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BRITISH EMPIRE STEEL CORPORATION AFFAIRS SHOULD HAVE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.

Up to Date Steel and Coal Merger Has Failed to Justify Existence by Increasing Employment, Production, Economy or Dividends. There May Be Reasons But State of Public Mind in Nova Scotia Makes it Desirable For Company and Public Alike That the Matter Be Probed to the Bottom. Some Basic Facts About the Situation.

(By I. D. MacDonald, M. A.)

(Continued From Last Issue)

For the last few years there has not been as much Nova Scotia coal sold in the St. Lawrence market, as was formerly the case. There are two reasons for this. One must be ascribed to the cupidity and shortsightedness of the Nova Scotia operators themselves. Previous to 1914, Nova Scotia coal was well established in the St. Lawrence market. A glance at the Sales Record of the Dominion Coal and Nova Scotia Coal Companies shows this. But when the war came in 1914 the Nova Scotia operators found it much more profitable to enter into the bunkering of ships than the trans-Atlantic trade. By doing this they neglected the St. Lawrence market, and allowed the American operators to become strongly entrenched. B. E. S. Co. has had to recapture the St. Lawrence market, lost through the neglect of its subsidiary companies.

The second and principal reason why B. E. S. Co. is finding it exceedingly difficult to effect sales of coal in large quantities in the St. Lawrence market is because American competition is keener today than at any other time. During the war there was an unprecedented demand for coal. The coal industries of France and England were dislocated by the exigencies of war. The United States, which did not become a belligerent nation until 1917, was free to take advantage of the unprecedented situation in the world coal trade. Huge capital expenditures were made to develop the industry, and new mines were opened up which in normal times would not have been opened. The cessation of hostilities and the slack times which occurred in the coal trade in 1920, found the United States with its coal industry tremendously over-developed. To such an extent was the United States coal industry over-developed that although the country normally consumes in its industries, railroads, domestic and export trade, about 500,000,000 tons a year, the present capacity of the U. S. bituminous mines is a production of approximately 800,000,000 tons a year. The Vice-President of the Peabody Coal Company, one of the largest operators of Illinois, testified before the Senate Committee on Manufactures in January, 1921, as follows: "Senators, the large mines of this country can produce in 250 days any year, all the coal that this country, Canada and all the export business requires."

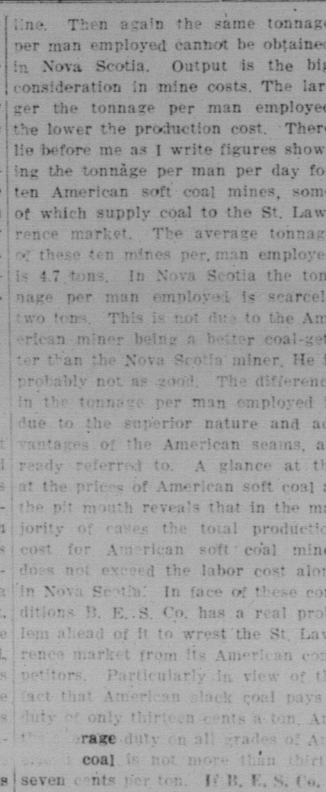
When the unprecedented demand for coal created by war spent itself, and the coal demand began to swing back to normal, a great many of these American "war-time" operators found that they could not compete with the larger operators. And as many of these operators, who took a "flyer" in coal-mining, during their war, had not made very heavy capital expenditures for equipment and development they found it profitable to resort to a system of mining known as "stripping." By which the cheapest coal is taken out and the mines abandoned without taking out all the recoverable coal. Stripping has resulted in very cheap coal. And in some cases it is this cheap coal that is driving Nova Scotia coal out of the St. Lawrence market.

Even without the cheap coal obtained by "stripping" Nova Scotia would need to be thoroughly equipped and producing at maximum efficiency to successfully compete with American coal in the St. Lawrence Market. In general American coal can be purchased much cheaper than Nova Scotia coal. The American mines are inland—the seams are thick—lying in accessible positions—easily ventilated, and selling for minimum expenditures for haulage, timber, pumping and mining. On the other hand between eighty and ninety per cent. of the B. E. S. Co. mines are submarine; and many of them are very deep. In some cases in the Cape Breton field, the mining of coal under the sea has proceeded to distances ranging up to two and a half miles from the shaft at the shore

line. Then again the same tonnage per man employed cannot be obtained in Nova Scotia. Output is the big consideration in mine costs. The larger the tonnage per man employed the lower the production cost. There before me as I write figures showing the tonnage per man per day for ten American soft coal mines, some of which supply coal to the St. Lawrence market. The average tonnage of these ten mines per man employed is 4.7 tons. In Nova Scotia the tonnage per man employed is scarcely two tons. This is not due to the American miner being a better coal-getter than the Nova Scotia miner. He is probably not as good. The difference in the tonnage per man employed is due to the superior nature and advantages of the American seams, already referred to. A glance at the at the prices of American soft coal at the pit mouth reveals that in the majority of cases the total production cost for American soft coal mines does not exceed the labor cost alone in Nova Scotia. In face of these conditions B. E. S. Co. has a real problem ahead of it to wrest the St. Lawrence market from its American competitors. Particularly in view of the fact that American slack coal pays a duty of only three cents a ton. And "free" duty on all grades of American coal is not more than thirty-seven cents per ton. If B. E. S. Co. is to successfully cope with American competition in the St. Lawrence market there will need to be the utmost efficiency on the part of the corporation and the utmost co-operation on the part of the miners and the public. Industrial prosperity in Nova Scotia is contingent upon our coal being able to compete in the St. Lawrence market. If this cannot be done the mines must work irregularly, and the industrial pulse of Nova Scotia must continue to beat feebly.

Is the Steel Industry milking the Coal Industry? B. E. S. Co. besides mining coal manufactures steel. When working normally the steel works consume a great deal of coal. At one time the steel works consumed over thirty per cent. of all coal produced in the province. One of the principal conditions in Nova Scotia in respect to the coal industry is that the steel plants are getting coal at too low a price. Hence the mining industry suffers and fails to show the profits that it should. Some years ago the steel industry did receive coal at a very low price. Even today the price is low—probably below production cost. It would seem then that the steel industry is milking the coal industry. But there is something to be said on the other side of the question. The quality of coal used in the steel works is merely of a great deal of this slack coal produced by our Nova Scotia mines. Probably 25% of all screened coal is slack. No ready market can be found for this slack. Were it not for the steel industry much of this coal would be wasted. Hence in the absence of a steel industry the mining industry would suffer materially.

The British Empire Steel Corporation is accused of many things—from starving miners' babies to corrupting governments. It is depicted in some quarters as a huge octopus—all stomach and no heart. We hope for the sake of Nova Scotia that it is not as bad as sometimes pointed. Undoubtedly some of the things of which the corporation is accused are mere suspensions. Some, too, are likely framed for ulterior motives and political purposes. But this much seems clear: B. E. S. Co. up to date has failed to justify the wisdom of a steel and coal merger. When such a merger was mooted Nova Scotians were promised a brighter and better industrial era. We have not seen its dawn. The merger has not increased employment. It has not increased production. It has not resulted in lower production costs. It has not paid dividends. Since its formation Nova Scotia has obtained a bad name as a field for the investment of capital which will be a curse and a hindrance to the province for years to come. Why these "things" have resulted as a consequence of extraordinarily difficult conditions in the steel and coal trades since the formation of B. E. S. Co. or if B. E. S. Co. reeking with hidden abuses that are militating against the success of these industries in Nova Scotia? The latter immersion seems to prevail in his province. If it be entirely false, but true in part, it is essential that the real situation be made known. If B. E. S. Co. harbors hidden demons in its bosom, they should be cast out. If the corporation is "more sinned against than sinning," the people should know. We repeat, in the face of American com-



petition in the St. Lawrence market the utmost efficiency on the part of the corporation and the utmost co-operation on the part of the workmen and the public are absolutely necessary. Such efficiency and co-operation are impossible as long as suspicion and distrust exist. To allay mistrust and restore public confidence a searching and impartial inquiry into all matters appertaining to the coal industry wherever found must be exposed and remedied. If the Nova Scotia coal industry is to fulfill its important functions as a source of employment for our people—wealth and prosperity for our province—there must be no more belching of issues, for corporation purposes, for labor purposes or for political purposes. Our coal industry is too important to be trifled with.

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FLORISH BY THEIR INDUSTRIES

BORDEN FACTORY, TRURO, N.S.

DALHOUSIE WEST.

Miss Lillian Buckler is visiting friends in Bridgetown. Mr. Ritchie Toal of Lawrenceton, is home now on account of the school being closed there. Mrs. Grey Gillis who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sperry, of Perth, has returned home. We are glad to report those who were on the sick list are somewhat better.

FALKLAND RIDGE.

Fred VanBuskirk and little daughter who recently visited his mother, at Millers, has returned here. Avard Parker of Carleton, Maine and his sister, Mrs. Lewis, of the same place have been recent guests of the sister, Mrs. Sylvanus McNair. Mrs. Ira Stoddart had the misfortune to fall and break her leg on the morning of March 28th. Her Doctor being ill and being Sunday, no trains, Dr. Spoonage was summoned from Middleton, and was brought here by horse teams in relays, Chas. Marshall, Chas. Stoddart, Edwin Merry all deserve great credit for their help. The Doctor arrived at dark and set the broken limb, and the next morning had her removed to the Hospital for treatment.

A large number from here attended the Annual Roll Call of the church at Springfield on March 10th. Kenneth Wallace went to Middleton March 10th, to see the Doctor to have his hand treated for an ailment.

The play, "The Beantown Choir" given by the young folks of the Ridge in the I. O. O. F. Hall at Springfield on Monday evening was well rendered.

Harry Balcom, of Paradise, spent the week-end at the Balcom Bros' mill here.

Fred Balcom spent the week-end at his home at Paradise.

Ralph Veniot was called to New Albany on Sunday on account of the illness of his wife.

Murray Wentzell and sister of Paradise, are visiting their cousin, Robt. Wentzell and family.

Mr. Isaac Moore of New Germany, made a business trip here March 17th. Mrs. Charles Hoyt and little daughter, Marjorie, are guests of her sister, Mrs. Harold Mason.

U. S. IMMIGRATION LAWS RELATING TO CANADA.

Because of the wide spread misunderstanding among Canadians both in the United States and Canada regarding the present United States Immigration Laws relating to Canada the Canadian Club of Boston, through its President, A. M. Johnson, has issued the following statement in an endeavor to make the essential points of these laws as clear as possible.

The privilege granted to Canadians under the United States Immigration Laws of 1917, whereby Canadians have been permitted to come to the United States on a visit for a period of six months without the payment of head tax, is continued under the present United States Immigration Act which became effective July 1st, 1924. Unfortunately, this privilege has been taken advantage of. The law has been violated—often times unwittingly, sometimes deliberately—by a large number of persons in that they agreed to return to Canada within six months but did not do so.

It is apparent that such persons do not realize the penalties they must inevitably incur for violating this temporary stay privilege. Under the present laws persons who come to the United States under this six months temporary stay privilege, paying neither head tax nor visa, and who do not return to Canada within six months as they agreed, are liable to severe penalties. They are as follows: (1) After the expiration of their six months' stay they are liable to arrest and deportation to Canada and persons so deported are prohibited from re-entering the United States for one year.

(2) The head tax of \$5 and visa of \$10 cannot be paid in the United States, but such persons must return to Canada and appear before the United States consul of the district in which they reside and obtain a visa. They must also pay a head tax at the recognized point of exit in Canada. In the Maritime Provinces there are three—Yarmouth, Nova Scotia; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and St. John, New Brunswick.

(3) No person may become a citizen of the United States or take out first papers who in entering the United States has not complied with the United States Immigration Laws. If this has not been done one must first return to Canada, pay the visa and head tax and thus legally re-enter the United States before making application for citizenship.

When persons are not absolutely sure of returning to Canada within the six months period it is strongly advisable to obtain visa and pay the head tax before leaving Canada. This will save a possible trip back to Canada.

Further, it cannot be overemphasized that the temporary stay privilege is a special concession to Canadians, which is not enjoyed by the people of any other country. That its continuance may not be endangered the laws covering it should be honestly complied with. Canada also enjoys another unusual concession in that its citizens are not placed under a quota. Were the continued violation of present laws to bring about a quota upon Canada, such now exists with all other countries. Only a limited number of Canadians would be permitted to enter the United States each year. This might tend to impair the cordial intercourse between these two great countries.

Because of the number of times which the Canadian Club of Boston is called upon for information on this important question affecting so many of our own people, the Club feels that there is need for greater publicity on this matter. It seeks in a friendly way to help Canadians, whose reputation for complying with the Law is firmly established, and also the United States Immigration authorities who are anxious to have the fundamental features of this Law, generally understood. To this end a special Immigration Committee has been appointed. All of its efforts conform with the vital purpose of this Club which lies in promoting "friendly relations" based upon mutual understanding between all English speaking peoples.

Mr. M. Prosser, of the R. P. Bell Co., Halifax, called on friends here last week.

Albert Parker, of Digby, called on friends here last week.

A RELIABLE TONIC FOR SPRINGTIME

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Give New Health And Vigor.

Not sick—but not feeling quite well. That is the way most people feel in the spring. Easily tired, appetite fickle, sometimes headaches and a feeling of depression. Pimples or eruptions may appear on the skin or there may be twinges of rheumatism or neuralgia. Any of these indicate that the blood is out of order—that the indoor life of winter has left its mark upon you and may easily develop into more serious trouble.

Do not dose yourself with purgatives, as many people do, in the hope that you can put your blood right. Purgatives gallop through the system and weaken instead of giving strength. Any doctor will tell you that this is true. What you need in the spring is a tonic that will enrich the blood, clear the blood out of order—that the indoor life of winter has left its mark upon you and may easily develop into more serious trouble.

Proof of the value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills when the system is run down is shown by the case of Mrs. Lillian Lewis, South Ohio, N.S., who says:—"About a year ago I was badly run down. My appetite was poor, I did not sleep well and my nerves were all unstrung. I could not go to upstairs without stopping to rest. As I was a long way from a doctor I decided to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and in the course of a few weeks I felt like a new person. As an all around restorative I can heartily recommend this medicine."

You can get these pills through any dealer in medicines or by mail, at 50 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

NO 99

1929—500 acres total, 40 acres cultivated, 24 acres marsh, 3 acres orchard, 100 acres pasture, over 2000 cords hard and soft wood, considerable timber, cuts 50 to 60 tons hay, situation good, buildings extra good. This is the best dairy proposition in this part of the country. Offered at a low figure including the Stock, Equipment and household furniture.

This is a good investment. If interested get particulars from

Lloyd's Real Estate Agency

Bridgetown, Annapolis Valley, N. S.

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1929—500 acres total, 40 acres cultivated, 24 acres marsh, 3 acres orchard, 100 acres pasture, over 2000 cords hard and soft wood, considerable timber, cuts 50 to 60 tons hay, situation good, buildings extra good. This is the best dairy proposition in this part of the country. Offered at a low figure including the Stock, Equipment and household furniture.

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Strength and Stamina

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The Purity Flour Cook Book will be mailed postage paid to you for thirty cents—it's worth more. Write for one today to Western Canada Flour Mills Company, Limited Toronto, St. John, N.S., Winnipeg

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THE FROZEN YEAR 1816.

The following letter signed "A Constant Reader" is from a recent issue of the Boston Post. Dear Observant Citizen:—"I have a perfectly reliable record of the weather of the year 1816. It may interest younger readers to read of the peculiar conditions. The year 1816 was called the "summerless year." I copied the facts thinking thousands of your younger readers would be much interested. The year 1816, weather notes—January was so mild it was often comfortable to sit without fires—only a few cold days. February was not cold, though cooler than January had been. March came in with a week of wind, then the weather was mild. April came with a week of warm weather, then grew colder toward May. May had snow and ice and winter temperature, and buds on trees were frozen. May 30th, every green thing killed by frost. In June ice was common. All fruit was frozen. In Vermont ten inches of snow fell. In central New York three inches of snow fell. This severe weather was followed by a few hot days. Very little rain fell. Wind from the north mostly. June 16th, a heavy snow fall. July came in with ice and snow; and on July 14th, ice like window glass formed on ponds on New England, New York and parts of Pennsylvania.

August was the all. Snow fell eleven miles of London, newspapers reported no summer came to Fish and game which helped the assistance, though the Of course there much importance. The poor people's eye, I have seen the one man actually mid-summer, I recall old lady told me that in the husband had a field. It was badly ripped took a pair of shoes, the corn leaves were killed. I do not remember helped in great extent. Those years ago—were having people, especially classes. A man's cents a day, and in cents a peck. Some but very little they was the staple for hours. A working two or three miles, form a hard day's nightfall trudge making the day's wage upon his shoulders, a family which harvested barrels of potatoes have raised a large State News, Waltham

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Delicious

Home-made Sausages, Bacon Breakfast Ham, and numerous other meat delicacies—this is the place to get them, always fresh and at a reasonable price. WE HAVE IN STOCK. Choice meat, meat for mincing, Beef, Pork, Veal, Lamb, and Poultry, Canned goods and groceries. ORDER EARLY

LOWE'S Meat Market

Queen Street, Bridgetown

Patronise the "Monitor's" Job Dept

Albert Parker, of Digby, called on friends here last week. Miss Lena MacWhinnie clerking in J. W. Snow's store, fell last week injuring her hip, which confined her to her home for a few days.

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