only a 'lunch of strike-breakers.'

In the preamble to a resolution, we read: 'And whereas the Dominion Coal Co. recognizing the weakness of the P. W. A. and the strength of the international organization.' Of what international organization? If the U. M. W.'s are meant then they are not aware of their strength, for at a labor meeting held lately in Springhill, we were told as coming from Lewis that on the successful outcome of the C. B. strike depended the life or death of international unionism. What sort of an international union is it that can be knocked helpless by one reverse in out of the way C. B.

Perhaps by and bye, if sufficient patience be exercised, we may arrive at an approximate of the reason, or the occasion, of the strike at Glace Bay. At first all supposed that it was a strike for recognition; later we were all solemnly told we were all wrong and that the strike was simply to compel the company to receive a committee of its workmen; and again we have a resolution declaring that the strike was for none of these things, but "the United Mine Workers were compelled to declare a strike to prevent discrimination, after a board of investigation under the Lemieux Act had declared that there was no discrimination." And therefore we have, Simpson, though he is not only a bit of a, but a whole, blatherskite, giving the true inwardness of the strike. It was, or is, all over a thing non-existent. It is, he says, against discrimination, and yet a far greater than he, and, or, of his American organization, namely, the Lemieux Board, has declared there was no such thing as discrimination.

The framers of that resolution in the American Federation, it is quite evident, are babes in their knowledge of human nature. The resolution declared that the U. M. W.'s were discriminated against, and the P. W. A. men preferred, and 'strongly condemns the action of the P. W. A. men in not coming out to help the U. M. W.'s. Against whom? The Company! No; against themselves. What sotties and simpletons the P. W. A. men would have been to come out on strike against the company wholly and solely because they, and not the other fellows, got any soft snaps that were going. Of course, of course—we have heard it before—when the U. M. W.'s wanted the P. W. A.'s coats, these should, have been given them and the P. W. A. cloaks also. The P. W. A. men didn't quite see it in that way, and only those who do—and they are few who do business on these lines—are in a position to first throw a stone at the P. W. A. I'm not sure I could do it. If a friend, who hadn't melons to go all round, makes a present to me of a melon, and gives a neighbor a lemon, I'm not certain that on the latter invitation I would join him in denouncing the donor as a mean man and a mischief maker.

The Secretary of the Free Coal League is in dire straits with no member left to commune with. Like one of the messengers to Job, friend William can say,

"And I only am left alone to tell" the people of Nova Scotia how badly they are being knocked by the coal barons. The remaining remnant of the Free Coal League in a letter in last Saturday's Herald outdoes himself in the sheer recklessness and utter wantonness of his statements. He talks of a financial magnate who made seven millions out of paper stock. If he refers to Mr. Whitney he is grievously in error. The paper stock cost that gentleman as it cost every other purchaser, a sum not less than fifteen cents to the dollar. Every one in Nova Scotia as well as Mr. Whitney had a chance to buy big blocks of the stock at fifteen cents. For years it went begging at that price as the remaining remnant knows. The Free Coal League man is not honest, that is a hard thing to say but he himself furnishes the proof. He hints that a magnate made more than seven million dollars out of steel by trifling with its coal supply. The statement needs no answer. The Free Coal League man says there is a discrimination of at least a dollar, on the part of the companies, on coal supplied the I. C. R., as compared with that supplied the G. T. R. The Free Coal League should know that there is a difference in the first place of fifty cents in the quality of coal taken by the I. C. R., and that the I. C. R. are retail purchasers, taking a few cars as it suits them during any part of the year, and not taking 300,000 tons within a period of five months. W. C. Milner is certainly ignorant of the rudiments of business. On all goods there is a vast difference between the retail and the wholesale price.

The declaration of a twenty per cent. bonus on the common stock by the directors of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. was the slickest thing the writer has come across since he developed a fondness for scanning the financial columns of the Montreal Star. On no previous occasion that I can recall was the cat kept so securely muffled in the bag. There was not the faintest mew in the Star, on the Street or among the knowing ones that anything but an ordinary dividend would be declared, and that not till January. It speaks volumes for the directors of Scotia that they kept their own secret. No immediate friends or distant relatives were given a whisper of what might happen. Whether the bonus is a bonanza or a blister matters little compared with the fact that it came unheralded. Some brokers, naturally, are angry that the Scotia people did not take them into their confidence, and are inclined to side with those whose particular avocation is to knock this stock. Sometime ago I expressed the hope that a six per cent. dividend, which some clamored for, would not be declared, but a five per cent. dividend as preferable with a one per cent. bonus thrown in from time to time. Of course no self-respecting body of directors would adopt the suggestion in its nakedness, of a layman. They have done it however, all the same, but in a different and original method. A Montreal broker thinks the 20 p. c. bonus is no melon. He better bide a wee. The one per cent. dividend is for the last quarter of 1909. Wait a few months and then possibly there may be another declaration, and not a one per cent. one.

Some editors, some clergymen, some lawyers and some laymen, who have not found their feet, treat us at times to a lot of stuff which may be termed Academic socialism. Perhaps they cannot do any better for most of the socialism we hear about is purely academic.