

**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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## **- Rubs by Rambler.**

What is the object of Trades Unionism? To many zealous and perhaps unenlightened unionists its one and its only object is to secure higher wages, with fewer hours of employment. That should not however and is not I hope the creed of the intelligent members of Unions. The objects of a trades union if it is to be really a successful institution and a real blessing to its members are to advance its members not merely materially, but physically, mentally, socially and morally. I quite agree with the gentleman who said recently when speaking of workmen 'The supreme question for them is not to get a few more cents added to their daily wage, not to have a few minutes taken off their working time, but the great problem for them is to rise in intelligence, in sobriety, in substance and reality of character that any legitimate demand they make will be sure to be ultimately recognized. It is not alone the demand that is made that counts, but it is the man that makes the demand. Give us in this land a body of men intelligent—many of them are—clear moralled, and there is no government, there is no social order that we are ever likely to have in these modern times, that will stand in the way of their winning any legitimate desire that their hearts may demand and their lips may express.' I agree with this though it is at deadly variance with some, or say one, who would lead the P. W. A. Out of the constitution, says this one, with any clauses that makes reference to thrift, sobriety, industry, morality, old worn out fads all of them.

Last week I had the pleasing assurance that the leader of the socialist group at Sydney Mines was not a bad sort of fellow after all. Of course, long ago, I found out that while he did much barking his bite was innocuous. I suppose he is one of those who cannot at times help allowing his zeal to outrun his discretion. I do not, however, play in his back yard, or as a Scots boy might say I am 'na in wi him' for the reason he has not answered the question, tersely, "What do socialists mean when they say Labor is entitled to all it produces." I have been wishing he was at the late socialist conference at Stuttgart. He would have had the time of his life. The deleg-

ates after passing a 'peace' resolution and declaring for International arbitration, thought they might devote a few minutes calmly to deciding "where they were at." In other words they determined to define their position and make declaration as to the ends and aims of socialism. And then the quiet moments fled and the hours of fiery fluency ensued. Metaphorically they tore each others hair, and, literally, glared furiously at each other. Each mothers son of them was indignant and outraged at the definition given by every other son of a gun, as to what socialism really was and wanted to be. For a brotherly love feast it was the jolliest kind of bear garden imaginable. And these are the men who say that capital and labor are warring elements and seek to reconcile them. They'll never do it until they mend their ways. Some of us have an idea of what socialism in practice really is. We had an illustration of it at one of Keir Hardie's meetings. This meeting might have been in Canada and if in Canada it might have been in Winnipeg. Keir before beginning his harangue, in Hardie fashion left his coat, vest and other appendages in the cloak room. Having told the workmen that the land and all that was in it was rightly theirs, he returned for his coat, vest, etc. But they were not as he left them. His watch was gone, even the Hardie buttons of his vest were missing. While he had been urging the audience to go for the spoils some practical socialists had taken his advice and commenced in the cloak room. Now tell me what socialism in practice is.

The full and revised text of Geo. W. Stuart's paper on the 'Decline of Gold Mining in Nova Scotia' is before me and here is what he said in reference to the part high priced coal played in the declension:—

"The excessive cost of fuel for power has played a most serious and paralyzing part in the causes perhaps the greatest in the catalogue. Our mines are largely on the sea coast, mostly of easy access to shipping. Throughout all the early years of mining and up to the taking over, under new leases from the government, of the large aggregation of coal mines in Cape Breton by the Dominion Coal Co., we were able to buy coal delivered at our wharves at a cost of from \$1.75 to \$2.75 per ton. Since the advent of the Dominion Coal Co. into this country, the price of coal in Nova Scotia has been nearly doubled, and in some cases, and for some kinds of coal, quite doubled in cost to us. This is a most serious drawback, and is the chief cause for the closing of a number of our mines. Particularly has this been the case in the operation of low grade ores on which the prosperity of the industry must depend in the future."

If the future of gold mining in Nova Scotia depends on getting coal at \$1.75 a ton at the mines, then the doom of gold mining is sealed. Yet, isn't it funny that at the present time the mine producing the lowest grade ore is doing the biggest and the best work. I was speaking of coal prices to a gold mine manager the other night, one who was not brought up, by the way, in Mr. Stuart's primitive school. He was telling me how he got fairly cheap fuel coal. The mine owner wanted a certain price for the coal delivered. "I'll give you no such price, what is your price f. o. b.?"