

"THE WHOLE CAMPAIGN IS A DIRECT ATTACK ON THE CANADIAN COAL TRADE WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN REGARDED WITH JEALOUS EYES BY THE UNITED STATES OPERATORS." G. H. DUGGAN.

If a headline was in order then this paragraph would have as such "A most wonderful preamble," while as sub heading would follow "After the true American fashion". Any candid reader having mastered its meaning will echo the headline—after the fashion of the Irish echo which when bidden "Good morning" replied 'good morning 'Sir'—and say "Most wonderful indeed." It does not matter whether the resolution was put together by the man with the lowland Scottish name, or by he who descended from the kilts, the fact remains that the preamble is brimful of celtic humor. From first to last the 'resolution' is one great Irish 'bull'. Here it is as printed in the C. B. papers:

"Whereas, Ironsides Lodge, No. 56 is a subordinate lodge of the Provincial Workmen's Association; and

Whereas, such Association was organized for the purpose of securing shorter hours of labor, as high a rate of wages as the trade allows, to prevent all illegal stoppages at pay offices, to extend necessary support to all brothers forced out of employment by any unjust cause and in general to improve the conditions of workmen and to maintain the independence and prestige which workmen are justly entitled to; and

Whereas, this Association has been organized for 30 years, and to-day we find nothing but unrest, dissatisfaction, and in fact almost revolution within its ranks; and

Whereas, this subordinate lodge has time and again expressed its dissatisfaction, and does believe that this Association has failed completely to carry out the objects for which it was organized;

Therefore resolved that we, the members of Ironsides Lodge, assembled here in regular meeting held this 9th. day of January, 1909, do order our brother now acting as Guardian, to surrender to our Grand Master, Stephen B. McNeil, the Charter granted to us by the Provincial Workmen's Association, and thereby sever our connection with the said Association;

Therefore Resolved, providing this resolution be adopted that our secretary notify our manager of such action and also give notice to the public through the Sydney Daily Post and Daily Record. Being regularly moved and seconded, and put to vote, the vote was 101 for and 5 against; motion declared carried."

The best joke is in the latter part of the last "Whereas" . . . this subordinate lodge . . . does believe that this Association has failed completely to carry out the objects for which it was organized". Isn't it all wonderful.

Let us have a survey.

In 'whereas' No. 2 the objects of the Association—are but indifferently stated—to this I may refer later on, while there is given as an 'object' that which cannot be found in the constitution or bye laws. When the writer of the resolution says that an object of the P. W. A. is to 'maintain the independence and prestige which workmen are entitled to' he is talking through his nose in true

American fashion. The maintaining of prestige to which workmen are entitled may be one of the peculiar objects of the U. M. W., but the framers of the P. W. A. constitution were not American mules. The originators of the P. W. A. were not possessed with the idea that they could maintain the independence and prestige of workmen; they set out with the intention of making the miners of Nova Scotia, its members, more independent, and in this they have succeeded vastly beyond expectations. A new born babe has no 'prestige'. As it grows in stature it may secure prestige—a name and a place. The miners of Nova Scotia had no prestige in 1879, therefore none to maintain. The Association had no 'prestige' in 1879 to-day its influence is felt in hut and hall. And this prestige the P. W. A. is now striving to maintain, while the U. M. W.'s, are trying their best to make the name of miner a term of reproach as it almost was thirty years ago.

Summarized the objects of the P. W. A. are as follows: To improve the condition of workmen, 1, Materially; 2, Morally; 3, Mentally; 4, Socially; 5, Physically; 6, Shorter hours of labor; 7, Obtain remedial legislation; 8, Seeing to enforcement of laws; 9, Secure just weight; 10, Abolish illegal stoppages; 11, Compensation for injuries, and 12, To extend support to brothers.

These are the main objects of the P. W. A. and will any member or any ex-member of any renegade point out one object in the list in which it has been unsuccessful. It cannot be done.

1. Are workmen better off materially?

Yes, they are very much better housed, clothed and fed. Their surroundings—environments—are vastly superior to those of the members of the U. M. W.'s. A visit to the U. S. mining hamlets makes this plain.

2. How do they stand morally?

Ask those who lived in mining districts thirty-five years ago. Nova Scotia miners stand to-day on a higher moral plane than the Slavs and the Huns, and the Poles, who constitute so large a proportion of the U. M. W. membership.

3. Have the minds of the workers been improved?

Witness the army of men from the ranks who are filling important positions, and the many ready to step into positions as they open, all of whom by application to study, have undergone rigid examinations and secured certificates of competency.

4. Have they risen socially?

Ask Mayor Wilson of Springfield; Hale of Westville; Mahoney of Stellarton; Stewart of Sydney Mines, and perhaps others, all former workers in mining districts. Thirty years ago a miner was looked upon as 'impossible for a lower position, let alone the chief place in a synagogue. Who ever heard previous to the advent of the P. W. A. of a former miner as Stipendiary or of former miners as Gillies and Paul as M. P.'s. Will either of these say they would have been where they are but for the P. W. A. We have town clerks, deputy inspectors, and space fails to tell of