

worse than wasted, in proving and disproving a speculative geological point, in establishing and denying the metallurgical value of a certain class of coal. If money is so readily available for these futile purposes, why should not equal amounts have been long ago directed into construction and expansion?

THE ALBERTA COAL COMMISSION AND THE BRITISH EIGHT-HOUR BILL.

Recognizing the imminent danger of a recurrence in the West of last winter's coal famine, the Alberta Provincial Government appointed a commission to inquire into the conditions of the production and marketing of coal and to make recommendations as to the necessary measures for the prevention of fuel-shortages in the future. The report of the commission has been handed in. The salient points are as follows:

1. That the government endeavour to induce individuals and companies to store coal during the summer for use in winter, and to keep a reserve supply on hand.
2. That legislation be passed in regard to the erection and licensing of storage warehouses, which would enable agents and dealers to purchase and store coal during the summer.
3. That the necessary measures be adopted to compel railways to furnish cars for the prompt handling of coal. The principle of reciprocal demurrage is recommended in the event of other means failing.
4. That where mine operators experience difficulty in securing the construction of sidings, each case should be investigated, and if the construction be practicable, the Provincial Government should join the operator in presenting his case to the Railway Commission.

Having dealt thus with the question of fuel supply and transportation, the commission makes certain other recommendations for the improvement of the conditions of the miners. Principal among these are:

That the inspection of the ventilating equipments be more rigid.

That the erection of bath-houses for the use of the miners be made compulsory.

That the minimum age of employees be sixteen years.

That the distance between openings to a mine be not less than one hundred feet.

That provision be made for the rapid and cheap settlement of questions of damages.

Upon the "eight-hour day," the commission's report does not touch. It is stated that the Provincial Minister of Works has promised the introduction of legislation making the eight-hour day compulsory.

The commission has done well to avoid a definitive expression of opinion upon the "eight-hour" problem. The experiment of such a working day is presently to be tried in England. The Albertan Government will lose nothing if it defers action until the result of the British experiment can be noted.

The government "Eight Hours" Bill, which was intro-

duced into the British House of Commons on August 1st, date on, only the eight-hour day, bank to bank, is to be made legal the nine-hour day for eighteen months, from January 1st, 1908, to June 30th, 1909. From the latter permitted. The shift will be measured from when the first man leaves the surface until the first man comes to the surface, and from the last man down until the last man up. Limiting clauses are inserted, providing for an extension of the day in times of war or of industrial stringency. For this purpose the Ministers of the Crown are clothed with discretionary powers. The bill will not become law until next session. The full text will be found on another page.

A PERSECUTED PRESIDENT

The University of Toronto's newly appointed President has undergone a trial so severe, so dangerous and so soul-disturbing, that if he survives without permanent injuries he is a fortunate man.

Nova Scotians are not temperamentally demonstrative. This fact makes their outburst of appreciation (adulation, we had almost written) all the more remarkable. They have feted and feasted Dr. Falconer. They have told him, in language calculated to induce abnormal cephalic expansion in the ordinary or garden variety of man, that in his own proper person he embodies all the cardinal virtues, most of the graces, and a large slice of human culture and knowledge. Dr. Falconer is, however, a modest man. When the early morning brings its cooler counsels, he will realize that it were suicidal to attempt to live up to Nova Scotia's seraphic ideal. It will also dawn upon him that no ordinarily sinful professor could afford to be associated with such a flawless paragon.

However and however, we hope—we know—that the new President has limitations, even weaknesses, not mentioned in the specifications used by Nova Scotia when she so fervently set about constructing her ideal Falconer. We know that Dr. Falconer is a cool-headed, strong, kindly and cultivated man. Already he has done most valuable work in educational spheres. His influence has been profoundly felt in the Presbyterian Church. With the help of his Toronto confreres, success is assured him.

We find ourselves falling constantly into the irritating habit of giving advice—a dangerous thing for all concerned. But, nevertheless, we cannot refrain from exhorting President Falconer to keep a paternal eye upon his Department of Mining Engineering. So far as we are concerned, he may slight Exegesis, he may neglect Church History, Hebrew he may delete, Dogma may fall into innocuous desuetude—not a murmur will be heard from us. But the everlasting principles of smelting, the mutable practice of mining, the mysteries of mineralogy, the divine dubieties of geology, the sempiternal canons of chemistry, must never be overlooked.