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Then it would seem, so confident are we in Nova Scotia that the mining world outside our own, which is almost insular, can leach us no new thing, that our legislature has folt justified in emphasizing this feeling and guarding our interests from possible inferior practice and talent, by debarring any one, bowever eminent he may be in his own country, from pract sing here as a Colliery Maneger, that is at least, until he has ripened his foreign experience by a three years course with us and obtained a certificate from our Local Board of Examiners. An exclusiveness that in some branches of trade and art has not elsewhere always led to the most rapid development of a country or the most happy results. Attention may also be directed to the fatherly regard for colliery boys

under 16 years of age, employed not only underground but above ground. No objection can fairly be taken to the restriction of the hours of labor below when the work is regular, but, as the occupations of boys about a col-liery above ground are holithy, far more so than those in close factories, and not less so than those about metallic mines, in all cises exempted from the provisions of the law, it has been urged that to be consistent the hours of labor of boys in factories and other industries should be also restricted. Until this is done the purity of the sentiment that induced the addition of this clause must be questioned. At the present time it is exceptional to find one among the workmen who is in favor of restricting, especially on the surface, the hours of boys between fourteen and sixteen yours of age to 54 hours a week.

It is of course very desirable that the apparent contradictions in the Act should, as far as possible, be eliminated, not an easy thing to do even when the interested parties are agreed, and still less so when there is dis greement, and amendments are compromises. Among the changes that might be made, it is desirable that small mines and simply worked mines should not be obliged to emp'oy a greater number of officials than the necessities of each orse require, and which would be demanded were it not for the wording of the Act. And that the exceptional requirements of more complex mines should be met by additions to the Special Rules as provided by the Act.

It seems desirable that the law should clearly legalize the practice of the manager and the underground manager being one when the duties of offices can be assumed by one person, e-pecially as the definition of the duties attending these two offices draws a disinction with a difference that has yet to be legally defined.

It might be well if the d finition of "overman" were changed and made to read the officer in charge in the absence of the underground manager.

And it would appear more consistent on the part of the Legislature if, for the weltare of the working man he is when engaged at the coal mine to be paid fortnightly, that he should be equally protected as regards the payment of wages when working for large employers of labor.

Mr. Poole-I bring forward these notes with the hope that by bringing them to the attention of our own legislature, amendments may be produced. I thought it better to take the bull by the horns, to discover whether we are likely to get this legislation or not, and therefore, the Mining Society of Nova Scolia expressed its desire that a representative of the Department of Mines or the Government might attend at this Convention. The Inspector was unable to be present, owing to pressure of business ; but the Premier of our province having occasion to come to this part of the world at this time, has most kindly undertaken to appear on this occasion and to profit by this discussion, which it is hoped will take place on this and other matters. Those who know our silver-longued orator can appreciate how venturesome it is of me 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 representa-tion will tend to make us all good anarchists. I have much pleasure in calling upon the Hon. Mr. Fielding to address the meeting.

Hon. Mr. Fielding-I have the pleasure of knowing a number of the gentlemen present this afternoon, and I trust that they know me well enough to feel that I do not presume to enter upon a discussion of mining laws in the midst of a body of mining gentlemen, the most of whom are ever disposed to think that all mining laws are bad. Far from finding fault with, I wel-come Mr. Poole's criticisms most cordially. I congratulate him heartily, and join in expressing my regret that Dr. G. Ipin, our Inspector of Mines, has not been able to attend. I do not wish for a moment any one to assume that I am present \*s a substitute or as a representative of the Government, in any capacity, to discuss mining matters. I had occasion to cam this way, and combining pleasure with my business, I accepted the invitation to attend this Convention; and, as the Mayor of Montreal sail the other evening, "I am here."

There is a general tendency to grow in this world; and I admit that the laws of some years ago are not good laws now. If we are never to have any changes in these matters, I should get along very well, but the public at largo seem to think that some legislation is necessary; and naturally we revise these laws when revision is considered essential; though sometimes we do not make them any better than they were before. But the public require that they should be revised all the same.

There is no province in the Dominion in which the mining commanity have received fairer consideration than the Province of Nova Scotia. We must deal with the truth that in former years laws were moulded at the will of mine owners; but at the present time there is a disposition to recognize that there are more than mine owners to be considered in this matter, and

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