

MARITIME MINING RECORD

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A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

"One morning 50 years ago three young fellows evidently friends, walked up Broad street, in Aberdeen. Two of them disappeared into the warehouse of a wholesale cloth merchant named John Hall, to whom they were apprenticed, and the third (in a blue jersey and sea boots) made his way down to join his ship. One of the apprentices was named George Stephen. He was a slim, clean-built lad, and he lived with his aunt at the Spital, which was in those days a suburb of Aberdeen, though the intervening space has been long since built over. He was the son of a small farmer, and after serving his apprenticeship in Aberdeen, he went to London, and thence in turn to Newfoundland, Quebec and Montreal, whence he became president of the Canada Pacific railway, was created a baronet, and afterwards raised to the peerage—Aberdeen Free Press.

EXIT MR. SMILLIE.

(Glasgow Herald.)

Everybody will sympathise with Mr. Robert Smillie in having had to resign his presidency of the Miners' Federation for reasons of health. However much some of us may have disagreed with his policy, there can be no doubt that he worked hard in what he believed to be the miners' best interests, and has suffered physically in consequence. And to think that, after all his labours, the Trades Union Congress on Thursday turned down his policy of direct action by a majority of 2,820,000 votes! By the way, it is interesting to note that, while Mr. Smillie carried practically two-thirds of the miners—524,000 out of a total of 872,000 voting—with him for direct action, his idea of pressing for lower prices instead of higher wages has been turned down, and that Scottish miners are credited with having given the death-blow to his more unselfish policy.

A QUESTION FOR GREAT FIRMS

Is it wise, when so many eager hands are clatching to pull down and shatter the capitalistic system, to take these additional profits out of the public?—Daily Telegraph.

NATIONALISATION

In view of all the discussions on nationalisation the experience of the United States is of great importance. During the war both the railways and the telephone service were taken over by the Government. A shout of joy went up on all sides when it was recently announced that the railways would be returned to private ownership this summer. As for the telephone service—today it is worse in New York than in London. Previously it was probably the best in the world.

A MISTAKE.

The Labour Party is in the doldrums. Bereft of the favouring breeze which brought its ships home from the constituencies, it takes less interest in Parliamentary proceedings than ever. All the time it pursued its purely sectional interests to wake up one evening to find that it had outraged public opinion by the selfish policy which the trade unions were pursuing in refusing to admit demobilised and disabled soldiers to their ranks."—Westminster Gazette.

SOUND PRINCIPLES AND PRINCIPLES OF SOUND

Speaking at the Westminster Central Hall, Rev. Eric S. Waterhouse coined an excellent inpromptu epigram: "The architect of this hall," he said, "proceeded on sound principles, but"—with a humorous glance at the sounding board under the dome—"perhaps more attention might have been paid to the principles of sound."

A WORD ABOUT MINERS.

"Their corporate selfishness and irresponsibility in recent years have told heavily against them: they have much leeway to make up. If they are wise in their own interests, they will be chary of increasing that leeway now."—Daily Chronicle.