

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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THE COST OF THE U. M. W.

The United Mine Workers of America's journal is greatly consoled and comforted by the thought that if the order gained no strike in Nova Scotia, its striking members were able to inflict a loss of nearly 400,000 tons in provincial coal sales. The organ of the U. M. W. is far too modest. The advent of the order to the province has been very much more costly than it takes credit for. If the infliction of loss is a legitimate matter for a trade union to gloat over then the U. M. W. organ would have been within the truth had it stated that the strikers had inflicted a loss of about a million tons of coal and a money loss of a million dollars exclusive of the million odd dollars reported to have been sent for the relief of the strikers.

Let attention, first of all, be directed to the loss of revenue to the Province, a direct, and it may be added, a dead, loss. We first refer to this loss because it is one that should appeal to every elector in the Province, for through it the several services, roads, education, etc., are so much poorer.

For the ten years previous to 1911, that is, from 1901 to 1910, the increase in coal shipments was 130% or say 11 per cent. per year on an average. Let us be content to say that the increase was 10 per cent. yearly. In 1908 there were sold 5,485,000 odd tons of coal. In 1909, had not the U. M. W. interfered the sales should have been 6,000,000 instead of 4,600,000, and in 1910 they should have been 6,600,000 instead of 5,200,000. This gives an apparent loss of 1,400,000 tons. Let us say a million tons to be within the mark. Of this million tons the Island collieries lost say, 700,000 tons, and the Mainland 300,000 tons. Taking the former at twelve and a half cents per ton, and the latter at ten cents the dead loss to the revenue from loss of royalty is \$117,000. This loss surely must come home to the local government even though its exchequer is not empty. One can imagine that prudence would suggest that the local government take steps to prevent a similar loss in a similar way occurring in the future.

The U. M. W.'s since their coming have caused to the government, the members of the order themselves, and the tradesmen and dealers of the province a round two million dollars. And for what? One can imagine that two million dollars, or twice that sum might be well spent in recognition of or defence of a principle. In

this instance it was wanton waste for no principal was involved or was in any way at stake. It may be said: "That is a mistake, the liberty to join a union was involved." Nonsense. The Dominion Coal Co. did not care one little bit whether McDougall and Nicolson and McLennan belonged to one union or ten. They simply took the ground that in recognising one union and doing business with its committee they were doing all that could be reasonably required of it. Again we may be told the members of the U. M. W. were discriminated against. A government board said there was no discrimination, though a preference was shown P. W. A. men. Was that wrong? The very highest authority justifies preferences so long as no injury is inflicted, so long as it was said to the unpreferred, "take that thine is and go thy way." Because the company was good to those who were loyal, the U. M. W. eye was evil. Why should not bosses have preferences. If preference was abolished then were killed ambition and aspiration. If a company ought to recognize two unions, why ought it not to recognize half a dozen.

But far beyond any pecuniary loss inflicted on the Province is the loss morally, mentally and socially. What a sacrifice of manhood there has been. How baneful must be the effect of eighteen months idleness on the boys. What the effects on the men who have tasted of the bread of idleness for so long a period. The trail of the U. M. W. in Nova Scotia is blazed with blasted hopes and blighted homes; vanished savings and tarnished reputations. Where was amity it has sown enmity, and where was contentment and prosperity now dwells unrest and poverty. Without doubt the coming of the U. M. W. was costly.

THE SYDNEY MINES ACCIDENT.

Elsewhere we give a synopsis of the verdict of the jury at the Sydney Mines inquest. The jury is to be highly commended for the fairness and intelligence displayed in the discharge of a duty which required, besides intelligence, courage. They did not shirk that duty. We have not had the chance, as had the jury, of hearing all the evidence, and it is possible their information justifies the three important findings in their verdict. With the information we have we wonder if the jury was justified in declaring that there had been a violation of Rule 2, of General Rules. The fact that there were several Examiners leads to the belief that there were several recognized parts or sections in the mine. Whether the part of the mine in which the killed men were working was examined or not does not matter a great deal, as it, apparently, was safe, for the jury expressly declares that Ferguson, who was a considerable distance away, set off the gas. Was the part in which the six men were working a portion of the 'part' Ferguson was examining. Rule 2 says that where gas has been found within three months examination shall be made, within three hours of commencing work, of 'every' part of the mine, and a report made to the manager of the condition thereof so far as ventilation is concerned; and then the rule proceeds: 'and a workman shall not go to work in such part until the same and the roadways leading thereto are stated to him by a person appointed for the purpose, to be safe.' To what does the word 'such' in the extract refer. There is no reference in the previous part of the rule to 'a' part, but it is said that 'every part' of the mine is to be inspected. Did the jury conclude