

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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THE MORNING CHRONICLE AND RECIPROcity IN COAL

Those who think that government by commission has gone far enough of late, will be a little surprised at the attitude of the Chronicle in reference to reciprocity in coal. In last Monday's issue the Chronicle says:

"The coal operators of Nova Scotia have presented their views to the Provincial Government on the question of reciprocity in coal between Canada and the United States. They unhesitatingly state that operators producing 90 per cent. of the coal output of this Province are opposed to a removal of the present duties. And they ask that the Provincial Government memorialize the Dominion Government in accordance with their views.

The operators make the general statement that reciprocity would mean serious injury to their industry. No facts or figures are adduced to indicate how much of the St. Lawrence market would probably be lost or what portion of the New England market could reasonably be expected to be gained. No information is given as to why the supply of coal for New England can be hauled 400 miles by rail and then transported by water, a distance equal to the distance between Louisburg and Boston and sold at a price which will not admit of competition by the more favorably situated Nova Scotia collieries with practically no rail haul at all. No reason is vouchsafed as to why the Springhill colliery, for instance, with its water transportation could not reasonably expect to largely increase its present sales in Maine and Massachusetts."

In the first place the operators did not state that the delegation to the government represented ninety per cent. of the total output, but NINE-TY- EIGHT per cent. The remaining two per cent. includes a mine in Cumberland and one in Cape Breton. Even the Springhill company which owing to the proximity of Parrsboro to certain Maine ports, might do a little business with Americans under a reciprocity treaty, is not in favor of it because the company believes reciprocity will be fatal to the industry as a whole. The Chronicle rashly states that facts or figures were not adduced to indicate how much of the St. Lawrence market would be lost. The Chronicle is in error. The fact that during the past four years importations of American coal had increased in Quebec from three per cent. to 19 per cent. and 23 per cent. was established by figures secured by the government, as well, possibly by others. The importations for the fiscal year closed were a

642,000 tons, an increase of 13,000 tons over last year. Information was given the government why coal can be hauled 400 miles by rail and then transported by water and sold at a price that will not admit of competition from Nova Scotia. The government has been put in possession of all the facts, figures and proofs necessary for it to come to the conclusion that reciprocity would be simply ruinous to the future of the province. All the commissions in the world would not alter the position taken by the operators. If the Americans can enter Quebec now with a duty to face, it needs no argument to prove the likelihood of their securing the best part of the market, were their coal admitted free. There is no necessity for a commission, and even if it were desirable, where will the Chronicle get 'impartial experts'. There are, it is true, three coal experts in Halifax, but as they are Conservatives, the Chronicle would not consider them impartial; there is a fourth whom the Chronicle might claim as an expert. On that point at present we remain silent; if, however, a commission be appointed, and this 'fourth' appointed as an expert, it may be sin to remain silent.

THE STUFF THE SPRINGHILL STRIKERS ARE FED UPON.

Mr. W. W. White, who is declared by the U. M. W. organ in Springhill to be a fluent and cultured speaker, let off the following hot air at the U. M. W. demonstration there ten days ago. Mr. White may be all that is claimed for him, but after all he is a failure for he lacks the essential element, or else he is utterly ignorant on the subject on which he seeks to enlighten others. Here is a sample of the stuff he enters:

"The lessons of reason, experience and common sense are having no part in this struggle as far as these Nova Scotian Corporations are concerned. Speaking of several instances of unfairness in the business the speaker instanced the ease of the weight of the ton of coal demanded from the men of the Dominion Coal Co. They had to supply the company with 2240 lbs. to the ton, but when the product was sold to the consumer, the purchaser received 2000 lbs.; this little deal meant \$1,126.00 yearly to the company. It was long work to the men, short ton to the consumer, and millions to the corporations."

The American ton, so called, of 2,000 lbs., may be in vogue among the dealers of Halifax, who have to reserve a coal, but there are no operators in this province so unpatriotic as to discard the good old ton of 2240 lbs., in making sales of coal. At one time to suit certain of his customers a Cumberland operator used the figures 2000 lbs. as indicating a ton. The Dominion Coal Co. pays by the ton and sells by the ton, and a ton is 2240 lbs., and nothing more or less.

- Rubs by Rambler.

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Contrary to use and wont I am using a heading. All of us have heard sermons preached from a particular text which could well have followed