THE FALLACY OF THE ASSUMED ADVANTAGE OF RESTRICTING OUTPUT.

"The proposition that the prosperity of the country depends upon production in the country obtains no credence whatsoever, being generally treated by working men as a sheer irrelevance."

This most dangerous and widespread fallacy is discussed, amongst other current fallacies, by Sir Lynden Macassey in the Edinboro' Review, who says further:

"The delusions referred to cannot justly be described as 'heresy contumaciously adhered to.' They are in most cases honest misconceptions, and no solution of the labour problem is possible until all this error and mistaken belief has been swept away."

One fallacy dissected by Sir Lynden Macassey is that government intervention can override economic law, and this particular misconception is not confined to Great Britain.

A newspaper report from Sydney, Nova Scotia, states that the United Mine Workers' Executive has decided to inaugurate a five-days' working week, commencing 2nd August.

In the same announcement it is stated that plans are being made for a joint meeting of the steelworkers of the Dominion Iron & Steel Company, of the Nova Scotia Steel Company, and of the mineworkers of both companies to discuss the advisability "of asking the Government to keep these plants running."

From previous references to the five-day week proposal we gather that it is being urged because of the "assumed advantage of restricting output," and is not based on the necessity for shorter hours of work, and one must assume that the miners' leaders are sincere in their mistaken belief that enforced restriction in production will assist in the restoration of business prosperity.

The coal production of Nova Scotia during 1919 will not, we believe, reach five million tons. Year by year it has dropped from the maximum of 1913 until it is now 2½ million tons per year below the 1913 rate of production. It is necessary to go back twenty years to find as low a coal output in Nova Scotia as will be recorded in 1919. The loss in provincial royalty revenues alone is $300,000 per year, and that deficit must be made up out of taxation of the people of Nova Scotia. Canada's adverse trade balance is piling up, her credit on New York must be paid for by a higher premium than previously recorded. The Montreal market is temporarily at least lost to Nova Scotian coal producers.

It really does not matter much, this summer, whether the United Mine Workers decide to work five days per week, or any other number of days, because the choice of work will not lie with them. It will depend on the market for their labour. No juggling with hours of labour, with wages, or with profits, will permanently enable the people of any nation to enjoy or consume a greater value than that of their production.

Meantime, we commend to the earnest thought of the mine-workers of Nova Scotia one outstanding economic fact, namely, that in spite of all the capital invested in developing collieries, shipping fleets, discharging plants and markets, the coal production of Nova Scotia is back where it was twenty years ago.

THE NELSON INTERNATIONAL MINING CONVENTION.

In this issue of the "Journal" will be found a full account, by our British Columbia correspondent, of the Second International Mining Convention held in Nelson during the 19th to 20th June. An interesting feature of the Convention—and one which assured its success—is the number of organizations which combined to arrange for the meeting. These included the Nelson-Slocan and British Columbia Mining Men's Club, the Northwest Mining Association of Spokane, the Kootenay Mine Owners' Association, the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, the Vancouver Chamber of Mines, the City of Nelson and the associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia and Nelson.

The techncial programme was in charge of the Columbia Section of the American Institute of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers, and the Western Branch and Kootenay-Boundary Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute.

A mere statement of these facts, without comment, is sufficient indication of the organized comradeship that characterises the mining men of the Pacific North-West, not the least pleasing part of which is the international good-will that makes such a gathering possible, and rendered it so thoroughly successful.

5 DAYS WORK A WEEK.

Sydney Miners Will Inaugurate New Schedule Aug. 2.

Sydney, N.S., July 7.—That the proposed five day working week will be inaugurated, beginning August 2nd, was the decision arrived at by the United Mine Workers' executive, in session at Glace Bay. Another decision of considerable public interest was the voting of the sum of $500 to assist the arrested Winnipeg labor leaders with the cost of their defence.

Plans are being made for a joint meeting of the steel workers of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, and of the N. S. Steel and Coal Company, and the miners of the companies to discuss the advisability of asking the Government to keep these plants running. Things have come to the point where immediate action is necessary, and work is becoming slacker every day. At Sydney Mines the miners are working only two days of the week.