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EDUCATION AND MINE ACCIDENTS

P. J. Moore, mine inspector for the first anthracite district Pennsylvania, states that the educational work among the miners, in his district, has had the effect of reducing accidents by 50 per cent.

The mining institution at Carbondale, the center of the first district, is supported by the Pennsylvania Coal Co. and the Hultside C. & I. Co. (known as the Erie Cos.), the Temple Iron Co., and the Delaware & Hudson Co., acting in co-operation with the anthracite committee of the Y. M. C. A.

Inspector Moore made the statement, as to the reduction of accidents, at the opening of a new institute that the Su-quehanna Coal Co. is starting in Shamokin.

"I have occasion to know what the work has accomplished," he said, "because it is my business to collect the statistics of accidents to life and property. This institute work is the most useful agency yet devised to reduce accidents in the mines. It teaches the men to protect themselves and others. 'First Aid to the Injured' is a good institution but I call this 'First Aid to the Uninjured' still better. Prevention is better than cure."

The chief of the Department of Mines of the State of Pennsylvania has instructed all the State Inspectors to give their aid to the mining companies and the anthracite committee in extending

the educational work.

A HINT TO LEGISLATORS

The following letter has been written by Mr. Thomas Homes, secretary of the Howard Association England:—

Will you kindly allow me space to point out the effects of the Budget upon the prison population in England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland? I have before me the last report of the Prison Commissioners, and I find that during 1909 the commitments to prison in England and Wales were 5,416 less than the commitments of the previous year. In Scotland the commitments showed a decrease of 1,363 upon the previous year.

The Prison Commissioners for Scotland, in their report, make it very plain that it was the Budget that effected this great reduction; the rise in the price of spirits took effect at the end of April, 1909, and from that date the prison population began to decline. The Commissioners' figures show that the reduction took place in the last eight months of the year. I do not wish to make any comment, but merely to point out that if the Prison Commissioners are to be believed, the Budget kept nearly 15,000 people out of prison. As every prisoner costs the State £30 per year it is easy to see the benefit which accrued to the community.