

counties are open to inspection, and a correct answer to a question put to an official may not be denied. In this manner it is easy for one to ascertain when the right expires or the lease is forfeited for non-payment of rental. But people generally do not make a business of examining the books in the mines department. Some desirous of securing areas which they think valuable may keep a keen eye on the date of expiry, but only professionals or as they have been called sharks, make it a business to watch for lapses of memory in holders of areas generally. The papers, last week, had it that several of the coal areas now being worked had been allowed by their operators to lapse and that a Halifax business man had applied for them. While the validity of the application may be a point for the legal mind, a layman's opinion is that if merely from an oversight a renewal had not been applied for it would be unjust to acknowledge the application. If, as one of the operators asserted, the rental was paid and a receipt obtained, that is all that is necessary to make good his claim. Rentals are paid in advance, therefore if the rental was paid in August of '06, the area it covers can be held till August of 1907, whether there has or has not been a formal renewal of the lease. The government having accepted the rental has signified its willingness to renew the lease. Even if the rental '06-'07 had not been paid, the government could not refuse a renewal of the lease for a further period of twenty years, if the lessee had prior to 31st of December last made application for renewal. Section 201. Sub Sec. 1 of Mines and Minerals, reads: "Every lessee upon giving to the commissioner six months before the expiration of the lease held by him, notice in writing of his intention to renew such lease for a further period of twenty years from such expiration, shall be entitled to a renewal thereof for such further period. There is a proviso in sub. sec. 6 the exact meaning of which is as clear as mud to a lay mind, "No such renewal shall be granted to such lessee, if at the time of giving such notice, or of the expiration of the term or extended term of such lease, the same is liable to forfeiture, or if any rent is in arrears in respect thereto." Just what service the preposition 'of' before the words "the expiration" is meant to render is not clear. Probably the plain English of the clause is there shall be no renewal, if when the six months notice is given, or when the six months notice has expired, there is rental due on the property. If six months notice was given, and if rental was paid before the Halifax party put in his application, there is not much chance that he will be given lease of the areas. The application may serve a good purpose. It may waken up lessees a bit. Why does not some Halifax man apply for lease over an area being worked on the ground that royalty has not been paid as required by statute.

For a newspaper not in the comic class, my good friend the Herald is very droll at times. Now and again its little speeches are diverting, more especially those which have the Herald for their theme. The chuckling of the Herald over its sworn circulation, may make its competitors biter; its chattering about the amount of liberal—political—patronage it receives must make its

tory compatriots blush, and its friends wonder how the paper can so jauntily glory in—its shame. The Herald is in truth gratfully guileless, and like all of this kind disclaims the possession of so great a virtue. Of course if the Herald was teasingly pulling ones legs, and drawing the wool over ones eyes the laugh would be all on its side; but its manner is so sedate, and its look so solemn one almost believes the Herald believes in the Herald, and then our laugh comes in. Listen to this funny little speech from the Herald of ten days ago: "When the Liberal party find it necessary to get into direct and immediate touch with the Tories of Nova Scotia the leaders naturally utilize the advertising columns of the Halifax Herald." I believe I made a slight mistake in the quotation, I put in the word 'Tories' as the correct interpretation of the Herald's word 'people.' It is scarcely worth while correcting the error. I wonder if the Herald is harking back to a short time prior to the last Dominion election, when the Liberals, by a master stroke, in finding out the weak spot in the Herald, and tackling it, induced the Herald to publish, without visible advertising marks, Fieldings campaign speech. That nice long Fielding advertisement may have paid the Herald; it certainly punctured the party to which it claims allegiance. At the time I defended the Herald's action as purely on the lines of business. But if the Herald is going to blow at this late day, over what its friends considered an aberrance, there will be betrayal of a lack of the finer sensibilities, and exposure of failure to recognize when a subject is too delicate for public parade.

A couple of Belgian correspondents wrote to the Inverness News saying that there was a reference to pensions in the Record which would make it appear "that we Belgian miners of Inverness are not in favor of a pension scheme." Whoever told the Belgians this were not free from guile. The Record writer of the Inverness Colliery notes knew better than to convey any such impression. What have the Belgians to do with a pension scheme affecting Canadians or Britishers only. Not until the Belgians become Britons will they have art or part in a pension scheme, if this country ever has one. If they are already naturalized they have no right to call themselves Belgians. They can tell their prompter that from me Belgians not in favor of a pension scheme! Horses not fond of oats! The writer of the Inverness notes in the Record never yet came across a Belgian who would let anything pass him. No, not if he knew it. A pension scheme is called for in Belgium where the pitiful wages prevent the working people making any proper provision for the future. A pension in old age is a miserable way of making up to a man what he was defrauded and deprived of in his vigor.

The Herald of 24th. Aug. had a despatch from Montreal dated 23rd, which is fishy on the face of it. Catch the Herald paying for a special despatch of this kind; and how could a 'man on the inside' have a talk with the Herald, while he was at the time of the supposed talk in Montreal. Was the talk by phone? The despatch I speak of has reference to Pres. Ross's late visit to C. B. Mr.