

no loss of output. If a similar offer were to be made to a manager in this country, he would be unable to accept it, as to allow it would be a breach of the law.

"A fall in production per man in ordinary times is a disgrace to the industry, but in these days it is nothing less than a crime, and every man connected with the industry, either as employer, official, or workman, will have to make it a personal matter if the retrogression is to be stopped."

Mr. Jackson also points out that under existing conditions, with such an urgent need for every ton of coal than can be shipped, the question of cutting down consumption at the collieries by eliminating waste and adopting the most efficient types of hoisting equipment, is one that deserves careful attention.

Fuel control is to continue in Nova Scotia according to J. C. Watters, and in the United States according to Seward's Journal.

At the A. M. W. conference J. C. Watters, who represented the federal fuel controller, had a scheme to submit to the union, proposed by Mr. Magrath, for the formation of joint production committees at each of the mines in the district. The duties of these committees would be to keep posted on the production of the mines, and to make suggestions for improvements by which the men might increase production of coal. The fuel controller would promise that all such suggestions, when feasible, were carried out by the company. The scheme was received quite favorably by the convention, and Secretary McLachlan afterward told The Record that Mr. Magrath had favorably impressed the miners by his square dealing on former occasions.

And Sowards says: As a matter of fact it is contemplated that Government regulation of coal prices will continue throughout the entire period of transition, for it is recognized that any removal of control would likely cause violent fluctuations in many directions and there is evident a strong tendency to guard against such a development. In this connection it is noted that the steel industry of the country has through its official organization recommended a continuance of Government control until matters have thoroughly adjusted themselves, and coal, the other basic commodity, may anticipate similar treatment.

It is plain to all that the great demand for tonnage for new and essential uses could not have been provided had there not been a curtailment of production to the certain older and more or less non-essential uses. Even the essentials had to observe great economies and a lessening of the pressure in this direction will tend in large measure to make up for the reduced demands in other quarters. With these practical points before us to give an optimistic tone to one's views of the future there may well be considered the psychological side of the case, the social and economic questions that will arise, the political plans and policies that will be formulated and the general regulation of the affairs of the world under the new order of things, now that Czars and Kaisers have been consigned to the scrap heap. We think it is evident that the business community must align itself in opposition to the socialistic tendencies. All countries will not go to the extreme of the Bolshevik movement; but even in our own land the principles of socialism sometimes find expression in

high places. Trade and industry must take measures to safeguard commercial interests. The financiers of the country must, we feel free to say, play a strong part in the presentation of material that the daily newspapers cannot be expected to take up in view of the idea of their own particular constituency. We submit that this situation is one of the most important in the general reorganization of affairs.

THE "FLU" IN BRITAIN IN OCTOBER.

The influenza epidemic is spreading in all parts of the country. In many localities it has been found necessary to close the schools in the hope of stamping out the trouble. The epidemic is more general than any previous visitation, and there can be little doubt as to the reason for this. We are none of us in the same condition to resist this sort of visitation as we were in the times of peace, plenty and prosperity. We are short of what the food experts call "body-warmers," fats, sugar and the carbohydrates generally, and this affects the resisting power of all of us. We are told officially, however, that we must, as a preventive, avoid mental worry. How can we? Most of us are doing two men's work, and nearly every member of every family has the regular gnawing anxiety about the welfare of somebody in the danger zone. How can we avoid mental worry when we are afraid of every knock at the door, wondering if it is a dreaded message? The air raids in London, too, have unquestionably had something to do with reducing the resisting power of the more nervous sections of the population. All things considered, there is no wonder that the epidemic is spreading, but its general character should make us all careful and determine us to go to bed at the first warning and stop there till danger is past. That is the only safe thing to do.

UNREST IN BRITAIN.

Strikes and threats of strikes are still the order of the day. But we must not be unduly alarmed. Things look worse on the surface than they really are. Of course, there is unrest, but we are afraid that the Government is to blame for a good deal of it. The trouble is that they let things drift until an outbreak comes; then they settle things in a hurry, and not always wisely, but generally in such a way as to encourage other bodies of workpeople to take precipitate action. By their present course of conduct the Government are trying their best to teach the workers that they can get more in three days by ceasing work than in three months by negotiation through their recognised leaders. That, if allowed to grow, would be a very dangerous state of things. Yet that is certainly the idea that is growing among the workers. The Government deserve taking any notice of requests until there is an outburst, and then they can be pretty quick, if not altogether wise. The police strike was a case in point.

CAN N. S. BEAT IT.

A single wheat stem bearing 390 grains has been grown by a farmer at Leigh. This is believed to be a record for England.