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Then it rould seom, so confident are wo in Nova Scotia that tho mining world outsido our own, whioh is almost insular, san loach us no noir thing, that our legielature has folt juatified in omphasizing this fooling and guarding our interosts from poesiblo inferior practico and talont, by debarring any one, bowover eminent he may bo in his own country, from practeing tore as a Colliory Managor, that is at least, until ho has riponod his foroign oxporience by a three seare coureo with us and obtained a certificato from our Local Board of Examiners. An oxclugiv. ness that in some branches of trado and art hes not olsowhere always led to the most rapid dovolopment of a cuuntry or tho most happy resulte.

Attention may also bo directed to tho fatherly regard for colliery boys under 16 years of ago, omployed not only undorground but above ground. No objection can fairly be taken to the restriction of tho bouss of labor bolow whon tho work is regular, but, as tho occupa'ions of boys about a colliery abovo ground are hoslthy, far more so than those in c'ose factories, and not loss so than thosy about metallic mines, in all cisos oxempted from the provisions of tho law, it hes been urged that to be congistont the hours of labor of boys in factories and othor industries ahould bo also restricted. Until this ts done the purity of tho sentiment that induce ithe addicion of this ciause must be questioned. At the prosent time it is exceptional to find one among the workmen who is in favor of restricting, oupecially on tho surfaco, the hours of boys botween fourto:n and sixteon yorrs of age to 54 hours 2 week.

It is of conrese very deairable that the apparent contradio:ions in the Act ehould, as far as possib!e, be eliminated, not an easy thing to do evon when tho interested parties are agreed, and still less 80 when there is d:s greement, and amendments aro compromises. Ameng the changes that might be made, it is desirable that small mines and simply worked mines should not be obliged to emp'oy a greator number of officials than the necessities of each cise require, und which would bo demanded were it not for the wordng of the Act. And that the exceptional ruquirements of more complex mines should be met by addations to the Special Rules as provided by the Act.

It seeme desirable that the law should clearly legaliza the practice of the manager and toe underground manager being one when the duties of offices can be assamed by one person, o-pecially as the dufinition of the duties attending these troocfices dramp a diu.inction with a difference that has yot to be legally defined.

It might be well if the $d$ finition of "overman" were changed and made to read the cffieer in cbargo in the absence of the underground managor.

And it would appear more consistent on the part of the Legislatare if, for the wellare of the working man he is when engaged at the cosl mine to bo paid fortnightly, that ho should bo equally protected as regards the pasment of wages when working for large emplogers of labor.

Mr. Poole-I bring forrard these notes with the hope that by bringing them to the attention of our own legislature, amendments may be produced. I thought it boiter to take the bull by the horne, to discover whather wo aro litely to got this legislation or not, and therofore, ths Mfiniag Sxiety of Nova Scolia exprossed its degire that a representstive of the Dopart:nent of Arines or the Government might attend at this Convention. The Iospector was unable to be present, owing to pressure of business ; but the Premior of our province baving occiaion to come to this part of the world at this time, bas most kiddls undertaken to appear on this occasion and to profit by this discussion, phich it is hoped will tase place on this and other matters. Those who know our silvor-:ongued orator can appreclate how sontoresome it is of ms to speak in his presence, as any one who has passed through the fire of Moloch, in the County of Pictou, can testify.

Capt. Adams-I think that Mr. Poole's able exposition and representation will tend to make ns all good anarchists. I have moob pleasure in calling apon the Hon. Mr. Fielding to address the meeting.

Hon. Mr. Fielding-I have the pleasure of knowing a number of the gentlemen presont this afternoon, and I trust that they know me well onough to feel that I do not presumo to ontor upon a discassion of mining lawa in the midst of a body of mining gentlemen, the most of whom aro ever disposed to think that all mining lams ars bsd. Far from finding fault with, I welcime Mr. Poole's criticiams most corJially. I congratulats him heartily, and join in expressing my regrat that Dr. G.lpin, our Inspactor of Mines, bas not been able to atrend. I do not wish fur a moment any one to assame that I am present as a substitule or as a reprosentulive of the Government, in any capacits, to discuss mining mattors. I had occssiou to csm this way, and combining plessaro with my business, I accepted the invitation to attend this Convertion; and, as the Mayor of Montreal ssil the other evaning, "I am here."

Thero is a general tendency to grow in this world ; and I admit tbat the lams of some years ago are not good laws not. If wo are never to havo any changes in these matters, I should get slong verg well, tat-the public at largo eaem to think that some legislation is necessary; and naturally me reviso these laps when revision is considered essuntial ; though sometimes wo do not make them any better than they were bgfore. Bat tho pub.ic require that they should be revised all the same.

There is no province in the Duminion in which the mining commanity have received fairer consideration than the Prorioce of Nova Ssotia. We must deal with tho trath that in former yeard laws woro msulded at the will of mino owners; bat at the preseat time there is a disposition to recognizs that thore are more than mine owners to bs considered in this matter, and

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