

have not leaned to the employers' side as we have been accused of being tools of the other parties.

"There are a few other points to which we would draw your attention.

(1) The operators will not conciliate. The Union has shown a very marked tendency to conciliate. This you may construe as evidence of strength or evidence of weakness.

(2) The operators refuse to go into print. The Union has gone into print. This also you may construe as evidence of strength or evidence of weakness.

(3) The operators claim that the Union officials do not represent the main body of workers. The Union officials claim that they do.

(4) The operators will bait no hook to entice the men back to work. Anything they may contemplate doing, if they do contemplate attempting improved conditions for the men, will not be considered unless or until the men return to work.

(5) The operators says that they have and always will give the returned men the preference over the alien enemy; that if an alien has a job that a return man can fill, the alien enemy goes. (This of course is not a bone of contention with the Union.)

"This comrades, is our report. We are sorry that we cannot settle the strike. We have failed as others have failed. The trouble is that when we beat the Boche, we did not destroy distrust, bitterness and rancour. At the same time we sincerely hope that the information we have gathered together and submitted to you will not be altogether unproductive of results."

Developments may now rapidly occur, and attention is directed on four considerations.

First, is the proposal of the G. W. V. A. to proceed with the organization of a local union under an Ontario charter unconnected with the Western Federation of Miners, or the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union. The executive selected are all mine workers. Second, the attitude of the mine managers toward the scheme is being awaited with extremely keen interest, the general impression being that the plan will meet with their approval. Third, is speculation as to what counter measures the radical executive of the Western Federation faction may adopt to combat the move that threatens the existence of the W. F. M. in this its last stronghold. Fourth, is how the great body of mine workers will view the matter.

The present executive of the Cobalt Miners' Union was elected last Winter, its platform being to cling to the International. The opposition, made up of the moderates, were defeated on it platform of breaking away from the International and forming a local union. There would now appear to be great probability of the moderates joining forces with the G. W. V., in which case the Western Federation which is being kept alive by "Jimmy" McGuire would fall.

Provided the mine managers will lend their support to the plan of the G. W. V., there is a likelihood of the strike being broken in a short time, facilities provided for collective bargaining with the moderate element representative of all workmen in the camp, and consequent reasonably harmony as a result of open discussion.

As a result of the present favorable developments, and the probability of further rapid action, a spirit of genuine optimism is again abroad in Cobalt and there is a feeling that the radicals have failed to make good their boast that they could put the country on the "bum".

Latest advices are that members of the Union have been forbidden to vote in the referendum which has been arranged by the G. W. V. A. Committee, on penalty of expulsion from the Union.

A secret ballot has been arranged, Major J. D. MacKay and Major J. E. McCuaig, ex-Mayor of Haileybury,

being the returning officers. All men on the July payroll of the companies are eligible to vote. August 19th is polling day.

The vote is to be taken on whether the men shall return to work immediately on the terms negotiated by the Soldiers' Committee with the Mine Managers Association, which provide for the old conditions, consideration of the cost of living problem, the appointment of local committees elected by the men for each mine, and the election of a central council to deal with the Managers Committee, no discrimination, and the granting of a day's holiday during the week to men compelled to work on Sunday.

Some Recent Improvements In Steam Hoisting Engines

By F. A. McLEAN.

To meet the demand for small and medium sized hoisting engines for mining and industrial purposes the Canadian Ingersoll-Rand Company, Limited, Montreal, Quebec, has just placed on the market a line of such engines of rugged construction, in several sizes, in which are embodied many improvements which have been adopted as a result of their long experience in the manufacture of mining machinery, and knowledge of the unfavorable conditions under which mine hoisting machinery is sometimes forced to operate.

Before going into the manufacture of these hoists it was decided to produce them in quantities on the interchangeable part system, using jigs and fixtures and finishing all parts to close limits, the value of which had been thoroughly demonstrated by their experience in the production of shells and ship winches in large quantities during the war, as well as in the manufacture of their rock drills and pneumatic tools. At present the company is building these hoists in five sizes ranging from 8 x 8 to 10 x 12 inches with conservatively estimated lifting capacities of from 4,000 to 10,000 pounds and will build them in larger sizes on special order.

Some points of particular interest in the construction of the new "CIRCO" hoists are as follows: Cylinders are cast separately from the side frames and being identical in construction are interchangeable, permitting one spare cylinder to be used on either side of the hoist and eliminating the necessity of scrapping the side frame should one of the cylinders be accidentally damaged.

The valve chest is provided with two openings allowing the exhaust pipe to be connected to either the top or bottom of the valve chest as may be most convenient, the opening which is not in use being closed by a plug. In case it should ever be found necessary to operate the hoists by compressed air this extra opening will be found of considerable value as it will enable the air to exhaust to the atmosphere much more freely than is possible with the older styles of valve chest. The cylinders are bolted to the side frames by strong lathe turned studs and faced nuts and the walls are so proportioned as to permit the operation of the hoists at maximum pressure after re boring. The steam ports are made as short and direct as possible and are of large areas. Exhaust passages are so designed as to reduce back pressure to a minimum.