

Some time ago I asserted that strangers, those who had spent but a short time in Nova Scotia, were attempting to dominate and rule the P. W. A. lodges at Sydney Mines. One of these, in the press, scouted the idea that a few strangers could lord it over so large a number. Well there are always a number easily led by glib speakers, the unthinking ones. The revolt against the P. W. A. at Sydney Mines is led by strangers, who know little and care less about the great good the provincial society has accomplished. The better and more intelligent element among the workers at Sydney Mines are strongly attached to the P. W. A. The weaker element, for the time have been led away by certain ill balanced minds, who draw their religion from Blatchford and their morals from Marx.

When they wish to show up or expose statements, made by some one, which are not consistent, the newspapers have what they call the 'deadly parallel' column. Let me use this style of exposition for the occasion. Two exponents at New Aberdeen, C. B., of U. M. W. beliefs and doings are J. S. Sutherland and Michael Mullins. I place side by side a statement made by each, and ask if the one is reasonably reconcilable with the other:

Mr. J. S. Sutherland
"... and does believe that this Association has failed 'completely' to carry out the objects for which it was organized."

Mr. Michael Mullins
"... I reply to these gentlemen and say there is good legislation placed on our statute books but it is practically a dead letter" etc.

"There is good legislation," Put, of course, there by the P. W. A. Good legislation even if not enforced is a partial good, therefore the Association cannot have 'completely failed'.

Shall the I. C. R. be transferred or leased to some one of the three great railway concerns, or shall it be run by a commission, are questions exciting a good deal of attention at the present time. The Upper Provinces' people might have no objection to a transference pure and simple, but in this case it is not what Ontario may think that should be given effect to, but what the people of Nova Scotia desire. I have long had an opinion as to what should be done. Take the I. C. R. out of politics if it is at all possible. The I. C. R. can never be made to pay as presently managed, but under strictly, uncontrolled business management it could be made if not to pay then to square accounts, and that without any increase in freight or passenger rates. So long as the I. C. R. is used as a sort of 'pension', so long as any one anxious for a job can get it, so long as a subordinate can cheek back to a boss and fulfill an order or not as he pleases, so long as a boss is powerless to enforce discipline, just so long it may not be expected to make of the I. C. R. a paying concern. Let it be the peoples railway and not the politicians and I think all will be well.

A correspondent of a C. B. paper, a checkweighman, I believe, and a strong sympathizer with the foreign U. M. W. says that there are good laws on the statute books—relating presumably to mining and mine workers—which are not enforced and the non-enforcement is laid to the doors of the P. W. A., and is due to the weakness of that Society. The statement is a bald one. Name the laws that are not enforced. I hold that the good laws are fairly well enforced, though I regret to say that on occasions they are evaded. And why? Not to any weakness in the P. W. A. but to the callousness and indifference of the workmen, or officials. Has the P. W. A. been too weak to enforce the law in reference to checkweighmen? I think not. My opinion is that at the present time those workmen's officials are better off than in any other English speaking country in the world. If this be questioned, I call upon the correspondent who signs himself, M. Mullins, to publish the regulations referring to checkweighmen from the British Coal Mines Regulation Act, and also those from the statutes of Ohio, Illinois, and Pa., and then I will side by side publish the Nova Scotia Regulations, and if these are not superior then I will make a full confession of lack of knowledge on some points.

Referring to some remarks of Judge McGillivray in connection with the Moffatt persecution, a correspondent of a C. B. paper writes: "... the Judge considered the P. W. A. a very peaceful and law abiding Association. If so I would like to ask Judge McGillivray and the Mining Record (—on behalf of the M. R. many thanks—R.) Why did the government of our country on two occasions send out the militia against the P. W. A. strikers?"

In answer—Judge McGillivray will excuse me for taking the job out of his hands—may I ask the correspondent to which government he refers, the municipal, provincial or federal? May I say of the correspondent's reference to these two incidents, what John Doull, ex Dominion Coal Co.'s clerk, presently, lawyer in larva, future Lafleur, said of some figures of mine, which went back to 1889, they are old, very old. The two occasions on which the militia were called out, in connection with a strike at the mines in N. S., were in 1880 and in 1882, more than a quarter of a century ago. On the first occasion, for sure, and I think also on the second, the Conservatives held office at Halifax and Ottawa. I am not aware that any liberal workingman, or other, blamed either government. They had more sense. They knew the governments had nothing to do with it. The way it was done, in the first case, was, somewhat like this. The manager of the Drummond was afraid of something; the two gentlemen sympathized with his fears and signed a document. This document was carried to the county town, and looked upon as calling for action. A squad of raw recruits was sent to Westville. The 'boys' captured these allowing them to stay in Westville a few days on parole. It was grand sport for the boys. In the Lingan case I think Sydney magistrates did the trick. The boys in this case too captured the soldiers and had a jolly good time together. The strikers, and these are the ones who should have felt aggrieved if a wrong had been done, blamed no government. They looked upon the incidents as a splendid advertisement of the good behaviour and of the loyalty of the members of the P. W. A. If the correspondent of the C. B. paper knew a little more about the laws of his own land, he might have less longing to be subject to a foreign organization.