

others who owe their advancement to the compelling, propelling, educational, stimulating influence of the P. W. A.

5. And physically?

Yes and physically too. Just place a hundred of our miners alongside of an equal number of any other class, and they will be found as clear of eye, as strong of arm, as stout of limb, as full in chest, and as broad of shoulder.

6. Have hours been shortened?

Yes, considerably. A majority of the members are perfectly satisfied with the present hours.

7. What about improved legislation?

The improvements and amendments to the old laws, and the new laws secured would fill a volume and will need a special article for their relation. Why, in the matter of beneficial legislation the P. W. A. is as far ahead of the U. M. W. as a Canadian, especially a Westerner, considers himself ahead of a heathen Chinese.

8, 9, and 10. Laws are fairly well enforced; miners get full weight; there are no illegal stoppages.

11. Compensation for injuries.

There is in Nova Scotia an Employers Liability Act, almost a copy of the British. Nova Scotia is in this respect 28 years and some months ahead of the U. M. W. and the United States. Let me quote from an article in this month's Atlantic Monthly—an American magazine. After giving a sketch of and favorably commenting upon the British Act of 1907 the writer says:

"We naturally enquire what has been done in the United States meantime. We must answer, practically nothing. It is quite within limit to say that in spite of much patchwork and piecemeal legislation, we have, as yet, hardly reached the level of the English Law of 1880, a law which statesmen of to-day unite in deeming practically worthless, or to say that in this regard we are far behind every civilized country in Europe, incomparably behind Germany. The United States stands alone among the civilized nations of the world in adhering to the law of negligence as a solution of the problem of industrial accidents. . . . In this country we are still dominated by the dogmas pronounced by Judge Shaw two generations ago."

And this is the sort of 'promised land' to which certain poor deluded miners of Nova Scotia are journeying, via. the U. M. W. And then what about the Mutual Relief Societies? Have they anything in Great Britain or Ireland, or in the United States of America, anything like approaching to them. Not in the slightest. In the matter of the Relief societies alone the P. W. A. has got more for its members than all that the U. M. W. ever got for its followers.

"Mr. Michael Mullins, U. M. W. solicitor, would like—through the Glace Bay Gazette—to ask Judge McGillivray 'at what time he became so favorably impressed with the P. W. A. Was it when this Association applied for an act of incorporation, or was it when he saw the miners of Nova Scotia were determined to form themselves in a more powerful union?' Begging the Judge's pardon for interfering in his private affairs, I make answer to Mr. Mullins, At neither period. His conversion from non union to union princip-

les occurred in the middle or later eighties, after his fears as to the intentions of the society had been allayed and when he was convinced that they were groundless. The question of Mr. Mullins seems innocent enough, but it carries with it the idea that a man who changes his opinions does so from a sinister or unworthy motive. Parlor Car Conductor McRae, who used to run between Halifax and Sydney was asked by a lady: "Does this train stop at the Straits of Canoe?" Came the reply sharp and clear, "God help us all if she does'nt," and God help labor if the majority don't stop, think, and turn from the opinions they formerly held regarding it. If Judge McGillivray has changed his views regarding labor organizations is it not a great triumph for the P. W. A. I do not know that I was ever more shocked than when I heard two clergymen say they would not support a certain man running for a petty office on the ground that at a time long ago he had 'gone over the bay'. Was I wrong, if forgetting the cloth, as I asked, not meekly: "You preach repentance and a new life, dont you."

"Yes"

"Then you preach a lie, on your own confession"

And so what are we to say of a processesed union man who sneers at one who now is favorable to unions where once he had his doubts. In the British Parliament last year there were several measures passed all favorable to labor. Did the government compel their passage? No. The government could have rejected all legislation favorable to labor, even if every Laborite, every Conservative and every Nationalist in the House were measures passed to secure its passage. And why been summarily thrown out thirty years ago. Simply because mens opinions have undergone a change. When the P. W. A. came upon the stage nigh thirty years ago a vast majority of the people looked upon it askance, and with shakings of the head. If labor is now catered to, it is because of an altered view point.

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A correspondent of the Sydney Post makes it perfectly clear that the chief object sought, by those favoring the U. M. W., is to be in a position to do battle with the Dominion Coal Co., should occasion arise. The correspondent imagines that industrial disputes, these days, are settled by the length of the purse of the contestants; the one with the longest winning. That is a mistaken idea. The great force to-day, in the settlement of labor disputes, is public opinion. There are some who delight in borrowing trouble from tomorrow, heedless of the hint that it is time enough to bid the devil good morning when you meet him. Without a strike fund the P. W. A. has managed wonderfully well in the past. It has procured for its members greater benefits than any organization in any English speaking country. The miners of Nova Scotia are better housed, better paid and more justly treated than those in the land across the line, and in proof of this I hope shortly to be able to produce figures gathered by one who is perhaps the foremost social reformer in our land.