

## *- Rubs by Rambler.*

From Annapolis to Victoria Counties the press of the Province keep dinning into our ears in never ending stentorian tones that they are heart and soul with the workmen, and all declare that they are on the workmen's side, and will never leave them nor be driven away from them. They say, and would like the workmen to believe it all: "Intreat us not from following after thee; whither thou goest we go; where thou lodgest we will lodge; whatever you say we will echo; your demands will be our demands; your aspirations our aspirations; your ideals our ideals and your gods our gods." The workmen and the rest of us hear all this; and if we are quick sighted we will see something—we will see those who have in such terms sworn fealty, turn their backs and mutter—to use the next election. To me it appears—to use the language not of the Presbyterian Witness—devilish strange that the same papers that express a friendliness, that cannot well be put in words, for the workmen, or let me say the miners, lose no opportunity for giving the coal operators a back slap or a side wipe, forgetful that the hurt of the operators is the hurt of the men. Witness the size of the headlines announcing the withdrawal of coasting privileges from Norwegian vessels? The papers hailed it as a god send regardless of how it effected the coal trade. The cancelling of the privilege may through time prove an excellent thing for Canada. That wholly depends, however, on the way Canadians set to work to fill the gap which the order will make. It would have been wiser that the order should not take effect for two or three years, so as to give the coal operators time to carry out the contracts they had made with the Norwegian vessel owners—at least one company has contracted for three years, and to give Canadians an opportunity to build or buy vessels suitable for the trade. How did it come about that Norwegian vessels got into the coal and ore trade? For the simple reason that they built a class of vessels, with big hatches, specially designed for them. And further British vessels of the right size are difficult to procure. The colliers as a rule are too small carriers for our trade under present conditions.

The provincial papers are under the impression that to the clamor they helped to raise is due the issuing of the Order in Council. It may have helped just a little but the order was issued under pressure from Ontario. Norwegian vessels last year found their way into the lakes and that must be prevented. Why? Because there are three shipbuilding works on the lakes ready to supply any sort of vessel that may be needed.

In Nova Scotia there are no steel ship-building yards, and the demand for steamers cannot be supplied here. The Order may cause transfers to British registry, but just how that will help the coasters I cannot imagine. If Canadians wish to secure the ore and the coal carrying trade the sooner they start shipbuilding yards the better. It is said the next move of the coasting captains is to secure the passing of an order that all vessels be loaded in turn. Foster the other day told

Fielding that going into supply was one thing and getting supply another and a different thing, so it may be that it will be found that the getting of an order passed is a different thing from getting it fulfilled. If a coal company says to a would be purchaser, captain of schooner or ship: "We have sold all our product up till the end of October" what could he do about it? If the Order helps the captains and does not hinder the coal companies all will be satisfied.

The success of an industrial enterprise depends almost wholly on the management; the success and the good name of a labor union depends to a large degree on the leader. Above everything else a labor leader should have back bone so that he will not be afraid to make proper disposition of unthinking and turbulent spirits. President Roosevelt lately sent a Commission to Goldfield, Nevada, to investigate the necessity for the call for federal troops. The Commissioners do not spare the Mine Owners Association, and they have a word or two of advice for the Union leaders. The Commission expresses itself as satisfied that throughout the Miners Union there are not over a few hundred men of dangerous type, while the great majority—probably three-fourths of the membership, were conceded to be men of law abiding tendencies. By permitting their organization to be managed and controlled by men of violent tendencies the Union as a body has thus laid itself open to the reproach of being a vicious organization. The Western Federation of Miners as a Union is a bad stick, no matter if a majority of its members are inclined to be law abiding. To have three hundred vicious men in twelve hundred is a very large proportion, and is a number quite sufficient to bring the whole fabric into disrepute more especially as in this instance the vicious tail rules and wags the staid dogs. The people of Nevada wanted back bone in not being able of themselves to subdue all attempts at lawlessness, and the leaders of the Union are equally lacking in stamina when they do not deny the privileges of their order to the law breakers. It is true in Nova Scotia as in Nevada that the unruly spirits largely control many of the Unions. The sober minded men take too little interest in the proceedings. These unruly spirits have a way of hinting to the better thinking men that if they do not fall into line they will be classed as cowards or manager's men, and strange to say at this point the back bone of the better disposed men shrivels up. What cowards we be—all of us more or less, mostly more.

Taken up with other matters I have been unable to make reference to several subjects provocative of comment. Some time ago I read in a local paper a sermon delivered in B. C. by a former Victorian. The one remark in the sermon that fixed itself most firmly on my mind was the announcement by the reverend gentleman that he had lately become a convert to socialism. I thought that a peculiar statement as I was under the impression that unconverted ministers did not generally make public confession, when a change came. It was a frank confession certainly, equivalent to saying he had not been, until lately, what he had professed to be, which is a very hard thing for an expounder of the truth. Every Christian