

**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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March 8, 1916.

**D. H. McDUGALL.**

We should perhaps have written "Excelsior" after the name, so that simple folks might not conclude that what they were about to read was an obituary notice. We did not write the word, possibly, because in speaking of Mr. McDougall's promotion to be General Manager of the Dominion Steel Corporation, which includes, of course, the Dominion Coal Co., the writer is not wholly in a triumphant mood, and possibly the word was not written because this notice will contain at least one phrase common to obituaries, namely, "His gain is our loss." The newspapers which have referred to Mr. MacDougall's elevation have said nothing but the nicest things of him, and all that has been said of him is deserved. And yet, and yet, while very proud that he has been judged eligible to fill so big and responsible a position, and glad for his sake that he has been found worthy, from personal, possibly selfish consideration, one is almost impelled to exclaim, "Confound it," and why? Well, so long as Mr. McDougall was manager of coal alone, one was not confused with a ceaseless feeling of inequality. Coal was common ground. But, ugh, steel and coal, that is a step beyond one, and in such cases human nature is ready with a protest. The Record, on a former occasion said, referring to a General Manager of the Dominion Coal Company, that each succeeding one was in no sense less capable, less to be appreciated than his predecessor. Of the half dozen who, since 1893, have been at the head of the practical end of the big coal company, it may be well said of D. H. McDougall that he was by no means the least. But why should there be any selfish regret at all, at the promotion; he will still manage the coal end of the business? True, but mistakenly, as I think, the steel end is looked upon as the more important, and as long as the directors think so, they will look for the new General Manager of steel to centre his affections there. Let that pass. The province can congratulate herself that one of her sons has been considered fitted to fill a position which hitherto could only be filled, it was thought, by an outsider. The appointment of Mr. McDougall is the best thing ever done the directors of "steel" did. The works at Sydney have not in the past been a towering success. If Mr. McDougall does not succeed in putting them staunchly on their feet, then they never can be made a bonanza to the shareholders.

Portland, Oregon, is the largest city in the world, so far, that has voted itself "dry."

**- Rubs by Rambler. -**

At the second reading of the bill amending the Nova Scotia Temperance Act—the amendment being to prohibit the sale of liquor in Halifax—Mr. Finn, M. P. P., suggested that the second reading might be deferred for a day or so, that it might be studied, as the bill primarily affected the city of Halifax. The employment of the word primarily was a mistake on Mr. Finn's part. He should have been content with the use of the word "largely." It is the counties which have adopted the Nova Scotia Temperance Act that the bill, it is hoped, will primarily affect. Owing to the existence of license in Halifax the attempts to enforce the N. S. Temperance Act are to a large degree abortive. It is because liquor is sent from Halifax to these counties that there is so urgent a demand for the passage of the act. When Mr. Finn said "Halifax was primarily affected" he possibly had the "trade" in mind. There are, however, those in Halifax at the present time who, it is designed, should be largely affected by the bill, and those are the lads in khaki. If the lads in khaki were not sufferers from the fact that license prevails in Halifax, and if the temperance counties were not affected similarly, then it is possible a majority of the Legislators might say let Halifax have its way, the policy it adopts in reference to liquor traffic, harms none but its own citizens, let them have the poison so long as it does injury to none beyond its confines.

For some days, even weeks, after the delivery of the speeches of A. K. MacLean, M. P., and Minister of the Crown Sir Geo. Foster the liberal papers, from the Morning Chronicle up, teemed with editorials bewailing the prevalence of patronage, and lauding these two gentlemen for their strong denunciation of the system. After reading these editorials in the knowledge that there had been no such condemnation of the spoils system when the liberals were in power at Ottawa, one is apt to utter, with emphasis, the word "hypocrisy." It is deserving, no doubt, of a harder name, but the word won't come at my bidding. The condemnation, by the papers referred to, is of patronage as existing and exercised at Ottawa. If they were honest they would not, could not, fail to spurt out a word or two condemning the system as exercised in Halifax. Patronage is quite as rampant in Halifax as at Ottawa, and of the same quality, if not in the same degree. The only difference is that the patronized of Ottawa receive bigger plums than the patronized of Halifax. Mark you, I am not condemning the local government for giving all the pickings to their friends, I am only pointing out that it follows the same system as in operation at Ottawa and that is so roundly condemned by its friends, the liberal newspapers. If any one says the local government is not "strong" on patronage, let me call attention to a few recent happenings. Why was Patterson appointed a pendency magistrate for the town of Stellarton against the wishes of its town council? He is a liberal. Why were Messrs. Lott and Higson appointed members of a commission to investigate the Drummond fire? They are liberals. Who constitute the commission making inquiry into the closing of the mine at Thorburn? Why, liberals, of course. Who are the Deputy Inspectors