

her public utilities? If we are to have government ownership after this, it is contended, we must have it in partnership with private ownership or private operation, so as to secure the zeal of the private profit seeker for economy, honesty and efficiency on our side. This gives us an additional reason for punishing public servants who betray their trust. They do more than steal our money; they circumscribe the possible benefits we might get from government. The latter is perhaps the greatest evil of the two, as it cheats us out of more money and bigger benefits. But it is beyond question that we must prove our capacity for compelling our public servants to give us honest and capable administration in the few fields they now occupy before we can consider giving this principle any wider scope."

Socialism is the most flexible of systems or creeds or theories. Now you think you know what it means and now you don't. Some had the opinion that socialism would select for lads the trade they should follow. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, in a late letter, says the lads can do better than the state. Some thought the state was to be the big and one landlord. Ramsay MacDonald says a man should own his own house. There is something that attracts you more to a house of your own than to lodgings. Correct.

Mr. Fergus Bryne of Glace Bay, a stalwart P. W. A. man has written a letter to the C. B. papers congratulatory of the outcome of the late trial of Secy. Moffatt in Sydney. Towards the close of his letter, in the post-script as it were, comes, as in a lady's post-script, the more important part of the letter. Mr. Bryne throws out a challenge for any U. M. W., from away up Tom. Lewis, to away down Peter Patterson, to meet him in combat and settle which is the greater, the P. W. A. or the U. M. W. The challenge is free and unfettered. The U. M. W. men are politely invited to come singly, or in battalions if they prefer it. The challenge is couched in simple language. There is no attempt at heroics, no quoting of the alleged 'deff' of Fitz James, "Come one come all, Glace Bay shall fly from its firm base as soon as I". Mr. Bryne instead of admitting for a moment, that in view of the onslaught, he is now looking long at the sun and sky and plain, as things he may not see again, after the combat, calmly opines that when the smoke of battle has cleared there will be no daylight left in his opponents or anything else indicating that they ever existed. His thoughts are tranquil. Unruffled he does his daily darg and sings to himself "I'm a chappie frae the kintra; A quate chap as you see; but though I'm frae the kintra, Ye dinna come U. M. W.'s o'er me." A steady eye and a keen blade to you Fergus, but I fear there will be no fight in the open; that's not their style.

If there is one thing sadder than the statement that, after eight years of uninterrupted prosperity at the coal mines, in C. B., there are at least twenty-five families in actual want, it is the folly of people, considered to be well informed, making statements, rash and misleading,

whose only tendency is to create distrust and disquiet among industrial workers, and to perturb and unsettle their minds, and those of the people generally. I have before me the Herald of 16th. inst., and from it I quote as follows:—

"The Rev. D. M. Gillies, pastor of St. Pauls Presbyterian Church, stated that it has come to his notice that there were at present twenty-five families in Glace Bay who were in dire need. He criticised the Lemieux Act inasmuch as before men could come out on strike for what was just and right the Government stepped in and said, "Wait, we must investigate this thing, and before you close down the mine and deprive people of their days work, the whole thing must be investigated". It was a curious rule that did not work both ways, and he thought that the Act should be changed so that the Government could step in and say to any large corporation, "We must investigate these matters, before you close down your collieries and other works and deprive the people of their work, especially at this season of the year."

I cannot bring myself to believe that any pastor of a Presbyterian church gave utterance to such concentrated nonsense. Surely in some way the Herald or its C. B. correspondent has blurred the pith of the reverend gentleman's remarks. No Presbyterian pastor could possibly have overlooked the fact that the Lemieux Act does not make a pretense even of interfering with the off days, the holidays or the holy days that the employees take or observe voluntarily, nor with the times or the occasions on which a company is forced to temporarily close its collieries from a prevailing depression in not only its own but in all trades. It is a libel, on the part of the Herald, surely, to say that there is a Presbyterian pastor in Nova Scotia who would for a moment admit that any government in the wide world would be justified in calling upon a factory or a mine to continue operations the while it could not procure customers for its products. The title of the Lemieux Act, if my memory serves me right is, The Industrial Disputes Act, and there is not a Presbyterian pastor, the Herald notwithstanding, from Cape North to Blomidon, who does not know that the Act does not contemplate to interfere with the voluntary absenteeism of the men on the one part, or the putting on half or quarter time of a work by the proprietors, on the other. Every Presbyterian clergyman knows—at least he ought to know—that the Act presumes only to interfere when there is a dispute as to wages, or some detail of work, between the employers and the employed. No Presbyterian pastor could possibly have said that it worked only in one direction, applied to the employees and not to the employers. Every Presbyterian clergyman knows that if the men cannot go on strike, the employers cannot lock out their men, and any Presbyterian minister, in-lined to be perfectly fair, disdaining to be a demagogue, and guileless of playing to the galleries, will be ready to allow that the Act, if it is harsh at all is more so toward the employers than towards the employees. The men cannot go on strike without subjecting themselves to a penalty; the employers cannot lock out without also being subjected to a penalty. There is this difference, however