

## MARITIME MINING RECORD.

THE MARITIME MINING RECORD is published the second and fourth Wednesday in each month.

THE RECORD is devoted to the Mining—particularly coal Mining—Industries of the Maritime Provinces.

Advertising Rates, which are moderate, may be had on application.

Subscription \$1.00 a Year. — Single copies 5 cents

R. DRUMMOND, PUBLISHER.

STELLARTON, N. S.

January 28, 1920.

### THE NEW CONCILIATION

The "new way,"—it may as well be told at once—is the "McKinnon" way, and like all great reforms its charm lies in its simplicity. Indeed it is so simple that people are furiously pounding their heads because they never before thought of it. The "McKinnon way" has demonstrated that when the Lemieux Act is rightly administered it can be classed as a triumphant success in cases at least, of disputes between mine operators and mine workers, and in such other industries as the awards, increasing rates, can be passed along to a passive public. The "McKinnon way," is so easy that any tyro can play at it. Concisely put the manner of operating is as follows:—

The Board hied to Sydney. The members were at home only to representatives of the operators and the head officials of the U.M.W. The host—the chairman—having welcomed the guests delivered in dulcet tones the following short address the while he gazed on the culprits benignly. "Really I am astonished that so well set and comely gentlemen should be at sixes and sevens over so ludicrously small a matter as a fourteen per cent increase in rates. I am a telepathist and reading your cheerful countenances am convinced that all that is necessary is for you to meet together in friendly intercourse and come to a wise and amicable agreement. Retire by yourselves and when an agreement is reached notify the Board and your findings will be O. K'd." Eagerly the suggestion was acted upon—the result, as foretold, being a happy agreement. The announcement was made in this form: "Mr. Chairman, we've done it." "And how did you do it so easily?" asked the Chairman. "Oh, said Watters, as he audaciously winked at the Chairman, "we said to the coal company: 'grant the increase and pass it along.' Queried the chairman: "How pass it along." "Oh," came the reply, "pass the increase to the public for payment." "Well done" said the Chairman, "I myself could not have hit on an easier process." And then the conciliators dispersed, priding themselves on the outcome of their heavy labors. The new panacea is not in any sense "proprietary." The formula is free and therefore when a "Board" met in Stellarton and the individual members and the opposing representa-

tives had shaken hands, adjournment was made for a week so that the contestants could come together, and pass any increase granted along. Moral—The public must demand representation on all conciliation Boards, that is unless they are willing to cheerfully honor all increased rates that are passed along."

### WILL IT WORK?

A while ago, when labour unrest was prevalent in all countries more so than it is at this writing, the opinion was expressed, by a large employer of labor in Nova Scotia, that the increasing demand for increased wages must sooner or later be met, and that it might as well be met soon as late. He expressed the opinion that there must be a fight to a finish. It was pointed out to him that this might mean violence and his reply was: "Yes, there may be bloodshed before things are made nearly right." Now it is to be hoped that he was mistaken, and that a way out may be found for quieting the unrest without recourse to extreme measures. A similar sentiment is held by many in Britain, but it is not as yet generally entertained. It is declared that a solution of the unrest may be found in giving the workers a share in the control of industry. The British government is willing to give the workers a share in the management of the mines, the railways and transportation generally. Of course this may not be a sure cure, merely a temporary palliative, but as it has never been tried judgment cannot be passed upon it. People lacking in imagination may take sides at once. Some may say: "The workers should have share of control." While others may declare, "The workers should not as they did not contribute to the capital without which industries would be non-existent." Could one with a keen and well regulated imagination put himself first in the workers' place, and thereafter in the place of the capitalist? If he could what would his conclusions be? The question bristles with difficulties and therefore it is that a host of panaceas are put forward, most of them unpalatable to one side or the other. A sort of share in control, whatever that may mean, could be made as an experiment, and then endorsed if found practicable. Speaking of the unrest a British paper says:—

Probably in none of the chief industrial countries of the world is labour unrest less revolutionary than it is in England. But labour unrest, though it may not spell violence and revolution, does necessarily imply diminished production. The better organised labour is, the less revolutionary it becomes, and at the same time the better able to curtail or extend output. Just because labour in England is, compared with other countries, very highly organised, it possesses an industrial weapon of great power and uses it in preference to any kind of political weapon, constitutional or unconstitutional. That is a source of political stability but of industrial weakness. During the war, and even more since the war, labour has been organising itself with unex-