

# AROUND THE COLLIERIES

## NEW WATERFORD MINERS AND THE A.M.W.

The Chronicle's Sydney correspondent writes:—"The break of one of the most important locals with the A. M. W. executive is the first the new association has experienced." Of a truth, but could a break have occurred sooner seeing the new association is only cutting its teeth.

In last issue we spoke of what a beggar would do if put on horse back. From New Waterford comes the news that a particular beggar arrived at the gaol in record time.

Said Solomon, "Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird." The New Waterford men are now wondering what sort of little chickens they were to hop right in.

The chuckle of the Glace Bay Gazette, when it read the New Waterford local resolution, was of the jubilant order.

Bide a wee. There will be more breaks yet if the executive does not cease its gander gabble.

The old saw is, "Marry in haste, repent at leisure." The New Waterford adaption is, "Join in haste and repent in a hurry."

"The product of a fanatical and unbalanced mind," so says the New Waterford local of the Sydney resolution. The moral is plain. Alexander the Great did not approve of elephants being led by goats. To be led by unbalanced minds is unthinkable.

And the sad reflection is the locals, that the vote of the members made the passage of the Sydney resolution possible.

The Record regrets that the New Waterford resolution, which contains a dozen or more excellent texts, did not come in time to permit of a dozen sermonettes. The S. O. R. sign was up.

There shall be no hanging without a hearing declare the New Waterford miners.

In 38 years the executive of the P. W. A. were never so slapped in the face, for the simple reason they never had been guilty of so crass folly.

For the seven months ending July some 220,000 less tons of Canadian coal were imported into the United States than in the same period of 1916.

For the seven months ending July last Canada imported from the United States about 1,350,000 tons more coal than in the 7 months of 1916. It would be satisfactory to know how much of this increase is due to shortage of Nova Scotian shipments to Montreal.

The Sydney Record of 29th ult. says:—"When the Grand Jury meets to-morrow morning it is understood that the crown prosecutor will ask that the jury investigate the circumstances in connection with the explosion at No. 12 mine, New Waterford in July last. A number of witnesses will probably be sent before the Grand Jury. In event of an indictment being found it is altogether likely that it will go over until the February term."

A spokesman of the A. M. W. says that an increase in wages of the Nova Scotia miners will be asked for, bringing the wages up to what they are in the West. All right. A corollary of that is Western prices for coal. In Vancouver coal is nine dollars a ton.

Here is something from the Coal Trade Journal which goes to show that the leaders of a Union may educate their following into an undesirable idea of independence:—"One of the peculiarities of the bituminous situation, at the present time, is the fact that the U. M. W. leaders do not seem to be able to control their constituency. They are acting independently and making demands without the sanction of the officials. All this means a lessened tonnage at a time when coal is so much in demand."

The citizens of Springhill are to be commended for refraining to attach to the motion to interview the government any irrational demand, or silly threat if a demand was not complied with. Had they been less in earnest they would have sought a little profitless notoriety by adding to the motion a threat that if the government did not lend a willing ear and take bona fide action by a specified date, they would ask all the miners in Nova Scotia to work only two days a week, after the expiry of a set time.

It is declared that at a meeting a while ago, as stated exclusively in the Record at the time—the "word" exclusively is used for the benefit of certain of our contemporaries who are prone to yelp the word—at Sydney Mines the leading officials of the A. M. W. declared that before he was done with them there would be a whole lot behind prison bars, from the Commissioner of Mines down. A beginning has been made in the direction indicated, but the commencement is not at the head. My! would not it be interesting to see the sober face of the Commissioner of Mines pressed between the bars, shouting for Jimmie and saying, as Jonah said to the whale, "Let me out, let me out." Seriously, let every one who is culpable be brought to account, but let it be done without wholly unnecessary gestulation.

The following may be applicable in some measure to Nova Scotia:

"It can fairly be said, in view of the very serious condition which confronts the coal producing interests, that the opportunities for any great increase in production are, to say the least, doubtful. It has been stated in the columns of this journal that the whole situation depends upon the activity of labor. Evidently this part of the community throughout the United States does not come forward as it should in regard to helping out the very strenuous condition which exists in the coal producing field. Coal is so absolutely the foundation of all other industries, that one must view the present conditions as most serious, to say the least."—Coal Trade Journal.