

enough to enter into a contract ensuring to its members the maintenance of conditions considered by them at the time to be desirable, does not assume adequate responsibility for the non-observance of the contract by its members, who, in turn, have no law to fear as individuals. In other words, while these contracts are respected by the employers as binding upon them, they do not bind the employees who are members of the contracting unions. The company or individual, in accordance with the pledge given, provides employment under the conditions set down in the contract, but there is no means, and the contracts themselves, as things are now, cannot provide any means, whereby the employer can compel the employees, as individuals, to fulfil the conditions to which, as a union, they have agreed. In the majority of cases such contracts are the result of demands made by employees as trades unionists, and they represent benefits of one sort or another which the organized employees have secured. Yet, while the employer is bound to live up to an agreement, the advantages of which are all to the other contracting party, the employee can take it or leave it at times as he sees fit. The civil law does not compel him to fulfil the contract entered into in his behalf by the union of which he is a member. The employer is thus deprived of the only possible benefit which a contract might otherwise give him, the guarantee of adequate labor without interruption for the period specified in the contract. He cannot, as already stated, hold the individual worker, nor has he any satisfactory recourse against the contracting union which is not a corporate body, and, in any event, has its head-quarters, in most cases, in a foreign country. What is wanted is a system which will make these contracts mutually beneficial by giving to the employer, under his contract with labor, protection equal to that which labor itself enjoys. Such an arrangement would work no hardship upon organized labor if organized labor is disposed to respect its own undertakings and fulfil them. The law should be made to apply in equal degree to either side in one of these agreements.

The fact that the contracts entered into by organized labor are binding upon the employers, but not upon the individual employees affected, constitutes the principal obstacle to the attainment of the object vaguely referred to as "better relations." Better relations are impossible so long as contracts affecting employment cannot be enforced against one of the parties to such contracts. When that obstacle is removed, one of the most aggravating phases of the labor problem will have disappeared. Yet this, one of the foremost difficulties with which industry has to contend, finds no place in the list of subjects set down by the Minister of Labor and his associate for discussion by the Industrial Conference.

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The public in this country, as in the United States and Great Britain, are awakening to the fact that the aims of organized labor constitute a serious menace and must be resisted if industry, ordered society and constitutional institutions are to continue. A small minority of the people of Canada are endeavoring to impose conditions upon the majority by means of a name. If the majority intend to submit to this movement, this is the time most appropriate for a

graceful expression of that intention. If, on the other hand, they propose to protect themselves against the predatory aggression of an organized few, they need not wait for further provocation. Fortunately, there are evidences that the real significance of the organized labor movement is being more clearly understood by the majority of the people, against whom the movement is aimed."

### THAT BONAR POINT COLLIERY

Mark Workman, President of the Dominion Steel Corporation visited Sydney lately and was of course interviewed regarding future operations of the company. The Record is more immediately concerned as to what he said in reference to coal mining operations. To the Glace Bay Gazette Press. Workman spoke, in part, as follows:—

"The time has now come to announce an important undertaking.

"Bonar Point, on the north side of Sydney Harbor, where the Dominion Coal Company has land areas, has been selected as the starting point for new coal mining operations, to be carried into the Company's submarine areas. High grade metallurgical coal for the new plate mill is the objective. There will, of course, be no diminution of the coal output on the South side of the harbor; that, too, will be increased.

"It will be remembered," continued Mr. Workman, "that the sulphur content in the coal supplied to the Steel Plant was the subject of lengthy litigation before the formation of the Dominion Steel Corporation, some years ago. The impurity exists to a more or less extent in all Nova Scotia coals. In the case of the areas which our Company intends to open up the contents of sulphur is less than one per cent.

"The immediate reason for the sinking of the new mine is the imminence of the operations of the new plate mill. The quality of steel required in the manufacture of that mill's product is of high grade, and only the finest metallurgical coal should be used in its preparation."

This announcement brought T. J. Brown, Genl. Superintendent of the Scotia works at Sydney Mines to his feet, and to the Sydney Post, on urgent request, T. J. delivered himself not in heat but in "coal" blood as follows:—

"The opening of a Colliery in this district by the Dominion Coal Company has been threatened so often that we are not disturbed as much by it as was intended we should be. I do not believe the Dominion Coal Company are serious when they state they are about to open a coal mine in this district. I am sure they are not serious when they state that their reason for opening at Bonar's Head is to obtain a coal of low sulphur contents because I know that there is no low sulphur coal in that vicinity.

"I am equally sure they are not serious when they state that they require a better grade of coal than can be found in the Glace Bay and Waterford districts for the manufacture of steel to make ship's plates, and I am positively sure they do not require a better quality of steel for ships' plates than they do for the stock they have been using for the manufacturing of rails and munitions.

"If it had been stated that it required better