

"THE AMERICANS ARE OFFERING THE VERY KEENEST COMPETITION IN OUR MONTREAL MARKET AND THE COMPANY ARE NOW HAVING DIFFICULTY IN MAKING SALES THAT THEY HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCED." G. H. DUGGAN

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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- Rubs by Rambler.

Why should Canadian coal going into the United States pay a higher duty than U. S. coal coming into Canada. The Canadian duty on American bituminous coal is 53 cents a short ton. The American duty on Canadian coal is 67 cents a long ton. Why should Canada in the matter of coal duty give the Americans a discount of some eleven per cent. while we have to pay without any discount whatever. It is time for a change.

Again, why should the Canadian Customs officials be so generous to importers of American coals, in allowing coal that passed through a 14 or 14 inch screen to come in as dust at a minimum duty of fourteen cents. The tariff regulation bearing on dust is that it has passed through a half inch screen. The Customs officers have been blind to this provision and allowed better than 'Nuts' to come in as dust. This must be remedied at once.

A Cape Breton paper applies the term 'pirates' to the sympathisers with the U. M. W. who are trying to appropriate the property of the P. W. A. Some people think they were better styled 'sneak thieves'. The main object apparently of the U. M. W.'s is not to promote the welfare of the colliery workers of C. B. but to rob and kill the P. W. A., a society that has done great things for our mine workers.

Mr. Rhodes, M. P. for Cumberland County, has written to a branch of the U. M. W. asking the member's pleasure in reference to the Lemieux Act. Do they want it wholly repealed or do they wish it amended. This is rather a novel way of doing business and knocks the referendum, and representative government, which were thought to be modern, out of shape. It strikes one, all the same, that Mr. Rhodes should have the least little bit of a mind of his own. If the Act is good let him support it, if bad, condemn it. It strikes one too, as a little peculiar that a Canadian M. P. should write to the members of a foreign society for their opinion on a purely Canadian statute.

I see some people talk as if, at the late session of the British parliament, an eight hour day bill had been passed. What the Miner's Federation wanted was an eight hour bank to bank bill, what they got was an eight hour, in the mine, bill, or say an nine hour day, bank to bank. As the bill left the commons at the end of five years, an eight hour day, bank to bank, was to come in force, but the Lords tore out this clause making provision for a further reduction in five years. The commons accepted this amendment rather, I suppose, than lose the bill.

Should much importance be attached to the communication of one, who in writing on labor matters, and what is for the good of the miners of Nova Scotia, has't any proper conception of the number of those engaged in coal mining. He gives the number of employees at the coal mines of the province, as nine thousand, and bases an argument on this number. There are five thousand employees on the Mainland collieries alone. The Post correspondent is out over 75 per cent. in his estimate of the number of employees. Of the total number of employees the Dom. Coal Co. has NOT a majority.

He who said, 'God is on the side of the strongest battalion' was considered, perhaps is yet, an authority. But he was not an infallible one. On what has hitherto been considered excellent authority it is said, 'Nor the battle to the strong.' It must never be forgotten that the justice of a cause stands for something. Were it not so 'labor' would be in a pitiable condition to-day. If strength alone was the guarantee of success, of any cause, then Scotland would not stand where she stands to-day, nor would the United States. The P. W. A. is certainly not so strong in numbers as the U. M. W., but then it has those things making for real strength, which the foreign order lacks. The battle is not always, by any means, to the strong. Labor is not 'strong', in the sense of having a majority in the ranks. and yet it is making wonderful progress—Why?

A so called leader of the U. M. W. in C. B. told the press, in reference to Mr. Duggan's statement that the company could only recognize the P. W. A. that the U. M. W.'s, would ask for nothing unreasonable but only a fair show. "If that was refused them then they depended upon public opinion to see that they got it, and he didn't think the Coal company could refuse to bow before that force." If the C. B. miners had not a home organization, superior in every respect to the foreign, to which they could carry all their complaints and have real grievances remedied, it is possible the great public might have sympathy with them, no matter what the name of their organization. But the public, before they will back those who have joined a foreign order, must have far better reasons presented to them than have yet been offered. The public of Nova Scotia are patriotic and will not readily take to its bestowing its benedictions on a foreign order.