

## MARITIME MINING RECORD

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## LABOR AND CAPITAL.

Dr. C. A. Eaton, a Canadian by birth, and well known as a New York clergyman, has, at the request of the London Times, written a long article on the relationship of Capital and Labor. Dr. Eaton has been called the Reconciler of Differences, and his services were called into requisition by the U. S. government during the war. Exigencies of space preclude us giving more than a portion of the opinions on the coal problem:

## COAL PRODUCTION PROBLEM.

I have been greatly impressed by the many signs that England will suffer this winter from lack of fuel. According to an English authority the average yearly output for a British miner is 226 tons, while for an American miner it is three times that amount. These figures raise the question not as to what will become of the miner or the mines, but what will become of England. An American contractor is erecting rolling mills in England, Youngstown, Ohio, and in England. He is paying 50 per cent. more for the same article made in England for use in England than he pays for it in Youngstown. And the workman there is receiving 30 per cent. higher wages than here.

If I were an Englishman I would be gravely concerned over these facts. The English working man is as good as the best. In mining and the steel industry he is not competing with men of his own breed, except in part; for a large proportion of the iron and mine workers of America are from central and southern Europe. Why should a Pole or a Slav in America mine more coal or produce more steel products than an Englishman in England? Is it a question of machinery or method, or is it a state of mind?

I would not venture an opinion upon matters at issue between miners in England and their employers, but as a general policy for this time I can see only one thing for any man who loves his country, and that is to get to work and stay at work until the danger is past.

I shall follow with eager interest the proposal to nationalize British mines. In America many of us used to believe the Government could do railway running and mining and some other things better than could private interests. We don't think so now. The war has cured us. The other day when the railwaymen, who are a very high type of workers, demanded nationalization of the American railways, they were met by a storm of protest from all classes, workmen included. We are afraid of bureaucracy and red-tape and taxation to make up for losses due to the stupidity of political administration of public utilities. We are coming back to the good old British doctrine that the less interference from Government in industry the better. The best Government is self-government.

One of the greatest delusions that ever darkened the mind of man is the theory that you can work the institutions of industry by means of a political machine.

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Let us tell the truth to each other. The average Englishman or American has no more use for a 'proletarian dictatorship' than he has for the rule of a dangerous lunatic. And much of the back wash from this madness is alien to the best ideals of the English speaking working man as it is repugnant to his intelligence. If I were a workman now as I was for many years of my life I should be deeply depressed by the desperate efforts being made at the moment of my country's need and danger to reduce my life to the stature of a weakling. I should be ashamed to be put in the position of asking for a six hour day surrounded by an entanglement of legislative safeguards for fear that I get a smooch of coal dust on my nose or soil my fine linen by sweat. A man who must be protected by law from working more than six hours a day is too delicately organized to wear trousers. He ought to be garbed in petticoats and have a nurse to stand between him and the rude realities of a workaday world.

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A mineowner is simply a trustee and servant of the nation. A mine worker is exactly the same. Every business is a social service, otherwise its profits are got by fraud. Every worker is a national servant, otherwise he has no right to demand wages from the nation for his work. A coal miner will risk his life without a moment's hesitation to rescue a drowning child from the river; but the same child may die of pneumonia this winter because the same miner for some inscrutable reason is permitted by his union to work only a few hours a day. This theory and this practice really have nothing to do with the needs, rights, or wrongs of the worker. They are the expression of a wild revolutionary purpose, which has its source outside England, to destroy the so called capitalistic system by reducing hours and output to a minimum and increasing wages to a maximum. If the English-speaking peoples, through cowardice or inertia or ignorance permit this programme to develop they will richly deserve the ruin which will overtake them.

A light bankhead with other necessary surface buildings, of small size, is doing the turn for the starting of Dom. No. 24. The "deeps" are getting off to a fair start, the coal showing 4 ft. 11 in. at the face. Work is being rushed on the concreting of the mouth of the slope before frost sets in. Under Manager Ioseley this new mine should be exploited rapidly when once the good roof is reached and normal mining begins.