

the syndicate scheme was likened to an octopus which would stretch forth its tentacles and crush the life out of all the companies in Nova Scotia, and having accomplished their death it would close all its own mines in the interests of United States operators. These were awful forebodings and scared almost to death some timid folk, and the Herald evidently is determined to try and subject timid people of the present day to a similar experience. The following quotation furnishes proof that our contemporary is careless as to logic, as well as facts:—

"And if this gigantic merger materializes—and it is in a fair way to-day of becoming an accomplished fact—all the iron and coal resources of this little province will pass to foreign control; and, as we have pointed out, become the prey of stock exchange gambling. The loss of control of our coal and ore areas and the great industries at New Glasgow and Sydney which depend upon them, because of our supineness, lack of vision and patriotism, may lead to provincial disaster and become an empire menace."

What iron resources of this little province are under control of either Steel or Scotia? Possibly the Herald meant to say "sources of ore supply" for no iron is being mined in the province—sorry to say. But what of the Herald's logic or consistency? It protests against the Whitney legislation fiercely, and now it is bewailing the possibility of the great industries at New Glasgow and Sydney passing to the control of outsiders. Does the Herald fail to see that had the local government scorned the mess of pottage there would be no great industries in Sydney to-day. The establishment of the steel industry in Sydney was made possible by the acquisition of the coal areas by Mr. Whitney and associates. Had these not come a Dominion Coal Co. never would have become a Dominion Steel Coy., and without the latter Sydney would be no flourishing city but a mere drowsy hamlet.

LABOR REPRESENTATIVES.

The Sydney Post has a well written and well reasoned article on the demand of labor for representation in parliament. The article, possibly, was inspired by the report that the C. B. workmen would put a labor candidate in the field. The Record cannot, however, fully endorse the Post's reference to the Mines Department. The Province never had a minister in that Department who had any practical knowledge of mining. There are frequently questions of law which have to be decided by the Commission of Mines. Perhaps it is necessary that there should be a lawyer at the head, and yet at the same time there should be one with executive power who is familiar with conditions affecting mining. The Record is under no obligation to speak a word in favor of the present Commission, indeed, if the writer was vindictive he might desire to criticise the Mines Department at odd times, and, yet, we are constrained to say that the present Commissioner fulfills the duties expected of him, in probably a manner more to be commended than any of his predecessors.

"The truth is of course that workmen are entitled to an equal voice with all other branches of citizenship in the legislative and administrative councils of the nation. Under our system of re-

presentation, we try to get the most capable men who are willing to act for us, to discharge the all-important duties of law-makers and administrators. But, it will at once be said, most of our representatives have in the past been chosen from amongst others than wage-earners; and in fact the cases have been rare and exceptional when labor men have been elected to seats in the parliament of Canada or the legislatures of the provinces. That is undoubtedly true. But can it be truly said that the reason has been a desire on the part of others than workmen to keep labor representatives out of parliament, and that it has not rather been that, all things considered, the most capable candidates—those who have given promise of becoming the most efficient representatives for the whole community—have usually been preferred by the majority of the voters? Is not another reason for the failure of labor candidates to win elections to be found in the extreme, crude and impossible policies to which they have generally given sanction, and on which they have generally appealed to the people?

"These considerations are not being urged as reasons why workmen should not have political representation, but on the contrary to indicate what seems to be the only course for organized labor to follow if it is to become the political force it should be in the councils of the nation. It should select candidates capable of serving the whole community, and should put forward policies that will command themselves to the common sense and sound judgment of the majority.

"There never was a time when labor representatives, and especially good representatives of the mining population, have been so urgently needed in the legislature of this province. The department of mines is presided over by a minister to whom it would be the height of flattery to ascribe even an amateur knowledge of mining conditions in Nova Scotia. The mining regulations are sadly in need of a complete and intelligent revision; the inspectorial system needs remodelling, lock, stock and barrel; and greater safe-guards are imperatively requisite to protect the lives and improve the working conditions of those who are employed in the perilous work of coal-mining in this province. And intelligent reforms can only be accomplished with regard to these matters when the miners get the right sort of representation at Halifax. But if the miners are to get such representation, it will have to be with the co-operation of the whole community, and the only sure way to secure such co-operation is to put forward candidates in whom the general body of the electorate will have confidence, and who will not be weighted down with a political program of half-digested Socialist theories, and radical, Bolshevik proposals, which will drive most sane persons, including hundred of rational workmen, into opposition to them.

"Under wise leadership, and with the right sort of candidates to represent them, the workmen of Nova Scotia will quickly come into their own in the public life of this province. But unless and until those conditions have been met, organized labor, however much it may achieve in its laudable efforts to get fair recognition from capital, will make no political progress in a province containing so sane and cautious a population as Nova Scotia."