

government 'management', the managers jumped from one point on an area to some other point more readily accessible, but that, under Liberal government management, is not permitted to-day. The Intercolonial Coal Co. has recently taken eighty thousand tons of coal out of a section of the mine abandoned a quarter of a century ago. The output of the Acadia Coal Co. is greatly curtailed because it cannot work a large area of coal opened out—and which would be profitable—owing to the fact that if it pushed operations in the thicker underlying seam, the coal in the overlying and thinner seam might be lost to the country. In Springhill the large profits made in the earlier days due largely to indiscriminate robbing of pillars and such like, were made at the expense of future dividends and operations. The policy of the Dom. Coal Co. to-day is to confine operations in the several mines to the smallest space possible. This means that the coal in one section is worked out before another section is attacked. The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. are to-day working a pit which was abandoned a score or two of years ago as unprofitable, or not able to be as profitably worked as a new mine. And yet in spite of these facts we are asked to believe that the mine managers hop about hither and thither and yonder selecting the spots from which to pick the biggest and most valuable plums. The statement that four times as much coal is lost, wasted or destroyed as comes out of the mine is a gigantic untruth. If it were stated that a quantity equal to one-fourth of the quantity taken out was left in the mine in the shape of pillars to support the roof there might be justification for the statement, but even that fourth left is expected to be won, in great part, before the mine is totally abandoned.

STILL AFTER INFORMATION.

The irrepressible W. C. Milner in last Friday's Herald propounds a number of questions and demands answers under penalties. Had he not threatened, no reply is, of course, would be forth coming. Mr. Milner threatened because he thought that threats would bar any reply. This time he is mistaken. The season of good will is of so recent date that we could not if we would be discourteous. Mr. Milner asks:

Ques. Has Mr. Drummond a mandate from the D. C. Co., or is he acting from philanthropic motives?

Ans. Neither.

Ques. If the D. C. Co. sells coal to the G. T. R. at \$2.75, and to Montreal dealers at \$3.50, what is the difference in profit to the Coal Co.

Ans. Twenty cents.

Ques. Is the difference in price between G. T. R. and I. C. R. coal justifiable?

Ans. Certainly, all the circumstances considered.

Ques. Has he heard that the D. C. Co. sells its coal at the pit mouth at Glace Bay at \$3.00 per ton of 2000 lbs. etc?

Ans. No, and if Mr. M. has been told so his leg has been pulled.

Ques. Does high wages necessitate high priced coal?

Ans. Assuredly.

Ques. Why do Alier's get cheaper coal than natives?

Ans. On account of quantity and quality.

Ques. Who own the coal areas?

Ans. The operators; the people relinquished their rights for an equivalent. The talk about the people owning the coal is pure rot; as well say that the people own all the timber on the lands leased to lumbermen.

Ques. Does Mr. D. think still, that duty on or off, we can hold the Quebec market?

Ans. The question was answered in last issue.

Ques. Has Mr. D. ever heard of a combine to prevent combination.

Ans. Yes, from Mr. Milner, the Suburban, and those who have been taken in by them, but from no sane person.

Ques. Has he any personal knowledge of it?

Ans. No.

Ques. Has he had any hints as to the proper method of meeting the agitation for reciprocity?

Ans. None whatever, either from the operators nor the public. Indeed, he was under the impression that Mr. Dick had shown that so far as Nova Scotia was concerned, the agitation was confined to a solitary individual.

Ques. Will he swear there is no combine?

Ans. No more than he would swear that Mr. Milner is not a member of a purely philanthropic propaganda.

Ques. How much of the 13 1-2 millions of watered stock of the D. C. Co. was distributed in N. S., and especially how much was allotted to the politicians of Nova Scotia, their sisters, their cousins or their aunts, their names with the amounts?

Ans. Under certain conditions and, or, emanating from certain quarters, Mr. Drummond might consider this an inexpressably mean and cowardly question. Mr. Milner, however, being credited with being guileless as a babe, the reply is, that Mr. D. never handled, touched or even saw a bond, a preferred or common stock certificate of the D. C. Co. Never bought outright, or on margin. Never sold a single bond or share of either; and, further that if 13 1-2 millions of common stock were distributed in Nova Scotia, and some of that among politicians, he cannot be in that class as he never benefitted by a single farthing—and he knows of no politician who did—by the hinted at distribution.

In an article published in a special number of the Halifax Herald in August, 1901, Mr. Drummond, editor of the Mining Record, said of Inverness County and its mines:—

"There is now a fourth coal producing county—Inverness, the gem county of the Province. Her trade in yet in its infancy but is bound rapidly to expand, and Inverness ere long may prove a formidable rival to Cape Breton County. For her area, what other part of the Dominion is so rich, not only in coal, but in many minerals, as yet unearthed. Keep your eye on Inverness. Were there space, in fancy's flight could be pictured Hood, Mabou, River Inhabitants and Chimney Corner, Port and busy ports at Port Hastings, Cheticamp, and Caribou."

And how well his predictions have come true and proved no "fancy's flight." Broad Cove—so called at that time,—with which this article has to deal, is now a village, but the young and rising incorporated Town of Inverness, with a population of some 2,500, which number is rapidly increasing.—(R. C. H. in Free Lance.)