

faced by the British Government is added the opposition of the Unionists led by the most consummate master of debate. With the whole force of the vested interests behind him, Mr. Balfour may succeed in blocking Mr. Asquith, and may, indeed, become the leader of a new Cabinet. But, whatever the issue, it seems probable that industrial peace is farther away than ever.

The British coal strike is slowly paralyzing transportation and manufacturing. The direct loss is incalculable. The indirect loss, even after work shall have become normal, will be enormous. The dislocation of the coal trade will affect the country for years to come. For instance, Great Britain exported to Europe 67,276,846 tons of fuel in 1911. This fuel had an average value of about \$2.90 per ton. It can readily be appreciated that the temporary cessation of this export trade is tremendously costly, especially as Germany has built up a competitive export trade of nearly 30,000,000 tons, and is preparing further to command the market.

The serious plight of the British mine owner is obvious. There is little doubt that a minimum wage of some kind will have to be conceded to the men. It is equally true that a tentative measure, a measure that can be tried out for some years, is a necessity. This will give owners and men a chance to realize that in the long run their interests are identical. An overwhelming victory for either side would be a catastrophe. There must be a process of reconciliation and mutual adjustment of grievances.

The rumours of strikes in the United States will mean little if, meanwhile, peace is restored in Great Britain.

THE BRAKPAN SLIMES PLANT.

At the Brakpan mine, South Africa, there has been installed a slime plant that represents the last word in modern equipment. Four slime collectors, 65 feet in diameter by 12 to 17 feet in depth, are followed by six Pachuca tanks, 15 feet in diameter by 45 feet in height. Compressed air keeps the pulp in circulation in the Pachucas for four hours. After transference to the stock tank, the pulp gravitates to Butters vacuum filters. The filter plant is particularly interesting. Two filters of 168 leaves each, the area of each leaf being 80 square feet, present a total filtering surface of 27,000 square feet. Two double-cylinder, geared pumps, produce the vacuum. The solution is discharged into clarifying tanks, thence to storage tanks. The slime cake is dropped into a concrete sump, water is added, and after agitation, it is pumped into the slime dam.

The Brakpan ore, it may be added, carries about \$6.75 gold per ton. Reserves of over two million tons were developed last May. Further reserves of about

900,000 tons carried about \$2.15 per ton. The mill is equipped with 160 stamps of 2,000 pounds each. The stamp duty exceeds 12 tons per day. The whole plant is driven by electric power.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Dome mill at Porcupine was put into commission on March 21st. The visitors who attended the celebration on the 30th will, therefore, have seen a fairly seasoned plant.

La Rose quarterly dividend, increased from 2 to 2½ per cent., was declared on March 20th.

The International Nickel Company on March 19th declared a 7 per cent. quarterly dividend on its common stock, and a dividend of 1½ per cent. on its preferred. There are still symptoms of vitality about the corporation. Dr. David T. Day must revise his prediction of an early demise.

News comes from Gowganda to the effect that on the 250-foot level of the Miller Lake-O'Brien mine 200 feet of very rich ore has been developed. The vein here ranges between one and three inches in thickness, the ore carrying 5,000 ounces of silver to the ton. The mine has been shipping more than \$30,000 worth of rich ore every six weeks. Gowganda has to be taken seriously.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company had a prosperous year in 1911. A slight decline in profits as compared with 1910, yet leaves the handsome sum of \$1,019,392.51. Outputs of steel and iron were the largest on record. Coal production fell off slightly. Nearly \$100,000 was added to the general reserve fund.

Cobalt is petitioning for a tavern license. At present the town is practically without hotel accommodation. It is believed by the petitioners that no hotel can survive without the sale of liquor. This, we think, is wrong. Legitimized liquor selling in any mining camp is a mistake. It would be calamitous in Cobalt. On the other hand, a clean, well-managed hotel would undoubtedly succeed in Cobalt without liquor.

Whatever the intention of Prof. H. E. T. Haultain in his remarks before the Canadian Mining Institute, it certainly was not as represented in the newspapers. He had no dispute with anybody as to the depth of Porcupine deposits. His references were confined to a quite different subject.