

recognition. The language is not to be commended. It is to be hoped it may not turn out to be mischievous. At the time referred to it cannot be said that the society had secured a firm footing in Sydney. The workmen were by no means a united body. But what difference did non-recognition make at that particular time. Not a particle. Had a committee of the P. W. A. been received and their demands refused, there would have been a strike all the same.

In a letter to Premier Murray, Dr. Kendall says that "the miners of Nova Scotia are divided into two camps." Oh, doctor take it easy. Cape Breton is a great and grand county, but, so far, it has not been looked upon as the whole of Nova Scotia. Pictou is a county of some renown, and in that county they are not divided into two groups; they are all solid P. W. A. men there up to date. If the men who were driven out of the straths and glens of their grand and rugged land would expect the men of Pictou to be loyal to the P. W. A. which was to them as a foster father. And, then, if there are two camps in Inverness, one of them is so small that there would be ample room for its members to do all their business in an upturned fishing boat.

We are told that all the large operators, willingly or unwillingly, recognize the Provincial Workmen's Association. That is true; they have done so since 1879, and have, so to speak, acquired the habit. The very fact that they recognize the P. W. A. is sufficient answer why they do not recognize the U. M. W. No man, even though unions, for reasons given in the gospel.

A great deal of nonsense has been talked lately about recognition. Even Dr. Kendall in his remarks on the subject is not easy to be understood. He talks of trades unions being recognized in Britain, France, Germany, etc. They are recognized in Britain, the cradle, it may be said, of illegal unionism, to the extent of being declared not right, in Britain to belong to trades unions. That is all very good, but what law compels the operators to recognize them. The weapon that compels them is a strike not a statute.

PREMIER MURRAY ON RECOGNITION.

Below we give portions of the very able speech delivered by Premier Murray in refusing Dr. Kendall's resolution asking for a Commission to at the collieries of Nova Scotia:—

When Premier Murray rose to speak he was given a hearty reception and he was continually interrupted by bursts of applause, both from the floor of the House and from the galleries. He dealt with the matters under discussion in an able and business-like manner and most effectively showed that the compulsory recognition of trade unions, which the Opposition have dwelt upon so strongly, would be not only a bad thing for the province, but would jeopardize the industrial life of the country.

The Leader of the Opposition had criticized the min-

ing regulations regarding the granting of leases. He would say that the minerals of the Province were accessible to all alike. Everyone had an equal right to secure the lease of a mining property, and during the time he had been in the House this had never before been attacked. The mining legislation of the Province had been questioned, but he would make the statement that the mining laws of Nova Scotia had no equal the world over. In Nova Scotia, as in no other country, the people have an equal interest in the mineral wealth of the Province, and the best legislation possible to protect the rights of the people had been placed upon the statute books.

The matter of old age pensions, prevention of injuries, and the compensation for injuries had been or were now being attended to. The matter of wages could best be discussed by comparison with the United States and other countries engaged in the same operations. He had been advised that the wages paid to miners in Nova Scotia were more favorable than in other countries and this was something to be proud of. He also thought that the miners, as a class were superior to those of other countries and that they could earn a better wage, man for man, than the man in other parts of the world. The Government, he said, were not idle, but were dealing with all the new problems intelligently.

The mining of coal without waste and the proper development of the submarine areas, had both received a great deal of attention and the Government had employed some of the most competent mining engineers to make reports on these matters.

He said that these people seemed to think that no matter what might go up, the price of coal should not. In the West if a man attacked the price of wheat he would be arrested for insanity. If in the Annapolis Valley the people complained of the price of apples, or the people along the shore complained of the price of fish, they would be looked upon as mad. There were men, who, however, stood upon the housetops and the complaints of the price of coal. What the reason was he did not know, but he hoped it was not for political reasons. They seemed to think the price of coal was not regulated by the law of supply and demand.

It was not right to single out the one great asset and attack it. The Legislature could not regulate the law of supply and demand. He wanted to see the price of coal reasonable, but if the Dominion Coal Company went unto the market and sold coal for two dollars per ton, it would mean the ruin of the collieries in Cumberland and Pictou Counties.

Speaking of the clause referring to compulsory recognition, Mr. Murray said that he thought he had earned the right to express an opinion frankly, if not he would be ready to retire. He fully recognized the right of a man to join any union that he wished. There could not be one law for capital and another one for labor. Capitalists had the right to form what associations they wished, and he was willing to accord labor the same privilege.

When President Lewis, of the United Mine Workers came to Nova Scotia he has advised the Dominion Coal Company to receive him, but he regretted that he had been unsuccessful in this matter. He had also asked Mr. Cowans to receive Mr. Lewis and Mr. Cowans had granted an interview. When Mr. Lewis came to Halifax, he met him and they talked over the situation.

For thirty years, said Mr. Murray, the P. W. A. had been in existence, and although they had done good service, which perhaps was not ideal, but no man had ever asked that the employers be forced to recognize them. They had been incorporated and had received a char-