

# The Weekly Monitor

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FRANK H. BEATTIE, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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## IS AN INVESTIGATION NEEDED?

At time of writing no progress has apparently been made in the settlement of industrial difficulties in Cape Breton though it is stated that efforts are being carried on behind the scenes to find a way out to which all disputing parties can agree.

There has been no official pronouncement as yet from the U. M. W. head as to whether the situation produced a few weeks ago was a strike or a lockout. The Company of course claim that the men brought on a strike. The men state that the company enforced a lockout. It is a matter of common knowledge that several mines were virtually closed for months and the men customarily employed in them were unable to get enough work to earn even the bare essentials of existence. The ground for closing was alleged to be inability to sell the coal produced at these collieries.

This claim is stoutly disputed inasmuch as in a number of cases coal was sold freely from other collieries on the same seam. Another point to be noticed is this, if coal from certain collieries could not be sold, why was so much money expended in developing these before it was ascertained whether their products would be acceptable on the market. What would we think for instance here in the Annapolis Valley of planting out all kinds of untried fruit, putting it on the market only to find that the market would not accept it. The person who spends money in developing unworthy products must lose out.

The closing down of work so tightly at certain collieries conveys at least the suspicion that Besco had for one of its objects the fighting of the United Mine Workers in districts where they were most aggressive. We hold no brief for the United Mine Workers but in fairness it must be said that charges have gone around which are decidedly untrue. It has been frequently stated that last year a quarter of a million was taken by the organization from the coal miners of this Province and even during this time of dullness and destitution at the collieries the Union has made no contributions of funds to the distressed. Of this quarter million were used to meet obligations due Cape Breton merchants for supplies during the former industrial dispute. Not more than 15 per cent of the levy on the Provincial miners goes to the Union headquarters. The rest remains with the locals. A general levy of \$1.00 per month per man each year is collected. If strikes were very numerous or very general it can readily be seen that this amount would melt very rapidly. So far as money is concerned it is a safe bet that Nova Scotia miners have got more out of the U. M. W. than they have ever put into it. By the U. M. W. constitution a month must elapse before strike funds can be supplied.

With regard to the Steel Companies of Canada there are some few things in which the public would welcome information. The last report of the British Empire Steel Corporation shows the worst year financially in its history. No dividend on common stock. (That could never really be expected.) No dividend on Preferred stock and half earnings only of its bond interest. This appears remarkable when we consider that coal has

carried the steel and other ends. The Sydney Steel plant was considered most splendidly located, abundant iron ore with cheap water transportation from Newfoundland. Limestone abundant from Cape Breton itself also water transported. Coal at alleged cost \$3.45 per ton. Why should this company not prosper? Compare this last year's record with that of the Steel Company of Canada with works at Hamilton, Ontario. Last year their profits were 52 per cent, on common stock after all charges were paid. An increase of \$664,000 was made in working capital bringing the excess of current assets to nearly twelve millions. We understand that the Steel Company of Canada purchases its coal, its iron ore and its electric power. Its competitor is the British Empire Steel Corporation which devotes a large portion of its energies in filling government rail orders and not many years ago declined some of these which were promptly snapped up by rival. The Steel Company of Canada last year paid out in dividends \$1,250,000.

What accounts for the fact that one company prospers while the other is going from bad to worse with disappointed shareholders and bitterly dissatisfied employees. In the interests of this province if a situation ever required looking into and investigation, surely this is one.

The Steel Company of Canada goes after business and gets it. Results show that. What do results show in the case of Besco? Can there be any doubt that the latter company needs a new head and a change in its methods or lack of methods in business management?

## Press Comment

### ANGLO-AMERICAN CO-OPERATION

London Daily Telegraph: The possibility of the British and American battlefields being arranged against one another in action is not one to be contemplated. Any such development would not merely be an act of madness from the standpoint of both these branches of the English-speaking race, but might prove the death-knell of the peculiar phase of liberal civilization which both peoples have done so much to promote. Their continued co-operation is essential to the well-being of humanity. It was in that spirit that this country abandoned its traditional Two-Power Standard nearly four years ago, and agreed to the ratio of equality in capital ships.

### FROM WEST POINT TO OXFORD.

Baltimore Sun: Never heretofore represented by a Rhodes Scholar, the United States Military Academy will next October see three of its cadets matriculating at Oxford as the elected candidates of various American States. . . . In particular for these three West Pointers the experience at Oxford is likely to be one of profound importance. From the rather narrow and over-disciplined atmosphere of the Military Academy they will proceed to an environment of absolute intellectual freedom. They will rub shoulders with young Englishmen who are as versed in the meaning of the Renaissance as they are in the manual of arms; they will be thrown in constant contact with Indian Nationalists, with Irish Republicans,

with the purest of the British aristocracy, with youthful idealists, poets, princes, hard-drinking cavaliers and sober students of an amazing intellectual capacity. It is idle to speculate what changes will be wrought in the minds of these three cadets by the experience now opened for them. To ascertain they will be the deep, and to ascertain they will be in the nature of making them something much more than the ordinary type of military man when they return. All in all no development in the important history of the Rhodes Scholarships is more interesting than this.

### EXTREMISM IN INDIA.

Times of India: (M. N. Roy, an Indian extremist, has submitted a plan for an advanced national Government.) Whatever its worst detractors may say of the Government of this country, it cannot be denied that it is a more than tolerably good Government inspired in most of its works with a desire to serve the people and succeeding in doing so. If more proof of this than its own acts is needed, one can cite the testimony of the fiery Mr. Roy. The latter recites what he thinks ought to be a truly national programme. It is hard to believe, but every other one of its provisions is either being directly achieved at the moment by the present Government or is an end to be sought at a more fitting and proper time.

### DAILY STRENGTH

Nature has admirably fitted the body to fight against weakness but there is need for a daily renewal of strength, which comes easiest through nourishment.

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is a practical aid to health and strength. If you are pale, underweight or weak, Scott's is the restorative that builds you up Nature's way through nourishment.

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### PRESS COMMENT

#### CANADA'S OUTPOSTS.

London Times: Canada has long a succession of outposts beyond the natural barriers of forest, prairie and mountain; between each outpost the lines of communications still lie open and unguarded. The natural result is to be found, not only in the failure to realize the rich and varied assets of the Dominion, but in the political isolation of its several communities. There are gulfs between the fishing villages of Nova Scotia and the industrial centres of Ontario, between the Quebec habitant and the settler on the prairies, that are more than merely geographical. There would be less talk of jealousies and suspicions if those gulfs were bridged by a population that would serve to build Canada into a united nation instead of a collection of individual communities.

#### U. S. A. AND JAPAN.

Hong Kong Press: We do not imagine that anybody in the Far East who follows at all closely the trend of politics, in this part of the world has paid the slightest heed to the recent scaremongering regarding the present relations between Japan and the United States. At all events, they will place no credence whatever on the suggestion that there is danger of an armed conflict between the two Powers. The story has an American origin, and if, as the London correspondent of the New York World recently alleged, there is "an undercurrent of anxiety in high quarters regarding the Far East," it is safe to say that it does not exist by reason of any suspicion of Japan.

#### THE OIL ON CAPE SABLE ISLAND.

Indications of oil being on Cape Sable Island are daily growing stronger. A few days ago the waters of a small brook running through the centre of a small town were so covered with oil of a thick, heavy, dark nature as to attract nearly the whole community to investigate the phenomenon. It was at first believed to be a hoax of some sort, but as the brook flowed on the surface became heaved with the burden of oil. When scooped up in papers and a lighted match touched to it, ignition was instantaneous. Still thinking that it must be a superficial thing, the solution was suggested by some that an oil burning steamer had dumped oil on the harbor, and a high tide had thrown it back in the waters of the brook, but from the nature of the land, and the distance from the shore this would be impossible. Several days have passed since the oil's discovery in the brook, but it still continues to flow. The source of the brook is a savannah, which occupies nearly the whole interior of the island. It is a large tract of swampy land, with a small shallow lake in the centre. Much of this whole tract is at this time of year, or at any time when there is much rain

## BETTER IN EVERY WAY

### After Taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Ingomar, N. S.: "I took your medicine for a run-down condition and inward troubles. I had pains in my right side so bad at times that I could not walk any distance. I saw about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound in the newspapers and have taken five bottles of it. I am better in every way and say I am feeling more jolly. I would give it freely to all my other women."—Mrs. ALYDA M. PERRY, Ingomar, N. S.

### Nervous Breakdown Relieved

Toronto, Ontario: "It is pretty hard to explain your feelings in nervous troubles. I felt low spirited, had pains in my head and eyes, always crying, and did not want to go anywhere. I do get irritable after a few minutes of work. I have been in Canada five years and have been this way ever since. I came. I am taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and I sleep better and it seems to make me eat, and I must say I am feeling more jolly. I have great faith in my medicine because of what it has done for my husband's sister and she recommended it to me."—Mrs. A. SMITH, 10 Burling Avenue, Todmorden, Toronto, Ontario.

All druggists sell this dependable medicine, and women suffering from these troubles so common to their sex should give it a trial now.

### SPECULATORS CAUTIONS

#### German Steer Clear of France—Were Bitten Before

Berlin.—After burning their fingers in speculating in francs last year, Berlin and German financiers and bankers of all descriptions are steering clear of French francs. Consequently reports of a sensational drop in French francs were received coolly in Berlin, one hundred francs dropping slightly from twenty marks, eighty-one pence to twenty marks forty-seven pence.

Financial experts interviewed on the German reaction to the drop in the French currency philosophically shrug their shoulders, declaring: "The new developments show clearly the similarity of European countries. France is going through the same crisis of inflation as Germany, but the crisis in France is aggravated by heavy military expenses, on one side and lessened on the other by the fact that France is an agricultural country."

### CANADA'S CHILD IMMIGRANTS.

Social Service Council of Canada. Marjorie Bradford, B.Sc.

Pangs of the public conscience occasioned by the little tragedy last year of the suicides of two "home boys" in Ontario and the unaccountable death of another in the west have compelled a number of tardy investigations of that vast transplanting system which has in the last fifty years, brought to Canada from the old land more than 75,000 dependent child and juveniles. Those investigations have revealed some facts which are startling in their import, and the economic and social consequences of our Juvenile Immigration which have at last forced themselves on public attention make it increasingly imperative to justify the very existence of a system which, at best, violates the most fundamental principles of modern social service.

Social workers in this new land, who have been trained to regard the breaking up of the home as the last expedient among social remedies, who generally concede that even a mediocre home for a child is preferable to an institution and that if institutional life is inevitable it should be patterned as closely as possible after that of the normal home, naturally view with alarm the operation of a system which is based upon the separation of a child from both home life and home land.

How are these children selected for migration overseas? An enlightening report of the Overseas Settlement Committee of Great Britain furnishes information of value on the methods of selecting children for migration overseas and the sources from which they are drawn.

The whole system is in the hands of a group of volunteer societies working with the recognition and approval of authorities both in the old land and in the new. Some of these societies exist only for purposes of migration, others are children's "homes" which undertake the migration of groups of the children who are under their own care, or sometimes, groups of children recommended by Boards of Guardians, Juvenile Employment Committees, authorities of Industrial Schools, Societies or Homes for Poor Children, school teachers, and relatives and friends of the children. These children would therefore include "Poor Law Children" who have come "on the rates" through poverty or other failure of the home, children who have been committed to industrial schools for offenders, orphans or under-privileged children whose home circumstances are unsatisfactory for one reason or another.

The above mentioned report describes the "selection sieves" through which the prospective child immigrant must pass, the final inspection being made by the Superintendent of Emigration for Canada, resident in London, notwithstanding this process on the other side of the water, the children are examined in the usual way when they reach the Canadian ports. One wonders how it can be possible that of 200 such immigrants who have been known to various institutions in the city of Toronto, 115 have been reported as mentally subnormal, that 77 have been diagnosed as low grade defectives, and that 3, now confined in one of our mental hospitals, have been pronounced imbeciles from birth!

Of course the other side of the story must be forgotten. Most of us know respectable citizens of Canada who have come to our shores as juvenile immigrants and many have done remarkably well. The shocking cases of failure which have come to light must be regarded as the percentage of failure of the system rather than its normal product.

On the other hand we in Canada, must confess to having welcomed these children not always from the most altruistic motives. Among the stories of a happy young immigrant now established "as one of the family," there are too many tales of emigration and heavy lifeless bodies as a result of labor too hard for a growing boy or girl, of unhappiness aggravated by careless placing or unsympathetic and infrequent inspection, and other wild rebellion of throated instincts on that long looked for day when the child at the age of 18 is free from the authority of the "Home"—tales which drew from one exasperated social worker the exclamation "these mail order placements are an abomination unto the Lord!"

### ONTARIO'S COAL SUPPLY

Toronto.—That Ontario's future source of coal supply is Nova Scotia, and not Alberta, was the opinion expressed by Hon. H. H. Stevens, M.P., former Minister of Trade and Commerce, who was in Toronto on March 21st. The fact that railway cars would have to go back to Alberta empty, he thinks, would make it more expensive to bring fuel from the west than by water from Nova Scotia.

Minard's Liniment for Colds.

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### PROPOSED COKING PLANTS.

(Financial Post.)  
The increase in the tax on American slack coal under the new Robb budget is expected to have more far-reaching influence on the Canadian coal industry than might at first seem apparent. Canadian coal interests have felt that while the 14-cent duty applied only to slack coal, the regulation was stretched to cover coal that was really run of mine and also that because of the low duty rate fine coal was used much more extensively than would otherwise have been the case; further, there is a feeling that in some cases coal was pulverized in order to get it through on the low duty basis.

To secure full advantage of the situation now created, however, it is regarded as advisable that the coking of coal should be more generally followed and it is understood that plans which have for some time been considered in this connection have been given new vigor by the tariff change. A rebate is to be allowed on coal imported for coking purposes. The Nova Scotia coal interests should benefit chiefly from larger consumption of Canadian coal and it was their boon to the Maritimes which was no doubt an important factor in the government's decision. Industrial interests which have been using American coal, will bear the brunt of the increased tariff.

For Sore Throat Use Minard's Liniment.

A negro woman of mammoth proportions and inky complexion was in an automobile accident. She was transported to the hospital, where she soon regained consciousness. The doctor, seeking to comfort her a bit, said to her: "You will undoubtedly be able to obtain a considerable amount of damages, Mrs. Johnson." "Damages?" said Mrs. Johnson. "What Ah want wif damages? Ah got enough damages now. What Ah wants is repairs."

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