

change for products made elsewhere. In the eighteenth century Wesley and his preachers had little to say about the party issues of their time. Yet what is of her American Colonies, the conquest of India, the French revolutionary outbreak which shook all the thrones of Europe. In the midst of the turmoil Wesley and his helpers kept to their preaching pouring in the message of a red hot message not of time but of eternity. And who shall measure the political effect of that entirely non-political work.

Considerations of this kind seem to show us the true temper in which to face our political setbacks. It is one not of despondency, not of indifference, not of cynicism; but one of cheerfulness, of courage, and of hope all of good work. The finest thing in the situation is that hard work is never lost; it always tells. The material may seem hopelessly unpromising, but it is not really so. The human improvement carried on that. Our poor England even, so stupid as it seems at times, yet somehow blunders on. Our Carlyle, who found its fools so preponderant, yet believed in its essential soundness, yes, in its greatness. Did ever a nation get a better character than this, and every word of it true? 'Nature alone knows thee, acknowledges the bulk and strength of thee; thy epic, unsung in words, is written in huge characters on the face of this planet; sea moles, cotton trades, railways, fleets and cities, Indian empires, Americas, New Hollands, legible through the solar system.'

The true way for us as politicians is to be always deeper and higher than politics. They are worth nothing except as a form of the world's spiritual improvement. The man who pursues them for personal and mercenary ends will find nothing in that arid reg the defeats have no compensations in their bitterness. It is only when we have made our politics a part of our religion that amid reverses and discouragements we can preserve an even mind."

The British Budget proposes to tax untaxed minerals. I have had no opportunity to read the clause relating to this point, so cannot say, exactly, how it is to be effected. I presume the tax will be on the land, and not so much per ton on any assumed quantity of mineral that may be supposed to be under particular lands. Ground supposed to contain minerals will be taxed at a higher rate than lands barren of them. Perhaps from the British Budget the local government may learn a wrinkle. The Halifax Herald professes to be scandalized at the action of the local government in increasing the rate of the royalty on coal, and berated the government for such action. The Herald is scarcely even practical. Had it perception enough, and did it, in truth, wish to make a point, it might have queried or grieved the government over the fact that royalties, except on coal and gold, were in much of a mix up. We all know what the royalty on coal is, also on gold. But what is the royalty on iron? Some one may say 'Oh, that is easy, it was fixed long ago.' Perhaps, and yet the royalty on iron ore is in an anomalous position. When grants of land were given out years ago, with lavish generosity, the government reserved, as the peoples, coal, gold, silver and precious stones. Just what the then governments meant in reserving precious stones, — seeing the most popular gems we have yet found in Nova

Scotia are lime crystals, — it is hard to imagine. In office I found a grant in which the Crown had reserved even coal, but probably there are few such. In some of the grants iron is reserved to the Crown; in others it is not. Now suppose A and B have farms adjoining each other on which iron ore has been found. The ore on A's land has been reserved; on B's land the ore belongs to the soil. The ore from A's area, then, is subject to royalty, while that on his neighbor's is not. In Guysborough County prospectors have been put to great annoyance and inconvenience. They have been given rights of search, and have done work, only to discover, later, that some other persons had found out that the ore had not been reserved, and had made a bargain with the land owner. They say there is iron in Guysborough. Should it, by and bye, be worked, will it be fair to enact a royalty on some ore, and not on other?

Fire-clay has been, by the government, in answer to a question, declared to be a mineral. No royalty has been enacted as yet, probably from a desire, on the part of the government, to put no burden on an industry as the fire-clay business assumes some proportions, what will the government do about royalty, seeing the clay is in some cases reserved and in others not? On the East side of the East River, Pictou County, there is a tract of fire clay land, extending over half a dozen farms. From North to South let the farms be numbered 1 to 6. On farms Nos. 1 and 2 and 5 and 6 the clay has not been reserved, while on the two centre farms, 3 and 4, all be worked some day. It is possible this fire-clay will for those working the clay in Nos. 3 and 4, if they think they are being unjustly treated.

Then there is the matter of shale. Is shale coal, and is it subject to royalty? Is it a mineral different from coal, and if so has it been reserved? There must be uncertainty on this point. Some two months, or more, ago, there was a rush for oil shale lands in Antigonish County. The ground had been fully covered with leases, and rights of search for coal. Some parties believed these rights did not cover shale and made bargains with the proprietors of the land. That the rights of search indicated by the fact that as soon as they heard that other people did not consider their titles unimpeachable is evidenced by the fact that they heard that other parties were taking options on properties they immediately set about doing a similar thing. If shale is coal, the holders of the rights of search are on top; if it is not, the other fellows are masters of the situation. To determine whether or not shale is coal, the law courts of Scotland had to be invoked, and the legal battle was a sharply contested and expensive one.

I read in the papers a while ago a glowing account of the opening up of an arsenic mine in the province. Is arsenic a mineral; what is the royalty, if so? There are those who are against all royalties on the ground that they are a tax upon enterprise. Be that as it may, it is too late in the day to discuss their equity or unequity. Without royalties the affairs of the province cannot be carried on, the royalties are, it may be said, all that are left to us. I am of opinion that the government should adopt a new and a bold policy, in reference to royalties. All minerals of an appreciable economic value should be called upon to pay royalty, and that regardless of the land grants, as to reservations. The government has the power to do such a thing. The question is 'would it be fair?' Well is it fair to tax iron ore on some lands, in some counties, and let it go free on some lands in other counties? Those grantees who