

The Anthracite operators will not make an agreement with the United Mine Workers of America, because of their contention that the union's membership is made up principally from the Bituminous fields. At the convention in Indianapolis, the president of the union gave figures showing the numerical strength of his organization. The total membership was 235,000—this was for the close of 1908—and of this number only 31,000 were Anthracite workers.

So like the Socialists.—In the Free Lance's Springfield items appears the following:

"We have a new Mayor and one new Councilor. The Socialists received their quietus as was predicted by those who took the trouble to think over the matter. The one man elected and who proclaimed himself an adherent of that body has destroyed his chance of re-election at any future day."

"It is singular that this coterie of socialists never took any part in any effort for the betterment of the town,—social, educational or sanitary. These men who prate so much now about benefits to their fellows held aloof from the Y. M. C. A. They threw cold water on every suggestion for entertainment, or moral reform of our boys. They sneered at any suggestion of town improvement. They opposed the plans for beautifying the monument grounds. They opposed every attempt to improve our miners educational system. In fact where they had to put their hands in their own pockets instead of getting them into somebody else's, they simply looked coldly on. Their stock in trade is whine, and their chief characteristics, impudence and ignorance."

The Hon. Mr. Daniels, of the local government, was over in Scotland a short time ago. Asked by a Scots-woman what he thought of her native land, Mr. Daniels did not go into raptures over the greatness of Glasgow, the grandness of Edinburgh or the beauty of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. The thing that captivated and enthralled Mr. Daniels was the air of Scotland. On this he expatiated. It sent the blood tingling in his veins and made his step light and elastic. Walking could not tire him. The curious thing is that so few travellers refer to this fact. They speak of the dull days and the many rainy ones and overlook the balminess or whatever it is, of the air. Confirmatory of Mr. Daniels' opinion I quote the following from a late article by "Tay Pay" (O'Connor) in P. T. O.:

"There is another phenomenon in connection with the climate of Scotland and especially of Glasgow, that I must refer to. I am very susceptible to climatic influences. A few hours in some towns—and towns that are beautiful and that I love—are quite sufficient to upset my whole system and drag me down to a fit of deep physical prostration. On the other hand, there are places where I begin to feel vigorous and cheerful almost from the first moment I enter into them. There is something exhilarating in the air which permeates through my whole being. Glasgow belongs to the latter category. Last week-end was an exceptionally severe specimen of the bad weather that Scotland can supply in such a

abundance. We had rain and sleet, snow, and something like cyclonic violence of tempest. One day the wind blew with such violence in the streets of Glasgow that I actually saw a horse blown twice to the ground. And yet throughout all this devastating time I felt quite happy and cheerful; the infectious invigoration of the keen Glasgow air made me indifferent to the weather."

#### THE COAL SUPPLY.

Considerable interest has been taken in scientific and commercial quarters in the speech delivered by Sir William Ramsay at the Mansion House meeting in connection with the British Science Guild, in which he dealt with the future of the coal supply of England. Interviewed on the subject at University College, Sir William Ramsay said the report of the Royal Commission showed that the coal supply would not last more than from 500 to 800 years. The chief sources of energy at the present moment were coal, oil, wood and water. Long before the coal supply became exhausted there would be a diminished production with higher prices. "So that we may expect" he continues "that within not more than 200 years or even less, the high prices of coal will render the conditions of living very difficult. The oilfields are rapidly becoming exhausted, and the whole of the available water power in Europe is estimated not to exceed two million horse-power, and it is probable that in England alone 100 million horse-power is being expended at the present day. Although, however, a source of energy such as water is not to be despised, it only forms a very small fraction of the energy available. The use of tides has been suggested, but the capital cost of any installation of machinery capable of extracting power from the tides and the danger of destruction by storms renders the idea of obtaining power from the tides a chimerical one. In hot countries engines have been worked by solar heat, but even granting that such a process can be applied in England—where sunshine is, unfortunately, only too rare—the cost of apparatus necessary, and again, the danger of destruction by storms, place that source of energy practically out of the question. There are only two other possible alternatives, one is to obtain a supply of heat in the form of steam by drilling a hole in the earth's crust at least ten miles deep. Such a project has been considered from a practical point of view by the Hon. Mr. Parsons, of turbine fame; and his verdict is that the execution of the project would cost £3,000,000, and could not be accomplished in under eighty years. It is conceivable that such a project might be undertaken, but it is highly improbable that it will be. The only other source of energy which is conceivably at the disposal of the human race would rest upon some discovery of a means of extracting energy from the ether. I can only say that in the view of the best scientific opinion the possibility of such a discovery is in the highest degree remote, and should not be counted on for practical purposes. It is obvious that the life of our nation can be prolonged by strict economy promoted by legislation. The question of export duty on coal at once suggests itself, together with the afforestation of the country, and restriction of the use of machines which consume larger proportions of energy compared with the results they yield. The wasteful consumption of coal for