

price was named and a bargain closed. The coal at his mine costs about \$2.00 a ton. This of course is for culm, but it raises all the needed steam. This mine manager bought a schooner and carries his own coal etc. It will be noticed that Mr. Stuart does not say that the rise in the price of coal was co-incidental merely with the advent of the Dominion Coal Co. Oh, no, his is the plain intention to fasten the blame, if blame there be, for dear coal on that company. They and they alone are the rogues and vagabonds. But Mr. Stuart either has gone too far or has not gone far enough. If the Dominion Coal Co. are responsible for high priced coal, their venality may well be over-looked, in this instance, in view of the amazing amount of good they have done and the better prices they have enabled manufacturers to obtain for their wares, and the better wages now obtained by workmen. Not the miners only, but all classes of workmen, and not the workmen of N. S. merely, but the workmen in many lands. Since the advent of the Dominion Coal Co. farmers are getting over twenty cents a dozen for eggs when formerly they got less than twelve; twenty five cents for butter instead of fourteen; seventy five cents for a pair of chickens instead of twenty five. Why, bless you, the advent of the Dominion Coal Co. has been truly a god send to agriculturists. And the Dominion Coal Co. has the pleasing responsibility of making all the landlords and real estate agents happy. Where a landlord formerly got five dollars monthly rent for a house he now gets fifteen, and a lot that formerly, that is, before the coming of the D. C. C., went begging for a purchaser at fifty, now readily finds a buyer at five hundred. Common labor before the birth of the Dominion Coal Co. was dear at a dollar a day; now its cheap at a dollar fifty. Miners at that time were happy if they made two dollars a day, while to-day these same men are glum if they don't make three fifty. And then look at the wages brick-layers and carpenters, and in short all mechanics are making to-day in comparison with a dozen years ago. Since the advent of the Dominion Coal Co. Canada has enjoyed a measure of prosperity undreamt of previously. And do I attribute the better wages and all this greater prosperity in general to the coming of the Dom. Coal Co? I would just like to know why I should not? If the Dom. Coal Co.'s are to be debited with the high price of coal at the mines in Cumb., Inverness, and Pictou, why should not they also be credited with bringing about an era of great prosperity. Do I really believe the D. C. C. should get credit for all these things. Well, no, I would be a monstrous fool if I did. Ah, then, the inference is that the fool is—Silence, no personalities.

An interesting libel suit comes off next month, say in Truro, in which two gold mining experts are the principal actors. The suit is one for defamation of character and the damages asked for are considerable. The story as I heard it is somewhat as follows: A is or was a gold miner, a promoter, a consulting engineer, a mine owner, and other things too numerous to mention. He resides somewhere between Stellarton and Halifax. B is manager of a gold mine somewhere between Stellarton and Camso. A and B when they were first 'aquaint' were as brothers. The whirlygig of time affects many changes and the time came when A scorned to holler in

B's water barrel. Somehow they fell out. A, didn't like the way B was running things, and wrote to two of B's directors that things at the mine were going, generally, to the dogs, and that they had better come and inspect before their property was put into an unrecognizable shape. They came. The first thing they did was to fly at B, using some cuss or other picturesque language, and then they concluded to go on a tour of inspection. They first condemned and then sought evidence. One of the directors was an accountant so he went at the books to verify the report that B had run the machine in debt to the tune of \$25,000. The other took a look outside at the plant and things in general. After No. 2 had finished his inspection he came in to No. 1 and said "Why things are O. K. outside and a lot of work has been done, how do you find the books?" "Why there is no debt. We have not been sending him money and he has actually paid his way, and all the debt owing is \$200, we owe B an apology". B was called in. To make a long story short he would not accept the apology and said he would resign if they bought out his share. After a while he consented to stay if they would hand over the letters of the man who had been maligning him. They did this and the result is a libel suit. But B has also instituted an action for false arrest and this is a funny story. It seems that when A and B were fast friends B got into A's debt say \$100.00. B was shortly after contracting it wanted as a witness in another gold mining suit. He did not wish to go as his evidence would hurt the manager or owner of the mine, who was a friend of his, so, as A was around at the time, he told him of his dilemma. "Oh" said A "that's nothing. Just him of his dilemma. You said that you cannot go as you require to go to Colorado perhaps at a moments notice." So B wrote to that effect, A dictating the letter, B about the time of the trial thought perhaps he had better go to it, than get into a law scrape. (By this time A and B had ceased to make tryst in a common back yard.) A discovered that B had arrived in town, so he went and swore out a capias and in proof that B was leaving the country he produced the letter in which he (B) said he might have to go to California or Colorado at any minute, the very letter that had been written at his (A's) dictation. If B got angry and instituted proceedings for false arrest can we blame him? If B can prove to the satisfaction of the court that A dictated the letter and that he knew B had no intention of leaving the country—which he had not—then it looks as if A had peculiar notions as to the nature of an oath. There is a good deal more to this story which space prevents me telling.

When the three years arrangement, as to rates was entered into between the Dom. Coal Co. and the P. W. A. there were a few mal contents among the members and a few agitators outside who denounced the agreement in no measured terms. The company and the men have had now time to form a conclusion as to whether agreements for a specified time work to the advantage of both. I do not know the mind of the company in the matter, nor that of the men generally, though I am given to understand there are certain members of the P. W. A. who oppose agreements no matter whether they are for the good of the men, as a whole, or no. But I do know that unprejudiced onlookers, who have witnessed the good understanding, the peace and the good will, which have existed the past thirty months between the c'o'y and the men, indulge in the hope that another agreement will be entered into which will ensure a continuance of the present happy relations. It may be that the former agreement could not well be extended for a further three years' period without some amendments, but 'unle