

EDITORIAL

UNREST.

A protracted period of high cost of living has had its natural consequence—widespread unrest. Now comes a demand for shorter hours of labor, which would naturally lead to higher cost of production of essentials and consequently further increase the high cost of living. The unrest is not surprising, for the purchasing power of money has greatly depreciated. The long and costly war has imposed a great burden on people in all parts of the world. The endeavor of various classes to shift the burden onto others naturally bring discontent.

The labor unions are at present engaged in an endeavor to improve the condition of their members, and it is quite proper that they should do so. Other citizens will sympathize with members of the unions, but they also are affected by the high cost of living and they will not take kindly to a movement that will give costs another boost. The labor unions would be more popular with the rest of the community if they would endeavor to bring down the cost of living while maintaining wages at the present standard.

In the mining industry the eight hour day is already in force in Ontario for underground workers. It is generally necessary to have some of the surface men work a little longer. We need not expect any radical change in hours at Ontario mines so long as miners are willing to do a reasonable day's work. A miner can, if he wishes, do a good day's work in eight hours. A very much shorter day would, however, make mining a farce, and make inadvisable the furnishing of capital for developing and equipping mines.

In the search for properties and in their development much money is expended without any return. The workmen get their wages, but the men who supply the money are more likely to lose than gain. They run the risk in the hope of finding a prize; but the prizes are few. If there are no prizes there will be no one to risk the larger expenditures and there will be no new mines developed. The capitalist must depend on the miner to do his part and he must see that the miner gets a reasonable wage. The miner also must keep in mind the fact that those who supply money to develop mines are making profitable work for the miner. There must be co-operation or there will be no mining.

Mining is a hazardous occupation and the men who engage in it should receive higher wages than men of corresponding ability in many other occupations. Unless mining can be so conducted that all who engage in it can earn a decent living and enjoy a reasonable share of the good things of life we might better have no mining industry. If by unrest in other industries the cost of living is increased, is it reasonable for the miner to keep alive that unrest by supporting it in any way? In his own interest he should try to keep down the cost of living. It is reasonable for miners to unite their forces to obtain better conditions in their own industry, but it seems to us that in the present situation their natural allies are their own em-

ployers. They must, of course, make satisfactory terms with their employers; but they might well recognize that they have in high costs a common enemy.

There has been much in evidence lately the term "collective bargaining." What this may mean needs definition in every case. In some cases, for instance, all the employees of a company might collectively bargain with their employers, or all the miners in one district might collectively bargain with the employers in that district. These are simple cases such as are of frequent occurrence. When, however, miners in widely separated districts unite and wish to deal with their employers through officials of such unions rather than through local unions, we generally find trouble. This trouble arises not so much from the method of procedure as from the history of the international unions. This has been the stumbling block in many cases. Now that several more years have passed, years of much greater consequence than many preceding ones, without the chief international union giving many indications of behaving as in the past, we might perhaps do well to forget its history and live more in the present.

Collective bargaining may also be interpreted to mean bargaining with employees or representatives of employees in some other industry. This seems to us, as indicated above, an unwise proceeding. The present conditions in some industrial centres seem likely to give their method of bargaining an unsavory reputation.

There is unrest in the mining districts as elsewhere. The gold and silver mines of Northern Ontario are in splendid shape to make a good showing this year. As compared with some mining districts the demand for labor at Cobalt, Porcupine and Kirkland Lake will be exceptionally good. It is reasonable to expect that the miners in these districts appreciate their good fortune. It is not possible, however, that they will escape the unrest bug altogether.

POWER FREIGHTER CARRYING ORES AND MINING SUPPLIES.

At the time of taking over the Dolly Varden Mines the Taylor Engineering Company is running the trials of its new large power freighter, the *Teco*, which will carry supplies and general cargo to all way ports en route to Alice Arm and to the Dolly Varden properties, and bring back cargoes of concentrates from the mine property. The *Teco* is intended to be the first of a fleet of power freighters for the British Columbia coast trade; the fleet to be controlled by the Taylor Engineering Corporation.

Additional interest is created owing to the fact that the crew of the new craft will consist entirely of men from the motor boat patrol service. She will be under the command of Lieut. E. C. Godfrey, who is the son of Mr. Godfrey, of the Bank of B. N. A., Vancouver, B.C., and who has recently returned from long service overseas.

The *Teco* was designed and built by the Taylor En-