

## THE FOLLY OF BRINGING COALS TO NEWCASTLE.

Huge Dump of the Montreal Gas Co'y on Fire.

People Suffering from the Fumes and  
Poisonous Gases

This Cheap Coal will be very Costly.

## THE COAL IS NOT FROM NOVA SCOTIA BUT IS IMPORTED AMERICAN SLACK.

If fire occurred in a heap of the Nova Scotia coal sent to Everett the Boston papers would announce the fact with fancy flourishes and flowery headlines. The RECORD's columns are unsuited for display type, therefore we have to be content with the above modest heading.

Whatever advantages the imported American slack may have over Nova Scotian they are far more than offset by the big disadvantage that it is subject to spontaneous combustion and that is a serious, and as in this case, a costly item. It strikes us that Nova Scotia coal would be more profitable to the Gas Co'y. in the long run.

The Montreal Star, referring to the fire, says:— "This place (the dump) is in the vicinity of the gas plant of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company. Residents there have complained to the city health authorities of the nuisance of the smoke and gas fumes arising from the coal dump.

A representative of the Star visited the place and found the conditions were very bad. The coal dump is of huge dimensions, extending about sixty feet parallel with Ontario street and more than one hundred back along de Levis street, while it is some twenty-five feet in height. Here and there the fire is perceptible, and from the summit there rises a blinding, choking smoke, which permeates the houses in the immediate neighborhood and constitutes a grave danger to health.

"One of the men engaged at the works, when questioned about the matter, 'guessed' that the fire had been among the coal 'for about a month.' A gang of men were removing the coal by shovelling it into a relay of carts, and the men and teams are said to be engaged on this labor night and day. The company is also said to have engaged the services of firemen on two occasions in attempts to subdue the fire, and the employees turn on water from a line of hose pipe when the fire becomes demonstrative at any particular point of the dump."

## WHO IS NATIONAL PRESIDENT?

Two or three weeks ago came the announcement that John P. White of Iowa, who was supported by the Mitchell faction, had ousted Lewis from the presidency of the U. M. W. Later this announcement was contradicted and the assertion made that Lewis had been elected by a plurality of, as different reports had it, from 4,000 to 40,000. The friends of John Mitchell and J. P. White still maintain that Lewis is out and White in. White had the support of the turbulent Illinois section, and some figures are going the rounds which tend to show that his friends have grounds for their belief that he will be National President next year. The United States operators would much prefer to have Lewis than

White. Our hope is that White is elected, for while Lewis is probably the more moderate and cautious man, his interference in the affairs of Nova Scotia shows that he lacks penetration or that he thinks of Lewis first. He has made a mess of things in Nova Scotia. The money of the poor Slaves, Poles and Huns, who constitute the largest proportion of the membership of the U. M. W. has been lavishly scattered in vain, and while depleting the treasury at Indianapolis, has undermined the manliness of the beneficiaries of the foreign society. Little wonder that those things which tend to the comforts of the social position and the morals of the U. M. W. members in the U. S. have been overlooked. The warring factions have no time to devote to the strengthening their following they have to devote their time to forging big promises of big wages and declaring war against the greedy grinding operators.

## A CONTEMPLATED MINE EXPLOSION

The United States government has been fully awakened to the necessity of preventing if possible so great loss of life in the coal mines of that country, as will be gathered from the following from a U. S. paper:—

"The bureau of mines is preparing to touch off an explosion in a real coal mine to demonstrate the explosibility of coal dust.

Some say that the government experiments at Pittsburgh have only a theoretical value because they are conducted in a steel tank and not in a mine. The government is trying to hammer into the heads of the doubters that it is coal dust, not gas, that causes the most terrible mine disasters. They will buy a mine and blow it up to prove it.

The experimental explosives will have all the characteristics of the real disaster without the usual loss of life, for there will be no one in the government mine when the dust explodes. When the poisonous gases have been driven out the experts will enter and study the effects of the explosion.

Scientists have long known that the dust of coal, wood and grain is explosive; it is only within three years that they have discovered that coal dust as an explosive is powerful as dynamite. It is now known the destruction of the Washburn and five other flour mills of Minneapolis May 2nd, 1878, was caused by a dust explosion.

It has been determined beyond doubt that the Monongah horror, the most terrible in history, was caused by coal dust. In all, 1,148 men lost their lives by dust explosions in 1907, and 469 in 1908.

The dust may become so thick in the air that it becomes explosive. A heavy blasting charge or a crossed electric wire may touch it off. As the flash travels, slow at first, it begins to stir up dust. In a few seconds the flame is travelling at a tremendous rate, sometimes nearly a half a mile a second. Ahead of it is pushed a tornado of whirling air, raising a thick train of dust for the flame to feed on. Its passing lasts only an instant, but that twinkling of an eye will turn a solid fanning of coal into voke half an inch thick. The heat sometimes reaches 5000 degrees.

Heretofore mine owners have attributed all explosions to free gas in the mine. The scientists now know the gas explosion is far less to be dreaded by the miner than the dust explosion."