

as of June 30, 1902, \$4,686,614.88; that the loss in anthracite coal tonnage, due to the strike, was 1,057,938 tons, while the increase of the bituminous tonnage was 1,068,597 tons, and that, notwithstanding the strike, the revenue from the coal traffic actually increased \$44,851.98.

In looking back over the history of this company, we find that while in 1898, the coal trade was about 25 per cent. greater than the merchandise traffic of this road, it is now only . . . per cent. greater, thus showing that the general business of the road has increased to such an extent that it is not now dependent upon any one class of freight. The reduction of the dividend of one-half of one per cent. was an act of policy and not necessity, as the addition to the surplus fund shows. With the resumption of mining and the ability to procure sufficient rolling stock, this company should, in a very short time, make up considerably more than it has lost by the strike.

Reports this afternoon are to the effect that the miners will accept the proposition of the operators and go to work.

The market has been narrow all day, but with an undertone of strength, but closes a little under the best.

EDITOR THE INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE,
Montreal.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of the 10th inst. there is an article on page 1312 under the heading of "Prominent Topics," wherein you undertake to thrash all organized labour over the shoulders of the striking coal miners, and the very tone of your article furnishes us unionists with the sentiment prevailing among capitalists as to your feelings in regard to the labouring man. Knowing the feelings which actuate you and control your dealings with us, you must necessarily expect that we are, at times, compelled to bring force to bear on you in order that we may show to the world at large the class of men we have to deal with and to whom we are obliged to sell all that we have to dispose of, viz., our labour. The initial tyranny comes from you. When a body of capitalists combine to inaugurate an industry one of the first questions, if not the very first, is: how cheaply can we buy labour, taking this for their basis. The men whom they employ, when they find that they cannot live on the wage paid, particularly when compelled to purchase their supplies, food, etc., from the parties for whom they are working, ask for an increase in wages and better conditions. Finding individual effort useless, to obtain what they well know belongs to them, they organize either under the union which naturally fits their case or combine independently as they may decide among themselves—just exactly as the men by whom they are employed have done in the first place. After all peaceable means have failed and they are obliged to strike, the term "Anarchist" is applied to them, and all the vile epithets known to the various languages are hurled at them—and there is no class of men on earth who have such a complete stock of these names on hand as the capitalist. The present "coal strike" is a case in point (witness Messrs. Baer's and Olyphant's denunciation of Mr. Mitchell); Mr. Mitchell is simply carrying out the duties of his office. Had the coal barons listened to the Committee of their own men and have been willing to deal with them Mr. Mitchell would never have appeared on the scene, in fact, did not appear until the Local Committee having failed the head of the organization was sent for and the case put into his hands to negotiate for the men. If the men now abide by their own decision they will never yield until the fight is won in its entirety or until Mr. Mitchell calls it off.

To come nearer home, take the case of the G. T. R. and their enginemmen in the middle 70's. Men who were in the enjoyment of "fair wages", and some of whom were on the edge of being classed as "old men", were told that on a certain date their services would be no longer required. A cheaper class of men were to be put in their places to do the same work. This inhuman order was to take effect in midwinter. The men took the case into their own hands, and after a long struggle, failing to get a judgment in their favour, the order was issued by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers to the enginemmen on the G. T. R. to strike on a certain day and at a certain hour. A terrible uproar was made all over the country, from the St. Clair and Detroit rivers to Portland, and branch lines. The military was called out and put under arms, and if they thought necessary the men on strike were to be shot. Needless to say, the men won. Dare you say, sir, that those striking enginemmen were and are anarchists? Many of them are on the same road still, running engines. Others have stepped up to promotion, or have adopted different callings. Some are dead, having passed the remainder of their lives here. Were they and are they anarchists? No, sir. The very man who wrote "Prominent Topics" quoted above will call them "heroes" simply because they won. Take the case of the C. P. R. telegraphers, a few years back, which is something similar. These men are good citizens, and their case was won under organization. The anarchist, and the manufacturer of anarchists sits, as a rule, in the capitalist's chair, or writes such articles as "Prominent Topics."

There is not a labour unionist worthy of the name who does not desire the success of his employer. He will do any and everything in his power to assist, and feels a degree of satisfaction that he is able to contribute to that end. We stand ready to co-operate at all times, are perfectly willing to assist over the rough places, hard times, etc., and in return we ask him to remember to do his duty by us when times are prosperous.

When Cosper wrote "Charity" he was evidently endowed with a certain inspiration, viz:—

"God considers all injustice with a frown,
And marks the man who treads his neighbour down."
"To smite the poor is treason against God."

Yours truly,

Ormstown, October 11, 1902.

A TELEGRAPHER.

NOTE.—The term "anarchist" was never applied by THE CHRONICLE to the miners on strike, who have the same civil rights as other men, amongst others, the right to form a trades union. Our words were: "The maintenance of the law and protection of men who desire to work are fundamental duties of Government; where these conditions are not observed anarchy prevails." Does any one question this? Surely "a Telegrapher" knows as well as we do that anarchy prevails where the law is not maintained, and where industrious men are not protected while earning their bread. The worst enemy of trades' unions could not devise a more damaging policy for them to pursue than to set law and order at defiance in preventing any man selling "all he has to dispose of, viz., his labour," to whom and at whatever price he thinks proper. Even Mr. Mitchell sees this, as he repudiates responsibility for the outrages on life and on liberty which have occurred in the coal districts. "A Telegrapher," probably, would also repudiate the idea that the trades unions are responsible for such outrages, and we are certain that, when cooler moments come, he will see that labour needs the protection of the law as much as capital, and that the price of labour cannot be advanced by deeds of violence. The less "Telegrapher," and all other men have to do with bringing "force to bear" on their fellow men the better it will be for them and all their interests.—Ed.

THE COAL STRIKE ENDED.

On this Thanksgiving Day morning the news came from Washington that an agreement had been reached for referring the dispute between the mine owners and the miners to arbitration. In consequence of this, mining operations will be resumed in a few days, and the terrible suspense and dread that hung like a thunder cloud over the whole country have given way to rejoicing, and added another rich note to the thanksgiving song.

RECENT LEGAL DECISIONS.

FIRE INSURANCE PROOF OF LOSS.—One, Brown, insured his stock of goods with the Victoria-Montreal Fire Insurance Company. His policy provided for immediate notice to the Company of any loss, and for a written and sworn statement within fourteen days, and that no action should be maintained until after full compliance with all the requirements of the policy. He had a fire, but did not furnish a written statement within fourteen days. The Company, by its liquidator, defended the action, which had been brought upon the technical ground that no written statement having been furnished within the time, no action could be maintained. The trial judge, in the Province of Quebec, dismissed the action, the King's Bench, on appeal, directed the Company to pay, and now the Supreme Court, at Ottawa, upholds the contention of the Company. The insured contended that the Company had waived the fourteen day requirement for several reasons. (1) The adjusters sent by two other companies reported verbally to the Victoria what they had done for their own companies; (2) That a director and also a member of the liquidators' committee had recognized the claim and promised to pay it; (3) That in a circular from the manager to the creditors of the Company, the Brown loss had been mentioned and so admitted; (4) That the manager had,