

The Slocan Strike.

The deplorable strike of miners in the Slocan district of British Columbia which resulted from an attempt to reduce their wages to the eight-hour basis imposed by recent Legislative Action has resulted quite seriously to merchants and to the working mines. The strike began in June, and is not over yet. The strikers were taken up for development work largely by those who had mining properties to float, and, in the meantime, the mines which have been on a really working basis have largely been shut down. Some 2,000 miners have removed from once busy localities, and the merchants are suffering from lack of trade, while there is no doubt the output will be greatly reduced. There are hopes that a settlement may be effected, but the prospects are not bright, as the striking miners have secured work in new districts, as stated.

PUBLIC GRATITUDE IN THE WEST WARD.

If Mr. C. F. Smith is elected to the City Council, he will be a very desirable acquisition to that body. But we cannot think that it was necessary, in order to find Mr. Smith a seat, to treat an old and faithful servant with scant courtesy and marked ingratitude. There were seats that Mr. Smith might have taken without opposition.

For twenty-six years, Alderman Stevenson has been vigorously fighting the battles of "the gallant minority" in the City Council. An examination of the division lists will show, we think, that no alderman living has cast so many votes against civic jobs and monopolies. The newspapers reports will show that the lion's share of the fighting generally fell to the gallant Colonel also. That Alderman Stevenson is still able to hold his own in debate nobody who attended his meeting at the Mechanic's Hall will question; and the gentlemen who have been criticizing him privately, paid quite a compliment to his fighting capacity by absenting themselves from the meeting.

It is to be regretted that the old leader of "the gallant minority," Alderman Stevenson, and the new leader, Alderman Ames, do not seem to pull well together. Both gentlemen have exceptional qualifications for municipal service; both have rendered the City and the cause of civic reform invaluable service, and it is a pity that any misunderstanding should prevent them working in conjunction for the good of the tax-payers. The latter need all the earnest and zealous workers they can get at the City Hall.

The Colonel has more courage than most of his critics. He has never shirked a vote, nor shirked the fullest investigation of any vote that he has cast. He tackled Mount Royal with his Field Battery, when all the wisacres "knew" that the feat was an impossibility, and that the Mountain could never be utilized as a Public Park. He succeeded in getting the disreputable old "Drill Shed" turned into the present decent "Drill Shed," when everybody else had about given up hope on the subject. The Fire Brigade, as we

know it to-day, the pride of Montreal and the admiration of English and American fire-fighters, is a monument to the energy and large ideas of Alderman Stevenson. "The Colonel" (it is as correct to refer to Colonel Stevenson as "The Colonel" as it is to refer to the Prince of Wales as "The Prince") is one of modern Montreal's historic land-marks. Hosts of American visitors remember Montreal chiefly as the City of Mount Royal Park, the Twin Towers of Notre Dame, Colonel Stevenson, and the Victoria Bridge. Many of them put the Colonel first.

It speaks well for a record of twenty-six years that Alderman Stevenson has never given a vote of which he is, or need be ashamed. He has been accused of taking the unpopular side in voting for the recent civic loan. As a matter of fact, he opposed the loan both by his voice and vote, until it was "un fait accompli." Then when, upon the advice of the City Attorneys, it was a question of repudiating one of the City's obligations, he voted against repudiation; and small blame to him. What intelligent voter having the true interests of the City at heart would do otherwise.

If the electors of the West Ward elect Mr. Smith, they will have secured the services of a good type of man for the City Council; but they will not secure a more honest representative than they have had for a quarter of a century, and it will be some years before Mr. Smith will enjoy all the power that Alderman Stevenson's great experience gives to him.

COVERED BY THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The men of the second contingent forming what is called the Toronto unit, who are about to leave for South Africa, will have the satisfaction of knowing that, while they are fighting for the British Empire, those nearest and dearest to them are not being forgotten. The lives of the Toronto soldiers are now covered by the British Empire (with a policy for \$140,000).

Mr. A. McDougall, the manager of the British Empire Life Assurance Company, has arranged with the Toronto corporation to assure the men for the sum of \$140,000, at a premium covering both the ordinary and the extra war and climate mortality risks, incident to the South African campaign.

THE DREAM OF UNIVERSAL PEACE.—"If there is anything I despise," said one diplomat, "it's a practical joke."

"I feel the same way about it," answered the other, as he laid down his newspaper, "and I know what I'm talking about; I was a delegate to the peace conference at The Hague."—Washington "Star."

CANADIAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION.—There was a meeting of the council of the Bankers' Association on Friday last. Amongst those present were Messrs. Clouston, Coulson, McDougall, Walker, Wilkie, Farwell, Stikeman, Fyshe and Reid.