

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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"Ha Coals"

(By the Editor)

Had the coal crisis in Scotland came to a climax, preparations had been made for the importation of large quantities of coal from Germany. This may sound curious, seeing that Scottish coals are daily exported in large quantities to that country. Germany is, however, a large exporter as well as a large importer of coal. Germany, Italy, France and Russia are all good customers of Britain. As showing the large quantities of British coals finding their way into these and other countries, I give a selection of ports which imported over 50,000 tons each during the month of June:

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|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Hamburg..... | 411 000 | St. Petersburg... | 349 000 |
| Gronau..... | 203 000 | Rouen..... | 137 000 |
| Venice..... | 116 000 | Bordeaux..... | 114 000 |
| Copenhagen..... | 92 000 | Stettin..... | 75 000 |
| Marseilles..... | 68 000 | Havre..... | 66 000 |
| Stockholm..... | 64 000 | Naples..... | 58 000 |
| Leghorn..... | 54 000 | Lisbon..... | 53 000 |
| Port Said..... | 113 000 | Alexandria..... | 95 000 |
| Buenos Ayres..... | 152 000 | Monte Video..... | 62 000 |

For the six months of 1909, ending June, Germany imported 5,000,000, and exported 10,000,000 tons of coal. Though the exports of coal from Scotland are fair, the trade is in a languid condition, and the probability is that there will be idle days for some months to come. While the miners have gained this point, viz: that the minimum wage shall be six shillings, or say a dollar and a half per day, the minimum wage for the next eight month will be more like 5/9 or about \$1.45 per day. Some of those who went from here to Nova Scotia were won't to tell of the fine condition and good wages made in Scotland. They could not boast with reason at the present time. A writer in the papers asserts that the wages of the Fyfe miners are less than £2 11.0 a fortnight. That gives an average of \$1.02 per day, or, as the men work not more than ten days a fortnight, the average may be put at \$1.20 a day. The men of Fyfe have to be content with that wage, and the men in Lanarkshire with very little more, and, yet, some of these latter, who have gone to Cape Breton, make a big grumble when making treble the wages they did or could in Scotland. A late importation into C. B. had the cheek to sign a petition for a Board of conciliation, one of the

reasons for requesting which was that, with safety lamps, the miners would be unable to make a sufficient wage. And yet this very cheap's wages averaged for eight months four times the present wage earned in Scotland. It is really true that some people do not know when they are more than well off.

Keir Hardie is still very much in evidence. He is a very big blow. In reference to the settlement of the coal crises he declares, "We did it all." The papers, of both sides of politics, are unstinted in their encomiums of Winston Churchill, and give him praise for his industry and astuteness in the matter. Not so Keir Hardie. He declares that the only thing Mr. Churchill did was to prepare a cushion on which the coal masters might fall softly. He is a vain glorious old chap is Keir who thinks nothing is rightly done which he had not a hand in shaping.

The eight hour day is not proving to the liking of some who clamored for it. The mine owners, like the managing director of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Co., are determined that the men, having asked for a thing, and got it, should have the law, the whole law, and nothing short of the law. The eight hour law is not without its disadvantages. For instance—On Monday, the 2nd of August, the men in the five pits of the Banknock Coal Co. were idle because the company would not accommodate them with riding cages so that they could come up when they had finished their 'darg.' The contention of the men is that they should be allowed to leave the pits when their work is finished, and not have to remain in the mine until the statutory eight hour period has elapsed. A deputation of the men waited upon the managers and were informed that no concessions would be granted as they intended to abide by the law, and be loyal to the mine owners Association who had agreed to apply the act in this way. Of course the men contended that the act did not mean that the men must stay in the mine a specified time. The men in order to induce the company to come to terms have resolved to work only four days a week. If the men are to be allowed to come up at any time, and the pits are not allowed to work longer than eight hours the output will be disastrously, in some cases, affected. The miners had no need of an eight hour law, but they wanted something, and having got it are not grateful.

On the 31st. of July the papers published a cablegram, received by the Miners' Officials at their office in Boothwell, sent, so it was declared, by the President of the United Mine Workers of America. The cablegram stated that the miners sent out by agencies in Scotland to Nova Scotia, were in a destitute condition, as there was a strike on. The 'Miners Official' said they wished to give the cablegram wide publicity, so as to warn men to steer clear of Nova Scotia for the present. Some one who, evidently, had little faith in any statement coming from a U. M. W. source, had the following in the Glasgow Herald of the Monday following, that is on the 2nd. August:—

"Sir:—On noticing in your paper a paragraph relating to destitution of Scottish miners sent out by agencies in this country, I sent a telegram inquiring as to the correctness of the statement, and received the following reply:—"No miners idle in