

## MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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The RECORD is devoted to the Mining—particularly Coal Mining—Industries of the Maritime Provinces.

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## A MISGUIDED FRIEND.

A Cape Breton paper in the course of some remarks incidentally refers to Dr. Kendall as "the workmen's friend". If that be so then there are hosts of aspirants for the like title. There are innumerable posers for the position. If he be a friend of the workman then he may be classed with those who are called misguided. His friendship at times breaks out in curious fashion. A decade and a half ago the genial fellow thought he would take a hand in the advancement of labor. The business was new to him and he set about it in a strange manner. To his mind the best way to advance labor was to disrupt it. With a zeal worthy of a better cause he bent his energies toward the annihilation of the P. W. A. The leadership of the P. W. A. was not to his liking. It was not sufficiently amenable to political dictation. The quickest way to down the P. W. A. was to introduce a foreign and a rival society, one whose record was every bit as unsavory as the U. M. W.'s. The Knights of Labor was to be the lever by which the P. W. A. was to be turned head down. Assisted by political henchmen, who only valued labor for the votes it could command, he worked might and main to supplant the provincial organization by a foreign order with numberless Molly Maguires in its ranks. One part of the genial doctors work met with some success; the ranks of the P. W. A. were thinned. The other part was wholly unsuccessful, was indeed an ignominious failure, the knights obtained no footing among the coal miners of the province. A year or two after that, about 1900, or so, the doctor at a picnic publicly recanted his error, but possibly he was repentant for a purpose; for policy's sake. For eight years thereafter the doctor sought to follow, not lead labor. But presumably his submission was a case of political duress. At the end of eight or ten years another opening presented itself, and through force of habit, presumably, the doctor began to play the same old game. The U. M. W.'s came to disrupt the Provincial Workingmen's Association and the doctor took hand in the fray. Ignoring entirely the fact that the P. W. A. was recognized by the coal companies, he rushed into battle, blood in his eyes and his sleeves rolled up, with the piercing cry, 'recognition! recognition!', down, not with the plutocrats, but with 'the' plutocrat. A similar fate befell his second attempt to create dissension as befell the first. The P. W. A. still stands, and stands strongly entrenched. If the doctor is now somewhat sore, it is not to be wondered at; two utter failures might sour a stronger headed man than Kendall. Of course the doctor, though bruised, is not

beaten. In the closing hours of the late session he cried aloud and spared not—the plutocrat. He struck out furiously, but like a man beating the air no general disturbance took place. Though his long speech was written out or type-written, a reading of it reveals the fact that philosophy was not taught in the school from which he graduated. Logic to him is an unknown art. He forgets himself and jumbles things a bit. For instance:

"Fifteen years ago or thereabouts Mr. Graham Fraser beat down the P. W. A. in New Glasgow, but that rebuff was only local and temporary. Organized labor gathered strength from year to year. Men have felt free to join lodges, and in almost every industry of importance were recognized collectively by employers. All the governments of Canada recognize trade unionism officially. It is not, then, an illogical position that directors of the C. P. R. & Grand Trunk Railway who recognize trade unions, take, when they come to Nova Scotia? Here they refuse to recognize unions in the coal and steel works. Of course we know the reasons. In one case these gentry are forced by the power of train dispatchers, conductors, drivers, and maintenance men to recognize them collectively. By implication the Lemieux act would seem to make it obligatory on coal companies to recognize trade unionism. But if I am right in this the law is now being violated and will soon be violated in almost all the collieries of Nova Scotia. The reason why operators in coal and iron refuse to recognize trade unionism in Nova Scotia is that they consider themselves strong enough to do as they please, mainly because the men are divided among themselves."

This certainly is a curious sort of affairs. The workmen are recognized and then we are told they are not recognized. It is a legitimate mis-statement to say that the operators in coal or iron refuse to recognize unionism. Speaking for the coal operators we do not know of a single one of them who has refused recognition of the union. Indeed not only is the union recognized by the Dominion Coal Company at all its collieries, and by the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co., but the companies recognize the 'check off', that is, the union dues are collected in the pay office. Of course no sane man would ask any company to recognize two unions having similar aims. When the Dom. Coal Co. recognizes the P. W. A., the provincial organization, not a sound minded man in ten will blame it for refusing to recognize foreign mischievous makers by whatever name called. In a further florid passage the Doctor asks:

"Is the place attended by organized labor in Nova Scotia to be wiped out?"

What place? If unionism is not recognized it has no place. But it has a place, and the place it has it will hold and no man will take it away. The P. W. A. men know their strength when public opinion backs them, and they, like sensible men, are not worrying about the future. Philosophically inclined they say: "Time enough to bid the devil good morning when we meet him."

## THE DRAEGER APPARATUS.

The C. B. correspondent of the Mining Journal grows very enthusiastic when the word 'Dräger' is mentioned and has on several occasions made mention of the services rendered by the apparatus in connection