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The Redistribution Bill. The Dominion Government has promised to bring down a redistribution bill at the coming session of Parliament in accordance with the terms of the British North America Act 1867. The question which interests us is whether New Brunswick is to lose two members, Nova Scotia one, and Prince Edward Island one, which according to the last census they must. The B. N. A. Act Sec. 51 provides for a census and a redistribution of seats every ten years. Sec. 51 (1) provides that Quebec shall have the fixed number of sixty-five members. Sec. 51 (2) ascertains the number of members of the other Provinces by the simple rule of proportion, viz., as the population of Quebec: the population (say) of N. B. :: 65: the number of members for N. B., Sec. 51 (4) provides that "the number of members for a province shall not be reduced unless the proportion, which the number of the population of the province bore to the number of the aggregate population of Canada at the then last preceding readjustment of the number of members for the province is ascertained at the latest census to be diminished by one-twentieth." It is on this last sub-section that the contention arises. The word "Canada" is the important word. Canada is defined in the B. N. A. Act as comprising Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, unless otherwise provided expressly or impliedly. The Maritime Provinces' Premiers, and especially the Premier of New Brunswick, contended that "Canada" must mean that as defined in the Act, and not Canada of ten years ago, otherwise the whole spirit of the sub-section would be destroyed. For it was evidently known to the framers of the Act, that the French people multiply much faster than the English, so, in order that the self-esteem of any province might not be hurt by a member being taken away, unless its population increased more than 1-20, this saving clause was introduced. It is easily seen that if you take "Canada" as including what she does today, the whole effect of the clause is destroyed. Also, it was contended that the technical definition of "Canada" had been adhered to in former redistributions, or otherwise New Brunswick would have lost a member, which she did not. On the other hand it was contended, that this definition of "Canada" was impliedly enlarged, because, provision was made in the Act for the admittance of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. Also, we have the principle, that in construing a constitution you should construe it widely; the framers clearly intended Canada to increase in territory. If the Maritime Province Premiers are right in their contention, the number of members of the Province will not be reduced. It looks as if a reference may have to be made to the courts to settle the question.

The Coal Commission. The Coal Strike Commission has just finished its sitting and it will perhaps not be out of place to give here a short history of the greatest strike in the history of the world. Anthracite mining is one of the most perilous of occupations. The lives of more than two hundred men are every year sacrificed to this industry, in which one hundred and fifty thousand are employed, and more than two thousand annually meet with accidents, many of which are only a little less than fatal. There have been many strikes, but the most important prior to this was in 1877. The strike of 1902 resulted from a Convention held at Shamohen early in that year. The demands were: (1) An advance of 20 per cent. in wages; (2) a shorter day—eight hours instead of ten; (3) the weighing of coal that is mined, a recognition of what is called dockage. Dockage is explained by the fact that the coal, originally

mixed with rock and debris, is loaded on cars of a certain size, and when the coal is properly mined it is known how much coal there will be to a cubic foot. The operators say that it is possible to load the coal, so that it will remain on until it gets to the top; but the miners claim, that they should be paid according to the rate at the head of the shaft and not at the top, as much is thrown off on the way up. To the demand of the miners, the operators and others reply thus: "We cannot afford to recognize your union; we cannot afford to grant your demands, or to go on doing business as we have done the last two years. You have made coal mining intolerable to the employers. There have been in the last year and a half 250 strikes from very slight causes. It is impossible for us to employ or discharge our men. The following is a summary of the probable findings of the Coal Strike Commission, which has just finished its sittings. There will be at least a ten per cent. advance in the pay for mining, to take effect from the time the miners returned to work last October. The per diem employees will not have their wages increased, but will be recommended for the same pay for a day of nine hours. The system of pay will be regulated. Wherever practicable, the operators will be required to pay by weight, instead of by the car. When this cannot be done the pay will be by the lineal yard. The miners will have check docking representatives at their own expense. This will practically amount to a second increase in wages. There will be indirect recognition of the union, which will come when the findings are submitted by President Roosevelt to John Mitchell, as President of the Miners' Union. The cause of the strike as found by the commission, will not be comforting to the coal mining companies. The boycott will be condemned, and the principle will be laid down that a miner has a right to work without molestation, even though he does not belong to the union. The terms of the verdict are to hold good for three years and recommendations are to be made for settlements on wage and other questions at the end of that period. In local disputes the operators will be advised to treat with Committees of the miners and there may be a suggestion for a local board of arbitrators. The gain to the miners may be of some importance, but the cost to them and to the country at large is something beyond calculation. Strikes and their causes ought to become events of the past. It is the 'Golden Rule' in exercise, as between capital and labor which will make this possible.

The New Department of Commerce and Labor. The recent coal strike in the United States, with its grave consequences, brought forcibly to the attention of their Government the difficult question of how to settle and prevent such disputes. By the United States Constitution certain powers of legislation are given to the Federal Government and certain powers to the States Governments, and over some subjects both have jurisdiction. All the reserved power is given to the "People" from whom it can only be taken by a constitutional amendment which requires a four-fifths vote of all the States. The question in the United States was, which power had jurisdiction to legislate on trusts and strikes. This question could never arise in Canada, for by our Constitution certain powers are given to the Provinces to legislate upon, while all the rest are given to the Dominion. The difficulty in the United States was got over in the following way:—the President in his message to Congress, advised greater publicity in the formation and workings of these corporations together with measures to pre-

vent the watering of stock. Accordingly, Congress has just created a new department called the "Department of Commerce and Labor," with statistical jurisdiction over the internal trade of the country estimated at \$20,000,000,000. This department absorbs a number of existing Bureaus, as that of Lighthouses, Immigration, Census and Labor. It creates a "Bureau of Manufacture," whose province is to foster, promote, and develop, the various manufacturing industries of the United States, and their markets at home and abroad. It also creates a "Bureau of Corporations," with power and authority to make diligent investigation into the organization, conduct and management of the business of any corporation or joint stock company engaged in commerce within the United States and with foreign nations, and to gather such information and data as will enable the President of to make recommendations to Congress, such information to be made public.

The Ontario Legislature. The Ontario Legislature was opened on Wednesday of last week by Chief Justice Moss in the absence of the Lieut. Governor, Sir Oliver Mowatt, on account of illness, the result of a bad fall. This is the first meeting of the Legislature since the appeal to the constituency, the result of which has turned out more favorably to the Ross Government than was expected at the close of the polls on election day. The government of Mr. Ross has a clear majority, which is likely to be increased in subsequent bye-elections. The Opposition has made some gains, and a lively session may be expected. Several measures will be introduced, the most important of which will be that in relation to the development of water-power by municipalities. This is new. Inventions in the field of electric power transmission have made it possible to utilize the abundant water-power of the Province, for driving the wheels of industry in manufacturing centres. But the measure which will be looked forward to with the most interest by the majority of the people, will be the act which refers to temperance. There will be some warm and interesting debates before the session closes, or else all signs fail.

Great Industrial Activity of N. S. and N. B. We note with pleasure the prosperity and enlargement of the industries already in existence in N. S. and N. B. and the promotion of new ones. In Nova Scotia, a large company is projected for the purpose of manufacturing steel capitalized at several millions. The plant is to be situated at Parrsboro, Cumberland Co., where it will be able to utilize the extensive coal deposits at Springhill, and the iron ores at Torbrook and others located in Annapolis Co. Also, the Canadian Coal and Steel Co. lately organized in Montreal, which will now settle at Sydney instead of Anticosti, as first stated. This Company owns extensive ore deposits on the Labrador coast, and is now, it is said, negotiating for the purchase of some of the collieries in Cape Breton. Mention might also be made of some of the numerous bank changes. The federation of the Halifax Banking Co. with the Canadian Bank of Commerce; the increasing of the capital of the People's Bank of Halifax from \$8,000,000 to \$1,500,000; and that of the Royal Bank of Canada from \$,000,000 to \$4,000,000. In New Brunswick the lumber, pulp, and fishing industries are increasing. The proposed new pulp and paper mills to be erected at Grand Falls, on the Nepisiquit River in Gloucester County, by the Messrs. Harmsworth, proprietors of the London Daily Mail and London Evening News, and involving an expenditure of over \$2,500,000, promises to be a great boon to that part of the country. Altogether the outlook seems very bright for the Provinces in the next decade.