

AROUND THE COLLIERIES

A deputation from Glace Bay, consisting at least in part of Storekeepers, waited on the government a few days ago and asked that sub-section 2 be struck out. It seems to the Record that this is somewhat of a peculiar request. It puts matters back eight or nine years to the time when deductions were made without orders. Of course the request may not be complied with; if it is, the Record will point out where the end sought for is not attained.

It is likely there will be some fierce amendments to the Coal Mines Regulation Act. It is possible the mode of conducting examinations in the matter of Certificates for Colliery officials, will undergo a radical change. The amendments to the Consolidated Act will likely be so numerous that those responsible for its production, will not know their own bairn.

Section 46, sub-section one of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, reads:—"The wages or salary of any employees of any mine shall not be paid otherwise than in money current in the Dominion of Canada."

Subsection (2) in the Act reads as follows:—"Any such employee may, by order in writing, authorise his employer to apply the whole, or any part, of the wages or salary due to such employee to the payment of any debt due by such employee, but any such order shall be effective only for the weekly period specified therein, and for an amount specified therein."

Pictou Speculators in Oil Shale lands, should take heed to the following from the Salt Lake Mining Review. A correspondent writing the Record on this subject, replies in answer to a request as to what a certain party was doing in exploiting a Shale property, said: "Evidently he is making progress—but he expects big money from any one who desires nothing more than a look at the property." The extracts are for such as he:

In view of the extravagant notions entertained by speculators in oil shale lands of proved or potential value, the following is opportunely interesting and important to Canadians who await the actual results from the New Brunswick shales, about to be worked under Imperial Government auspices.

"A friendly word of warning to owners of oil shale lands is not amiss just at this time. Word has been circulated that leases on this ground are being held at from fifteen to eighteen dollars an acre. This is a case of killing the goose which lays the golden egg, for capital will not listen to any such price, but will pass on to the man who is more reasonably inclined.

"We all know that many mining prospects with the earmarks of possible producers are held back by the high prices and exorbitant demands of their

owners, and that capital merely passes them by and develops claims elsewhere. Every mining camp in the west has such properties. Do not retard the development of the oil shale lands in the same way, an exaggerated and mistaken idea of the price you should receive.

"The reports of high prices paid for various holdings are injuring a new industry of vast possibilities, for they have given a false and widespread idea of inflated values. Many are already holding out for high prices, through ignorance of the real facts, and these few remarks are intended primarily for their reading. Give capital a chance!"

The exploitation of real oil shales, the determining of their oil and sulphate of ammonia contents, the proof that there is large tonnage, call for capital amounting to millions and strictly business methods. More than \$100,000 was spent in the preliminary investigation of the New Brunswick shales. Canadian oil shales are too important to be trifled with by adventurers.

There are two ways of obtaining recognition, a quiet and simple way, and a loud and more warlike way. The P. W. A. was born at a time when there were no Unions, and when neither the public, the press nor the politicians were solicitous for their favor, for the simple reason that the P. W. A. was not considered a force to be reckoned with, and yet the P. W. A. secured recognition—with but little, indeed it may be said without trouble. The directors of the Intercolonial Coal Company settled the matter, when told that the committee were workmen of the Company. The directors did not ask who sent them, or if they were union men, and the Committee did not proclaim loudly that they were union men. The directors told the Manager to meet at all times, committees of workmen. The P. W. A. bided their time, and full recognition came in due course without any request for it. It came as a natural sequence so to speak. The executive of the P. W. A. took good care not to give the Managers any excuse for saying "We will meet with Committees of Workmen only." Never did the Grand Secretary accompany a committee to interview the Manager of a Mine on the mainland till after Leckie's time, and never on the Island until the coming of the Dominion Coal Coy. When the Genl. Manager was the one important official. And by quiet persistent endeavor the P. W. A. got stoppage of dues, a thing unheard of at that time among the Collieries of the continent. If any Company will receive at any and all times a committee of their workmen, Union officials need not worry about the coming in due time of recognition, full recognition to all intents and purposes which will come sooner or later. Union officials should not wish to have the privilege of interviewing works officials along with a Committee. As a rule this