

mittee. The joint committee would then inform the heads of these various unions, and these leaders of the union would call for a general vote of all the men in the union. If the majority of votes favored going out on strike in sympathy with the union which had declared the strike, a strike would be called. If a minority vote were cast no strike would be declared.

"The purpose of this procedure said Mr. McLachlan, is to prevent two or three men, for instance the executive officers of the union, from declaring a strike merely out of sympathy with another union. 'We had too much to do with an autocratic form of government in labor unions here in the past,' said Mr. McLachlan, 'and we want no more of it. If a strike is declared out of sympathy with the Scotia workers a vote of every A. M. W. man in Nova Scotia will be taken, and the decision of the majority of men abided by.'"

Left to himself Mr. McLaughlin can talk more rant to the square inch than any other union official in Canada; for he talks on subjects of which he is wholly ignorant. In the matter he refers to there were no autocracies in the P. W. A., for the simple reason that the P. W. A. in its splendid history of nigh two score years never once considered the matter of a sympathetic strike. The executive never was composed of swollen headed syndies. If the present A. M. W. officials, or at least one of them is not an autocrat, he is trying his level best to deserve the name. Did the Grand Lodges of the A. M. W. authorize him to make his fool declaration that he would call upon all the unions to stop work for two days a week? The lodges were never consulted. And he thinks or imagines there was no autocracy in that. Why? Because he is the whole show in his own estimation.

## **- Rubs by Rambler. -**

\* Here is another extract from The Eastern Chronicle, which is as adroit a piece of writing as I have come across in a week's reading. The Herald is being used as a screen for the equally hard things that is in The Chronicle's mind, but which he prefers not to utter in so literal and vivid language.

"In the Halifax Herald on Saturday appeared a cartoon, picturing the Kaiser exulting over the news that 3,000 munition workers in New Glasgow had gone on strike. One can expect about anything from the Herald but the unfortunate side is that fully 99 per cent. of the people of this country will, without hesitation, conclude that the cartoon is deserved and agree with its suggestion.

Never perhaps was a body of honest workmen tendered such an open insult. Never to our knowledge was labor in Nova Scotia placed in such a light. That such should be possible convinces those having the interests of honest labor at heart that a very serious blunder has been ignorantly or mischievously committed. Unsafe counsel has surely prevailed among the workers or they could not be accused of giving comfort to the enemy. A careful survey

should be made of the minds and aims of those entrusted with leadership, and trust placed only in safe, sane and patriotic men. Labor in Pictou Co. will have to live down the miserable and disloyal stigma branded upon them by the Herald cartoon. It made us hot under the collar for we felt it was in the main undeserved, but they must clean house and prevent any recurrence."

Nothing angers your contemporary so much as the Union Government, and that Government's chief defender on the mainland. We all have heard what the latin proverb beginning 'Ira est' says what anger is. The statement that 'fully ninety-nine per cent. of the people of the county will conclude that the cartoon is deserved is the tallest statement made in many a long day. It implies two things. It implies, leaving out the children, that every man and woman, and a whole lot that cannot be classed as such, nor classed as children either, read and gloat over the cartoon. I admit that The Chronicle knows far more about The Herald's circulation than Rambler, and yet I have temerity enough to dispute the accuracy of the statement. If "never such an insult" was tendered a body of honest workmen, what is to be said of the statement that ninety-nine per cent. of this fine, old, educated, county will swallow the cartoon without hesitation. It cannot be defended; it implies that by far the largest proportion of the people of the county are hopeless idiots. While admitting that there are some very queer folk in the county, I cannot for a moment admit that they so far outnumber the folk credited with being fairly level headed. And, then, your contemporary relenting a little of his harshness to The Herald, virtually admits there must have been something in the cartoon that affected the weak-minded among the people, and says 'unsafe counsel must have prevailed or they could not be accused of giving comfort to the enemy,' which is tantamount to an admission that after all, The Herald had at least sand to stand upon. Further it says that the leadership of the men should be looked into, to see if it was sane and patriotic. If it is necessary to inquire into the patriotism of the leaders, and as it is supposed in this instance that the leaders led, then there was surely a little room for The Herald to come to the conclusion that the whole bunch were more or less infected with the virus of the leaders. Cartoons should never be taken at their face value, otherwise no German but would loathe the look of the Kaiser, and a Canadian would say that a course of severe rationing would make John Bull a more presentable figure.

At intervals there are spicy articles in The Eastern Chronicle, too much so, probably, at times to be unreservedly appreciated, but I must say I appreciated, without qualification, very many paragraphs in its issue of the 18th inst., in the several articles bearing on the late miserable strike fiasco. The strike of a fortnight ago was perhaps the most ill-advised, the silliest, of any that has ever taken place in the province.

I will quote, here and there from The Chronicle, and may make short comments thereon: