

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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THE POST AND UNITED LABOR.

In the contract between the Dom. Coal and Dom. Steel Co there was a strike clause; in the contract now being negotiated there will be a similar clause.

We wonder.

The Post has at last found its feet—on the C. B. labor question.

Whatever the inspection, and however late of coming, the Post is to be congratulated.

Still there may be excuses for those who wonder how the Post could have remained so long in a somnolent state.

The Post having spoken out it will be wholly unnecessary for the Record to make further defence of its attitude towards the two labor societies. Every patriotic paper should have shown the U. M. W.'s scant courtesy, if 'no quarter' might have been too drastic.

If the Post was waiting on the Record, and the Record on the Post, then the latter gets the medal as being the first to take its courage in both hands.

In the following article the Post talks sense. The matter is as clearly and as forcibly—if not quite with so much fire—as the Mining Record could have put it. This is equivalent to saying the article is worth reproduction and worth reading:—

"The present labor situation in Cape Breton has unfortunately reached a point where it is being watched by the public with a feeling of uneasiness and apprehension.

The immediate cause of trouble is the variance between a branch of organized labor and the Dom. Coal Coy., but the radical trouble lies in the division and hostility that exists in the ranks of labor and which has finally culminated in the establishment of two organizations which are entirely out of joint and out of harmony with each other.

It is too late in the day to call in question the benefits or the utility of unionism. It is conceded by all whose opinions are worth considering that organized labor is in the interest of the workman and in the interest of capital. It has brought both within reach of mutual co-operation recognition of their several rights and obligations.

To be effective labor must be united. It is quite clear that to attain the aims and objects for which unionism stands among the miners of Cape Breton there must be no division in the ranks.

The question of how much strength has been developed by affiliation of a part of the miners of Cape Breton with the United Mine Workers is open for discussion. While there has been and still is a large and free intercourse between the people of the United States and Canada there has been ever maintained by the Republic an intense commercial hostility towards this country which was never more marked and accentuated than it has been during the present revision of the tariff. The question is, can two countries each extremely commercially and industrially hostile to each other co-operate to mutual advantage? Canada has grown up and become strong in spite of the exclusion policy of the United States and our commercial and industrial future does not look to the Republic for any assistance because none will be sought.

On the other hand a labor union Canadian in origin and sentiment offers the highest possibilities of effective usefulness for the miners of this province. In order to effect such a condition it will be necessary to remove the causes that have led to the disruption of labor unionism in this island. There are plenty of men who have the intelligence, firmness and business ability to promote a solid all-Canadian union which would be more powerful and effective for good to all concerned than the present divided condition of the labor forces. The culmination of the present difficulty in either the victory or defeat of the United Mine Workers or the P. W. A. will not settle the question. There will be days beyond those that are being counted in this passing year and there is an industrial future to this island that requires the intelligence and sympathetic co-operation of both capital and labor. In the process of reconstruction there are some men who should realize that their retirement is in the interest of the restoration of pacific conditions. Feelings, however warm, are of a transitory nature, but a settled policy supported and lived up to will bring forth good results."

CONCERNING COAL ROYALTIES.

The Halifax Herald being 'agin' the government, is for that reason, so it considers, bound in season and out of season, to find fault with anything and everything it ever has done, or even thought of doing. Recently, in the increased royalty on coal, as compared with what the royalty was when the conservatives were in power, it has found a new cause for complaint. It is now vehement in its denunciation of the local government for having increased the royalty on coal in 1892, and previously and subsequently. It is scarcely to be expected that the Herald would be quite candid. If candour won't fit in with its argument then candour must go. Its statement as to the increase in royalties is not a full statement. Why was there, as it alleges, no royalty on slack. On what coal is royalty paid, on the coal raised to the surface or on the coal sent from the colliery? Why did the conservatives not raise the royalty between 1878 and 1882, and why did the liberals wait until 1885 was it not actually 1890 before increasing the royalty. Was there not a question as to the validity of an increase in