

are recounting their numerous ailments and some unhappy unless they are recounting the ailments of others, of society or the country at large. From a blue book published lately by one of the Departments in Britain it is made plain that the country is not going back but progressing morally, socially, and materially. A British leading paper says:

"On the whole, the statistics are reassuring. Education, we know, has greatly developed. Nearly everyone nowadays can write after a fashion, and prodigious sums are spent on teaching. Crime has decreased, though at present it is stationary. In 1857 the number of indictable offences per thousand of population was 284, and is now 1.67, having been near this figure for twelve years. Thrift has increased so much that the total saving per head of population is now more than five times as much as in 1850, while the funds of friendly societies and trades unions have multiplied prodigiously. Wages have increased about forty per cent. in forty years, while the cost of living has decreased. Rents, however, have probably increased. Taxation, also, and local indebtedness show a great and steady growth. Rates have risen from 2s. 11d. per pound of valuation in 1850-51 to 6s. 11d. in 1904-6. Also the amount of local debt, including the capital borrowed by the Metropolitan Water Board, is now four hundred and eighty three millions; being more than £14 per head of population. As against this, there are very large assets in the way of water works, gas works, tramways, etc., but no attempt has been made to appraise them. On the whole, there is a good case for hopefulness, and pessimists may be advised to give careful study to the figures."

The visit of the Socialist lecturer to Cape Breton has so far produced no visible effects. I do not hear of any revival. There have been no strange going ons, of the C. B. Socialists, therefore I am minus a text for a favorite theme. About the time of Burns anniversary, or, say, a little before that time, there were those who put forth the claim that Burns—Robert Burns—was a Socialist. One of those was a Halifax churchman with a Scottish name. At the time I disputed the claim and pointed out that Burns' idea of happiness was a country wife, a house of his own with a country fireside, where he could spend the 'gloom-in' of his days. Since then a line in his 'A man's a man for a' that' has struck me that Burns was not at all a Socialist, and least of all of the red flag brand. The song is, of course, intensely democratic; it is far, at the same time, from being Socialistic. The best quoted verse of the song, which is the last, runs:

"Then let us PRAY, that come it may

As come it shall for a' that

When man to man the world o'er

Shall brethren be, and a' that."

The pronounced Socialist does not count upon prayer as a factor in bringing about his millennium; it is too slow and, he thinks, too uncertain a process. He can't wait; peaceable means are not to his liking, he wants to force things. To introduce the new he would discard every old method. He believes in revolution. Burns believed that brotherhood, universal brotherhood at that, would come in time, not by extreme measures, but by a gradual process. Persistent praying and striving

after better ideals were the weapons Burns looked upon to bring men more closely together.

#### INVESTIGATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES OTTAWA, IN CONNECTION WITH THE IRON AND COAL INDUSTRIES OF N. S.

(From the Editorial Office, Mines Dept.)

Since the organization of the Department of Mines by the Honourable the Minister of Mines—William Templeman, Esq., M. P., some two years ago, the Province of Nova Scotia—as regards its metallic and non-metallic mineral resources—has received considerable attention.

In December, 1908, the great Report on the Mining and Metallurgical Industries of Canada, 1907-8, was published. This report contains no less than 114 pages devoted to iron and coal mining in Nova Scotia. True, it is only a technical directory; but it supplies a long felt want; since it contains invaluable information on the history, and present conditions of the metal and mineral trades, eminently suitable for all sorts and conditions of men in the commercial world.

In a few days will be issued Part I of Dr. J. E. Woodman's exhaustive report on the 'Iron Ore Deposits of Nova Scotia,' containing 241 pages of text, and 63 pages of illustrations and maps; and Part II—which will be of like magnitude to Part I—will soon be ready for the press. The technical data contained in this comprehensive work, together with the trade and statistical facts set forth in the technical directory mentioned above, will practically cover the ground of the entire iron industry of Nova Scotia, up to date.

Then, as regards the coal industry; two years ago McGill University was commissioned to make exhaustive chemical tests of all the coals in the Dominion. This investigation—just finished—embraces the coals of Nova Scotia, and the report of these tests, in four volumes, will be published at an early date.

Further, there is being prepared a thoroughly practical report on coal mining in all its branches by Mr. Joseph G. S. Hudson—a practical mining engineer—who has a wide practical acquaintance with the coal mining industries in Nova Scotia. This report will contain illustrated descriptions of the latest methods of coal mining in all its phases, and will be a work which every intelligent miner in the Maritime Provinces will be eager to see and consult.

Moreover, anticipating the establishment, in the near future, of fine steel industries, and knowing the importance of metallic alloys in the manufacture of high-speed cutting tools, etc., a special report on Tungsten ores has been prepared and will be off the press in a few days; and iron-graphs on molybdenum, and manganese ores are in course of preparation.

Nova Scotia has probably, the largest known deposits of gypsum, and these are generally described and illustrated in the Report on the Mining and Metallurgical Industries of Canada, 1907-08; but taking into further consideration the commercial importance of gypsum, an elaborate, detailed report is being prepared and will be published soon. The extensive limestone deposits in the Province, which are of such great importance