

- Rubs by Rambler.

Isn't it true that it all depends upon the point of view. For instance there's my neighbor of the Chronicle who saw at a glance the iniquity of the coal barons in charging a higher price for their coals than they did ten years ago, and who suggested, though not in a malicious way, that their conduct should be inquired into. For months I have patiently been waiting to see a denunciation of the farmers raising the price of eggs three times what it was some years ago, but twice as much and other farm products also, but my patience has not been rewarded so I am asking him now, not petulantly, but humbly: "Why don't you do it." The coal barons are charging, let it be said, a high price for coal, but they cannot well help themselves. This can be said in their favor that they give as good coal at the higher price as they did at the lower. Not so with the farmers and their confederates, the dealers. At thirty-five cents a dozen one could imagine he should get pretty fresh eggs. But no. These eggs though they came direct from the farmer did not by any means come direct from the hen, for about one in three were of the kind used at urinary students meets. The hen laid them after the usual formula and with the usual cackling, and the second of a farmer cackled as he laid them—away for a higher price. Those who think farmers are guileless have a lot to learn. So flagrant has their and dealers conduct become in the hoarding up of eggs for higher price that Boards of Trade have been forced to approach the government asking for legislation to forbid the sale of decomposed and decomposing eggs.

The Coroners Jury which inquired into the cause of the explosion in the Sydney No. 3 mine found that the eight men killed came to their death from an explosion of gas, caused by Deputy A. Fernuson, opening his lamp. They recommend that the Mines Regulation Act and Special Rules be strictly adhered to by the company. They also recommend that the Mining Laws be amended so that "no deputy be allowed to make an examination of mine or any part of it without being accompanied by a man not less than eighteen years of age, who shall also carry a locked safety lamp." That is bringing the section of the act back to the original draught. As some of those who gave evidence never seemed to have noticed Section 7a of General Rules, we produce it here: "7a. Every Mine Examiner shall, at all times while in the discharge of his duties as Mine Examiner, use a locked safety lamp, and shall, unless the Deputy Inspector permits otherwise, be accompanied by an employee of the owner not less than eighteen years of age, who shall also use a locked safety lamp."

The views of the jury will be met by the deletion of the words "unless the deputy inspector permits otherwise." A witness giving evidence made a remark to the effect that every explosion should point out the evils or omissions that ought to be remedied. This is true. And after every previous explosion in Nova Scotia there have been drastic amendments to the law. Some of us who had more or less experience with the Drummond, Foord pit and Springhill explosions are of opinion that too much caution cannot be exercised. There may be others still willing to take risks. The RECORD at times wishes that a syndicate, something

like the German Coal Syndicate, controlled the whole of the output of the mines, and divided the profits. If that were the case then those in charge of dangerous mines would not be afraid of expenditures in securing safety. To make some mines as safe as they should, perhaps, be, calls for an expenditure that almost makes them surrender to their competitors, more favorably situated. If 'safety first' is really to be given first place, then some means should be looked for whereby the burden of expense in securing it should not bear with undue severity on some operators while others go almost scot free. The RECORD thinks that a selling syndicate would be a good idea for the coal men to take up. It would remove some known evils and give the trade of Nova Scotia an impetus and put it on a sound footing just as the Westphalian syndicate has done for the German coal trade.

The city of Vancouver, by a vote, has agreed to tax churches. The Sydney Record thinks this is wrong. Well, many will think it right and proper. It would be a good thing for Halifax, for Montreal and other big cities if the people had as strong spines as those of Vancouver. The RECORD says that one harmful effect this taxing will have in a growing city like Vancouver will be to restrict the size and beauty of the churches. The argument, as applied to Vancouver, fails, for if we are not mistaken, that city is wise enough not to tax improvements. Tax on property does not restrain private individuals building palatial residences. No more should it restrain a collection or congregation of people building churches grand as cathedrals.

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