

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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The RECORD is devoted to the Mining—particularly Coal Mining—Industries of the Maritime Provinces.

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- Rubs by Rambler.

It is not to be expected that certain of those who claim that coal is sold cheaper in Montreal than in Nova Scotia, and who assert that the coal barons are making big profits because they sell coal at double the price it costs to produce, will argue the question fairly. Their only arguments are puerile poutings and reckless statements. Here is a sample of the style of argument of papers of the calibre of the Amherst News:—"There is a paper published in Stellarton which styles itself the Maritime Mining Record." (Well, what of that.) "Its editor is one who figured for years as the principal leader of the P. W. A. in this province." (Well, where is the argument in that.) "The Amherst News has lately incurred the ire of this notable statesman." (Simpletons have lurid moments) "and his paper because we dared to whisper, that living in a coal mining centre, within easy reach of mines, we should not be called upon to pay two or three dollars a ton more for coal than the big corporations and railway companies are paying for it." To which it may be replied that the people in Amherst do not pay two or three dollars a ton more than the big corporations, that is do not pay it to the coal companies. The Record, in reply to the News, said that coal could not be produced in Cumberland for \$1.50 per ton, to which answer is made as follows:—"If he will refer to the records of a certain strike that occurred in this county some years ago, he will find we have the best of authority for the cost of the production of a ton of coal. We were not drawing from our imagination, nor is this paper the humble servant of a monopoly." This of course is convincing, even though it does not take into account the fact that since "some years ago," wages have gone up 22 per cent. and the cost of material has been greatly increased. The News, evidently, wants coal at the price paid some years ago, and cheaper coal of course means lower wages. But what about wages as long as that paper gets cheaper coal.

Why do certain papers make so great an outcry when a travelling auditor checks the accounts of the conductors of the I. C. R. trains. The auditor is called a spotter and one would think to

hear certain of the press and certain people talk that his calling was contemptible and dishonourable. Our banks are regularly inspected and the accounts gone over by an official sent from the head office, and yet we do not hear of the tellers of the banks getting into a furore and a fury and hurling hard names at him. The visits of the Inspector are welcomed, that is by every honest up-to-date teller. And why should a conductor of a passenger train not welcome an auditor. If he is honest the auditor or spotter cannot possibly do him any harm. As magistrates are a terror only to evil doers, so spotters can only be a terror to those who are not quite sure as to their system of keeping accounts.

Nova Scotia is not the only country chargeable with waste of coal. Pres. Keighley of the Coal Mining Institute of America in December had this to say on the subject of waste:

"The American nation will go down in history as the most extravagant nation that ever existed. It commenced by exterminating the Indian. It next exterminated the buffalo. It then turned attention to the forests, and has almost eliminated them. These things were serious, but they were not beyond repair. The career we have launched on now is resulting in something that can never be repaired. We are skimming the cream of the mineral riches with which this land has been so endowed in our haste to get rich. We are destroying at least 50 per cent. of everything in the mineral line we lay our hands on. Nothing but the richest gold mines are worth looking at; the same thing applies to all the mines of precious minerals and precious stones. When we come to our iron deposits nothing but the richest of the ores are shipped away; the leaner ore is wasted, much of it destroyed forever. It is a fact, and has been proven by the United States Geological Survey, that 40 per cent. of the magnificent anthracite deposits in Pennsylvania, the duplicate of which cannot be found on earth, has been lost forever. I believe it is true that, up to this time, 50 per cent. of the bituminous coal area worked over has been wantonly destroyed, and the destruction is being swiftly carried on on every side. The man who tries to conserve the mineral wealth of this country is laughed at as a fool. The man who cannot produce a ton of coal cheaply, in the estimation of some people, is no miner at all; in fact, they gauge a man's ability by the cost at which he produces a ton of coal, no matter if he destroys ten tons of coal for every one he gets out. Our president who seems to have the faculty of probing everything, has not yet probed the mineral industries of this land, but it is evident he is being awakened to the fact that wanton waste is running riot through the land; for he has directed that the coal seams underlying the unsold public lands shall not be disposed of, and I don't doubt that he will follow this matter further, and probably order an investigation into mining methods of this land."

The Boston Transcript of January 26th. comments on the appointment of Messrs G. H. Dugan and Chas. Fergie to the directorate of the Dominion Coal Co. as follows:

"Some comment has been caused by the action