

## 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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## THE COMBINES ACT.

McKenzie King's combines act introduced into parliament on the 18th. inst., may be divided into four parts: 1st., interpretation; 2nd., order for investigation; 3rd., inquiry and report, and 4th., punishment. A "combine" means any contract, agreement arrangement, or combination which has, or is designed to have, the effect of increasing or fixing the price or rental of any article of trade or commerce or the cost of the storage or transportation thereof, or of the restricting competition in or of controlling the production, manufacture, transportation, storage, sale or supply thereof, and includes the acquisition, leasing or otherwise taking over, or obtaining by any person to the end aforesaid, of any control over or interest in the business, or any portion of the business, of any other person, and also includes what is known as a trust, monopoly or merger."

And here is the punishment for offenders. Is there not something incongruous in the reference to duties. Does not protection in almost every case enhance the price to the consumers:

"Whenever it appears to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council that with regard to any article there exists any combine to promote unduly the advantage of the manufacturers or dealers at the expense of the consumers, and if it appears to the Governor in Council that such disadvantage to the consumer is facilitated by the duties of customs imposed on the article, or on any like article, the Governor in Council may direct either that such article be admitted into Canada free of duty or that the duty thereon be reduced to such amount or rate as will, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, give the public the benefit of reasonable competition."

"Any person reported by a Board to have been guilty of unduly limiting the facilities for transporting, producing, manufacturing, supplying, storing or dealing in any article which may be a subject of trade or commerce; or of unduly restraining or injuring trade or commerce in relation to any such article; or of unduly preventing, limiting or lessening the manufacture or production of any such article; or of unreasonably enhancing the price thereof; or of unduly preventing or lessening competition in the production, manufacture, purchase, barter, sale, transportation, storage or supply of any such article, and who thereafter continues so to offend, is guilty of an indictable offence and shall be liable to a penal-

ty not exceeding one thousand dollars and costs for each day after the expiration of ten days from the date of the publication of the report of the Board in 'The Canada Gazette' during which such person so continues to offend."

Had the coal operators of Nova Scotia been tried under either of the preceding clauses, Mr. Stipendiary Fielding could have dismissed the case before it had well begun.

## - Rubs by Rambler.

Is the United Mine Workers of America, as a society, responsible for the disorderly and disgraceful scenes which have been witnessed at the Southern Cape Breton collieries, at intervals during the past six or seven months. For the acts of individual members, or for those of a number of its members as individuals a society may not be responsible. It is, however, surely responsible when these acts are committed by individuals as members of a society. Because they were members of the U. M. W. a portion of the workmen struck; the acts of violence done by these strikers are chargeable to their connection with the foreign society, and therefore the society must be held responsible. It may be urged that acts of violence are against the implied wishes of the leaders. Too thin, too thin. Were the leaders opposed to violence they would take every opportunity of denouncing the rioters, they would express themselves as opposed to all such unruly proceedings as have been witnessed. But this they have not done; instead they have lain back, and by silence not only condoned but approved of the barbarous methods of intimidation that have been employed. Without doubt the society, that is the U. M. W. of America, must be held as abettors of, and responsible for, the discreditable acts of violence and disorder that have prevailed. And public opinion holds them as responsible, and therefore it is that the name, United Mine Workers, has become a byword and a reproach over the length and breadth of the land. It is said that the 'dole' received by the strikers is given contingent on their turning out regularly to do picket duty, that is to call scab and throw stones at decent men going to or returning from work. If the society was averse to unlawful acts, and knowing that its pickets daily commit these acts, it would at once withdraw them, but as we said, it won't do that; violence is the principal part in the strike programme of the U. M. W. as known in C. B. Are these acts to be permitted to continue. If they are then law and its enforcement in Nova Scotia are disgraced. The U. M. W. is not incorporated, therefore it cannot be sued, but surely individual members of it can be effectively dealt with. In Britain, if a union leader intimidates a workman, no matter how slight the intimidation, he is liable to three months with hard labor. British law should be made applicable to Nova Scotia. There can be no doubt that the officers of the several U. M. W. lodges participate in picketing. Being officers, they are leaders. If a few of the leaders in the several riotous districts were given three months with hard