

is or ought to be a true socialist. The preacher I refer to told us what socialism was not. He said it was not lawlessness nor robbery, nor any species of confiscation, it was not even a desire for a fair 'divvy'. He didn't say it in so many words but he left the impression that the socialism to which he had become a convert was 'favors to none, justice to all'. Well that's about the size of the socialism to which I became a convert long ago, indeed into which I was born, and every Christian should be a socialist of that sort. But that is not socialism as its loudest advocates expound it. These shout at us the meaningless cry: 'Labor is entitled to all it produces' and 'Labor has created all capital', therefore labor is entitled to all wealth. But the weak point about the latter battle shout is that it is not true. Labor, mere manual, physical labor, did not create all capital. If we admit for the sake of argument that capital to-day is labor's master, there is something else that is master of both, that can command the commander, and that is skill, or, put in another form, brains. It is not capital, it is not labour, correctly speaking that is setting and keeping in motion all the big wheels, and gigantic forces that these days are doing marvellous things. It is not capital or labor that is giving us fruits unknown to our forefathers, and promises at an early day to convert the prickly cactus into a fodder far more profitable than hay, or oats or beans. It is skill; it is brains, that is doing all this. Brains to-day are the master of, and can command both capital and labor. The socialists who propagate the dogma that unskilled labor is the source of wealth are doing injury and not good to the cause of labor. Instead of bawling the pre-fervid socialists should work with the Christian reformers, who are endeavoring to give every boy and girl, every man and woman a chance to acquire that skill which alone is the creator of capital. An Amherst writer in the Herald, earnestly and evidently on behalf of the workmen, judges rightly when he says that the socialist propaganda is injurious to the realization of the hopes of honest, industrious, right thinking workmen.

There should be sufficient reasons for the establishment of a modified form of old age pensions without the resort to arguments which apply very remotely if at all to the subject. As an argument in favor of old age pensions to workmen we hear it advanced:—"Pensions are given to soldiers and sailors, and why not to workmen who in many cases are exposed to as great if not greater risks?" Well, there is scarcely a comparison between a workman as we know him to-day, and a soldier, even though a man like Sir C. Furness makes one. He says 'soldiers, sailors etc. get pensions, why not workmen? Certainly workmen could demand pensions equally with soldiers, if they were placed under the same restrictions, and their employment had similar limitations. The workman can put his thumb to his nose, or perform some other like athletic feat, in the presence of and to show his independence or contempt for the boss, and the latter is helpless. The soldier who would perform a like evolution in the face of his colonel would be put on a diet of bread and water for a given period, if a worse thing did not befall him. If a miner is asked to come from his place to another part of the mine a few yards distant, he goes or goes not as it comes up his back. The soldier is not asked but bidden to go from Britain to Cawnpore, Lahore, thousands of miles dis-

tant, and whether he likes it or likes it not off he goes, and not for two dollars a day but for a fraction over a quarter of a dollar. Tommy Atkins has to come to work every day, holidays and holy-days, or else give reason why. The workman takes as many days off as it suits him, and thinks it nobody's business. Tommy touches his hat to the lieutenant; the workmen condescends at times to acknowledge the bow of the foreman. Tommy has to take a march of ten miles with his kit on his back, and his implements in his hands, while the miner gets his kit sent down in the box and gets a ride down the slope instead of walking. Tommy gets regulation fare, the workman gets what he likes best. Tommy has to be in barracks at bugle call, while the workman goes home at the call of fancy. Few socialists would care to go out to India, or to an unhealthy climate when bidden. They might have no objections if they could go like Keir Hardie in prince fashion. Tommy's is not after all a pension. What he gets after a term of service is the pay he ought to have got when he was hard at work. His is properly not a pension, but deferred pay.

COAL IN AN ACRE.

Just how much coal there is in an acre, the thickness of the seam being given, admits of various answers. The quantity in tons depends largely of course on the specific gravity of the coal. A rough way of calculating in Nova Scotia is to allow ten thousand tons per foot per acre. Some sellers however would like to put it much in excess of these figures. How far this calculation is out may be judged from the following. One of the New Zealand collieries, after thirty six years work has become exhausted. The property contained 450 acres and the coal varied in thickness from 7 to 11 feet. Let us strike an average of 9 feet. The quantity of coal produced from start to finish was 2,167,231 tons. This quantity divided by 450 gives 4816 tons per acre, roughly speaking. If this be divided by 9 we have about 535 tons. The angle of the seam was 14, and the specific gravity 1.311, therefore the total weight of the coal in the area ought to have been 6,640,000 tons. To get 2,167,000 tons from the area shows that about two thirds of the coal was lost in some way or other. Evidently there is a mighty difference between the quantity of coal in an acre and the quantity likely to be got from it. In the past it is possible that not more than fifty per cent. of coal in a given area has been extracted. The remainder has been lost. However, with improved systems of mining the future should be better in the way of getting out bigger percentages than the past.

The wire rope, to which reference was made in our issue of 19th Dec., as having broken the record at Dom. No. 3 for longevity and number of tons carried, was procured, we are asked to say, from the well known and reliable firm of Latch & Batchelor, England, who are advertising patrons of the Record. The several firms who advertise wire ropes in our columns are all reliable, indeed were they not so they would not be found there. Each firm has a record for special work performed.

Any one interested in Worthington multi-stage Turbine Mine Pumps should send to The John McDougall Caledonia Iron Works Company Montreal for their newly illustrated Bulletin No. 102. It is worth having.