

of all it would keep sliding and slipping from the straight course until the tension was so great that we had almost come to believe that the ties of friendship which knit us firmly to our Sydney brother must be broken, when all of a sudden the Post pulls itself up. A sort of instantaneous conversion. It is gratifying to the RECORD to know that the kindergarten methods it applied to the Post have been successful. Had we been harsh we might have failed.

P. S.—Since the foregoing was written, it has been cruelly suggested to us that the demand of the Post for speedy punishment on the law breaking strikers, and its support of law and order, was not brought about by our efforts. We are told the 'Merger' did it. Oh, well, we're not selfish; we're glad the Post sees the evil of its ways, no matter who or what opened its long closed eyes.

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The anthracite members of the U. M. W. do not feel highly flattered by being members of that order. They attend the union only when there is a prospect of an agitation for higher wages. The missionaries that are sent into the field cannot prevent hosts from backsliding. Pres. Lewis of the U. M. W. said in his annual report that of all the miners in the anthracite regions, only thirty thousand at present belonged to that great organization. He declared that this very low membership was due to the indifference of the men. Well he needn't have gone so far into details, it is equally true of every department in life, that if men are not enthusiastic in a cause, they are indifferent, and if indifferent they count for little or nothing. He said very many of the men refuse to pay their dues except when trouble is brewing. That too, is the way of the world; most people when they give something, hope for something in return. The members of the U. M. W. may be excused if they pay only when wage questions are on foot. The U. M. W.'s consider wages the great and only question to be discussed in their lodge rooms. They do not take hold of other objects which would be of as much benefit to workingmen as an increase in pay. Other unions hold their members in peace times by the discussion of subjects of interest and benefit to them. The pretensions of the U. M. W. in posing as international union propagandists, the while they have so small a home membership, are rather laughable. For all the missionaries, organizers, and walking delegates at his disposal, Pres. Lewis has more work in the home field than he can overtake. It looks like a waste of energy to attempt to draw Nova Scotia into the U. M. W. net.

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Mr Chas. E. Tanner takes much delight in sending "open" letters to Premier Murray. The word 'open' when used in this connection has a meaning all its own. It means that the letters are not sent to the Premier but to the tory press. Now it is doubtful if Mr. Murray reads the tory papers; if he is a narrow minded grit he won't. Mr. Tanner's letters are not the most effective way of settling the differences of opinion between the two. Let Mr. Tanner arrange for a series of debates in all the towns and villages, with a neutral chairman, the chief of police, for instance, as arbitrator. Mr. Tanner, physically, is rather a light man, but his letters run away to the other extreme. They are heavy reading. I notice in a late letter that Mr. Tanner charges

Mr. Murray with inconsistency. I am glad of that. I, too, have been what Tanner would call inconsistent, and it is nice to have a brother in such adverse case. Mr. Tanner says in an I-am-certain tone, that Murray went to C. B. in 1896 and advocated free coal; and that in 1897 he went to the same beloved spot, and waving his arms in that majestic way he has, shouted, 'Hands off the coal duty'. Now I'm glad that Murray did that, for I did something similar about that time myself. When the Dominion Coal Co. thought it could get the U. S. duty reduced, and under a reduced duty could send millions of tons into the United States, then I went in, like Murray, for free coal. When, however, it turned out that the U. S. forces were too strong for Whitney, and that the U. S. duty was maintained, I began to veer round to—to—let me say, protection. Mind you, protection on coal only. I may have been a little 'flier' than Murray and did not make an immediate somersault, took things easy and gradually got on the firm ground of 'no reciprocity' Tanner wants to know whether Murray was right in 1896 or 1897, Murray can do as he likes about answering the question, but I'm going to volunteer the opinion that there were those who were perfectly justified in being reciprocationists—have you got it—in 1896, and amply justified in being no intercour-sionists in 1897. Circumstances, Mr. Tanner ought to know by this time, alter cases.

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'Windermere' the London correspondent of the Montreal Star is far too much of a tory to be correspondent for a professedly independent paper, and the Star itself is too partizan to induce people to believe that it is in any sense independent in politics—at least in British politics. In very many cases it gives plain indication that its wish is father to its thought. For instance: After the tories had gained a seat in Scotland the Star oracularly declared that tariff reform was making inroads into the hitherto unbroken ranks of the Scots. Well the Scots at last election did very well for the liberals, but the ranks were not as a unit for liberalism. In the 1906 election there were fifty-nine liberals and thirteen unionists. What great inroads have been made into the ranks at this election? None. Why, it is all the other way. The liberals lost one seat in an out of the way county through landlordism, lost a second through local influence, and a third through a fool of a labor candidate. But then look at its gains, a half dozen or so. Instead of having thirteen from Scotland in this parliament, the unionists will have to be content with a little over half the number. Scotland did well; it is the mainstay of the liberal party. Hard headed scotsmen are not to be caught with the chaff of the peers, the fallacies of reform, or the bogie of German battleships. Well may Asquith shout 'Scotland for ever'—and a good word for sturdy little Wales at the same time. Bung or bishop, or baronet cannot swerve a scot or a welshman from the straight path of duty.

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Smillie, Small and Sullivan, three miners' leaders, or officials, in the West of Scotland, regardless of the harm their candidature might do to their friend, the liberal party, persisted in running, and we are glad to say their persistency was not rewarded. Notwithstanding the three