

he imagined the miners of C. B. were not so well off in 1907 as thirty years previously. But that flight of imagination is not to be compared with his latest soar. Said the Hon. Member: "In the coal mines of Nova Scotia within recent years they have introduced coal mining machines which are worked by compressed air at a very high pressure. The air is taken in from the reservoirs at the pit bottom at about 900 lbs. pressure to the square inch. It is conducted through the mains and used in these machines. A man is stretched out on his stomach at full length, grasping the handles of this powerful machine . . . weighing perhaps twelve hundred pounds . . . There is a recoil that vibrates and shakes every part of the anatomy of the man working the machine . . . a man's working life devoted to the working of such machinery, even at eight hours a day, is only five or six years on an average."

If Mr. Maddin had only gone into details. It might be interesting to know the pressure in the pipes conveying the air several thousand feet to the reservoirs. He might also have pictured the probable destructive effects of the tornado that would be certain to follow the bursting of one or more of these highly charged reservoirs. This only by the way. The main things are the coal cutting machine and the miner. Why did Mr. Maddin omit to point out that the deadly effects of the spent compressed air was as nothing compared with the ill effects of the rush of blood to his head. If he lies flat on his stomach and works the handles with his hands then his head is away down and his feet away up. In ordinary machines the man sits, grasps the handles and checks the recoil with his heels. With Mr. Maddin's machine, the man lying flat on his stomach would have to perform a hard contortionist feat, namely, turn his legs over his body until they came to the floor in front of the machine, and use his toes inverted to check the recoil. The operation is a difficult one and not graceful. Professional contortionists have successfully performed the act of making a ball of their body, but then there were no handles of a mining machine to complicate matters. And then Mr. Maddin omitted to tell us whether a man working in this way did best on a full or an empty stomach. We think we would prefer the old style puncher to this new one as described by the member for South Cape Breton, who the Post takes seriously. Of course the old style gives jolts, but they are not half so severe as the jolts given to tourists by the trained ponies which traverse the Gap of Dunloe. To one inexperienced the recoil in riding a mule causes the rider to sit up at every step; a mining machine it makes the operator brace back. As with the rider so with the miner, the jolt through time is disregarded. Mr. Maddin omitted to describe the position of the man who loads the coal, and the ill effects following a man's shovelling coal while lying full length flat on his back. We trust soon to hear from Mr. Maddin again; on all mining matters he is a fund of information.

THE EVILS OF CHEAP COAL.

At the present time the United States operat-

ors are exercised over the profitless manner in which the bituminous coal trade is conducted. The following from the Coal Trade Journal should prove interesting to Nova Scotia operators, and serve as a hint. Here a section of the miners are opposed to high prices, while in the United States it is the other way. The Free Coal League says: "Look how cheaply coal is mined in the United States," and we say to the Free Coal League, Look at the cost to the country:

"There is probably no industry in the country of greater importance than that of bituminous coal mining; none that is compelled, because of the nature of the business, to pay such a large proportion of the receipts from its product to the labor employed. There is no business of such magnitude that has not attempted in one form or another to combine and regulate the prices received for its product. There is no industry which has received so much attention from the 'law makers' in the interests of safety to the men employed. Stringent laws have been enacted, and more stringent ones yet being considered to accomplish this purpose; and now, the great and proper movement for conservation of our natural resources comes into the situation, with a special demand that the 'wastefulness in the mining of coal be stopped, in order that coal for future generations may be reasonably safeguarded."

"The bituminous coal operator has had to meet the problems of greater compensation to his employees; the installation of proper safeguards for labor in and about the mines; the constant increases in the rate of transportation, and the gradual exhaustion of the product. He has therefore been unable to prevent to the degree desired, the wasteful methods of mining out his properties, and yet under the present laws is liable to criminal action if he should confer with others engaged in the business in regard to regulating the output, or maintaining prices, at seasons of the year when there is an excessive supply."

"The psychological moment has arrived for those engaged in the bituminous coal business, as well as for the laboring men identified with it, who are so great in numbers and so vitally interested in the proper conduct of this business, to intelligently present to Congress a plan which should be legalized, that would allow the proper conduct of the business, in order that the capital used should have a fair return; labor receive a fair remuneration; and the public interests be safeguarded."

"We are glad to note that the Association of Pittsburgh Coal Operators have 'taken time by the forelock,' and have already had numerous conferences among themselves, and at a conference at the White House, have presented the matter for consideration. At a meeting in Pittsburgh, held at the Duquesne Club, the coal operators of the Pittsburgh District had as their guest Dr. Holmes, of the Technologic Branch of the United States Geological Survey. Dr. Holmes is quoted as saying that because of the low price of coal, the operators were being compelled to extract the coal from the seams only imperfectly, and it was his opinion that but 65 per cent. of the coal is now being recovered, and that this loss to the nation as a whole amounted to 250,000,000 tons of coal per annum, while the imperfect methods of conducting a mine, incident to the low price of the coal, was resulting in the death or injury of between 8,000 and 10,000 persons annually in