

Without the necessity of asking the operators Sir George Foster must have been aware of the chief reason for the falling off in production during the last two years. The chief reason was scarcity of labor. Why did not Sir George act on this knowledge and secure a number of Belgians? There must be a large number of former Belgian miners knocking about in European countries who would be glad to have free transportation to Canada. If it is said there will be plenty of native workmen after the war, then the answer can be made, bring them over for "during the war," and a given time after war ceases. Possibly the matter of Belgian labor was discussed at the conference.

The people of Springhill are pleased that the fire in the north slope has been thoroughly walled off, and that the prospect of the north slope being a large producer at an early date is bright. The lower part of the mine is full of water, but efficient pumps will soon unwater the section and after that the Springhill output should make the jump long looked for.

As the Record stated, if a plebiscite of the miners was taken as between the P. W. A. and the U. M. W. those of Pictou county though affiliated with the A. F. L. would vote to down the P. W. A. It is said the P. W. A. is discredited in Pictou and Cumberland counties. That is perhaps too true. But why? There is an old saying that it is much easier to forgive the man who has injured you than the man you have injured. And at times what a world of truth there is in the statement. Can the miners of Cumberland or Pictou counties lay one well-founded charge against the P. W. A. or its officials? The Record knows a good deal of the causes first of apathy and then of hostility to the P. W. A., and for these a few ill-balanced brains are responsible.

At the hearing before the law amendments committee on the two "unions" question, the chairman asked Secretary Moffat if the P. W. A. had applied for a conciliation board; the answer was "yes." The chairman then asked what increase in wages was asked to which came the reply "thirty per cent." Whew! that is no mean request, but comprehensive enough to satisfy a U. M. W. leader desirous of qualifying for place and position. Presumably, in asking for an advance unprecedented in the annals of Nova Scotia mining, the officials of the P. W. A. are acting on the injunction contained in the old Scottish saw "Pluck at a gown of gowd (gold) and you may get a sleeve o't." A board, it is understood was applied for by certain persons belonging to an imitation trades union, and refused by the department of labor for sufficient reasons. What actions may be taken by the department in the matter of the P. W. A. request remains to be seen.

One of the U. M. W. delegation to Halifax was emphatic in the assertion that he had been discriminated against by a colliery management, because he was a member of the U. M. W. The colliery manager in rebuttal said the man Barrett had not been discriminated against, and made the ears of the committee tingle when he said that the average wage of this person Barrett, was, since last October to the present time, \$4.05 per day. Mr. McLean, the

manager, further stated that on one occasion the man had gone home because the work given him was not to his liking, and that had he, the manager, done what he should have done he would have disciplined him, but neither the superintendent nor he desired to do that which might have afforded this workman a peg on which he might hang a grievance. The Record is not sure that discipline should not have been exercised. At all events in this case coddling didn't pay. It is told us that it is no use trying to tame savages until you have first convinced them that you are the masters. Kindness is accounted by them softness, if there has not been a previous and convincing display of force. The man's action in going home was equivalent to "I dare you" flung in the face of the manager. Possibly the challenge was not accepted because the powers higher up cautioned the manager to wink—for the time being at least—at waywardness. Give the undisciplined mind an inch, and ten to one he will immediately demand an ell.

It was stated in the Herald of last Wednesday that the miners of Springhill would work on Good Friday so as to help out the coal situation. At this writing the Record has not heard how well the men turned out. If a majority went to work, then Springhill must be credited with having set a splendid and highly commendable example.

LLOYD GEORGE ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The prime minister of Britain holds that there was a marked similarity between the cause of the allies and that of Lincoln, who saw that unless slavery were abolished it would break up the union. A new form of slavery—militarist slavery—had grown up in Berlin, and in recent years it had been moving towards crushing out freedom and fraternity in all Europe. In wars for liberty there can be no compromise. In the American case it was freedom and unity, or slavery and separation. Now the European issue is between tyrannical military power and public right. Just as Lincoln, holding that his armies were "ministers of good, not of evil," pursued his aim to the end with iron determination, the allies would fight on until they achieved their peace, a peace that would not only secure the freedom of the allied peoples, but enable the German people to find self-government for themselves.

A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.

Were they too sanguine in expecting that one of the conditions of peace would be the handing over by the enemy of their entire mercantile fleets, which amounted to a very considerable total? Why should any compunction be shown to a nation whose record on the high seas surpassed in infamy anything ever perpetrated? For the last 12 months a continuous crusade had been waged against shipowners, who had been accused of exploiting the nation. The high price of almost every commodity was set down as the direct outcome of high freights. No regard seemed to be given to the immense and indispensable services which the British mercantile marine had rendered.