

that the penalty in the former case is practically uncollectable;—one—even a government—cannot take the breeks off a hielanman, whereas in the case of a the employers there is always something tangible for the law to place its claws upon. Nor can I believe that any pastor of a Presbyterian church would use language, without qualification, which would lead to the inference that, had there been strikes in C. B. since the Disputes Act came into force they would have been just and righteous, and in so saying imply that the coal companies were wilfully and knowingly withholding from their employees what they were justly entitled to. If it is really a fact that it is a poor rule that doesn't work both ways, it is equally a fact that there are two sides to each question. Men may strike for what they consider just and right, while they may be in the wrong, all the same, and the employers may lock out their men in the belief that they have justification, while they have not, and it is just for the very purpose of declaring by means of an impartial tribunal, which side has justice and reason on its side that the Lemieux Act was placed on its side that The Herald says that the Presbyterian pastor enunciated certain causes responsible for the distress, but there is no mistaking the intention of the Herald to convey its belief that the impression conveyed by the pastor was that the Dominion Coal Co. was the chief cause, the sinner above all others dwelling in Glace Bay. Some time ago I read a statement in a C. B. paper that the place es in and around Glace Bay in which liquor could be obtained was sixty-three. There may be only fifty, but if there are but fifty, one need go no further for the chief cause of the prime factor responsible for, the 'dire want'. If there is one shebeen for every fifty male adults likely to frequent such places, then the cause has not to be searched for, and the duty of Presbyterian and other pastors is to cease railing at the big coal company, turn up their trouser legs and 'wade' into the shebeens, roll up their sleeves and wipe the shebeens out of the place. Having accomplished this they will be justified in all efforts to convince the big sinner of a coal company of the errors of its administration.

Without doubt the chief cause of the present distress is improvidence. While it is possibly true that pastors not only of Presbyterian, but other churches are to-day, in large numbers, preaching according to their stipends—the stipends in most cases are not fair living wages—it is a matter for regret that very many people, and in increasing numbers, it is to be feared, are not cutting their coats according to their cloth. Let it be admitted that while wages have increased, the rise has not kept pace with the increase in prices of commodities, the admission does not constitute any strong cause of the distress. The increased wages are an insignificant matter compared with the increased opportunities for employment. There is something very strange about this much walling over a comparatively small number of enforced idle days. Let me give a few figures from the Mines Department records which may cause some of those who are 'down' on the Dominion Coal Co. to sit up. Taking the years 1882 to 1889 inclusive, the International mine worked on an average 60 days less each year

than it did in ONLY NINE months of 1908. And there were no harrowing tales of dire distress, in the NINE MONTHS, Jan'y—Sept. inclusive of this year,—the year of want.—Caledonia worked FORTY NINE days more than the average days worked in a full year from 1882 to 1889. And there was no Dominion Coal Co., no Lemieux Act; with the one closing down mines, the other interfering with the righteous demands of labor. The Macedonian cry, worked in this season the first of 1908 NINE DAYS MORE than in the nine months of 1908 NINE DAYS MORE than in any full year of twelve months from 1882 to 1889 inclusive, and the cry of the unemployed if heard in Sydney, was not heard this side of the Straits of Canso, coming later down, from 1893 to 1899 inclusive.—I have no record for 92 so leave out 90 and 91 in order to get an uninterrupted period,—the pits of the Dominion Coal Co. worked on an average 211 days 3 hours each year, while for the nine months only of 1908, the average number of days for all the pits—Nos. 12 and 14 excluded—was 210 days, 5 hours or EIGHT HOURS LESS in the NINE MONTHS of 1908 than the average of the seven years from 1893 to 1899 both inclusive, and during these years the Herald, through an imaginary Presbyterian or other medium, never once hinted that the hydra headed coal company or any other creature was responsible for working the pits 210 days only in a possible 300 in each year. I am sorry if there is real distress but far sorer for the figures which have led to it. Do the figures help you to guess what they were and are?

I see that the Glace Bay Gazette, in giving a summary of a sermon preached in Glace Bay, also repeats the Herald story that the Lemieux Act prevented, under what was 'just and right'. To the writer, and others with untutored minds, this seems like an endorsement of a cruel and barbarous method of attempting to remedy supposed wrongs. It may be said it is not a ministerial sanction of indiscriminate striking. I cannot view it in that way, for even in the most ill-advised strikes—ill-advised in the opinion of the public—the strikers have entered upon the contest, convinced that their cause was just and right. While the great labor leaders and unselfish social reformers, among them John Mitchell, are outspoken in their disapproval of strikes, as a remedy for laborers' wrongs, and as futile in securing laborers' rights, it is a bitter disappointment to learn that a Presbyterian pastor endorses their utility. In the past, strikes may have had their place, in industrial disputes, just as to-day the energies of the lovers of man are directed to finding out a more excellent way, and with all its faults the Lemieux Act is a step in that direction. The two societies which have done most for the material, intellectual, and social uplifting of their members are the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the Provincial Workmens Association, and it may be confidently asserted, that the great success which has attended their labors, was in no part due to a strike policy.

The Record has been told, the authority is excellent, that on last Thursday the members of Pioneer Lodge concluded on Page 22.