

but I tell you what to do: You yourselves agree to strike and we will give you all the assistance necessary." As if to lend force to the assertion that the foregoing were the words used by Pres. Lewis in private it is further stated that pressure U. M. W. lodges to appoint delegates, to the convention called for the 29th., who shall have full power to vote for a strike if that is found to be the alternative to 'recognition'. Should it turn out that the convention votes in favor of a strike then the public will be justified in coming to the conclusion that Pres. Lewis while here played a double part and that while seemingly pleading for peace he was actually possibly plotting for war. Should a strike be declared, those who voted for it may long have cause to regret it. With the best aid the united force of the United Mine Workers of America can give there is not the remotest possibility of the strikers being successful in their demands. The company is prepared as never a company was before for such a contingency. That the company will be loyally supported by the P. W. A. men may be taken for granted. They are, naturally, incensed against the faction that has to a considerable extent depleted their ranks and put their society to cost and inconvenience. A year ago the P. W. A. might have been neutral in any difference between the company and the U. M. W. That neutrality, by the action of the U. M. W's, has turned into pronounced hostility. We speak of one company only for the reason that there are too many P. W. A. men at Sydney Mines to make any strike possible. At Morien there are no U. M. W's.

ADDITIONS TO D. I. & S. CO'S. PLANT.

The report submitted at the annual meeting of the D. I. & Steel Co. contains the following references to enlargements:

"The improved financial condition of the company has enabled your directors to undertake some important additions to the plant at Sydney, which will add materially to its efficiency and earning power.

"The steel department and rolling mills are capable of producing and finishing a larger tonnage of steel than has hitherto been made, but their output has been limited by the amount of pig iron produced, which in turn has been limited by the output of coke obtainable with our present coke ovens. After full consideration it has been decided to erect additional coke ovens, another blast furnace, a finish mill for the manufacture of such materials as angle bars and standard heavy sections, and some subsidiary plants.

"When these additions are completed, the works will be capable of producing a much larger tonnage of finished steel than at present, and your directors hope, in due time, to see a marked improvement in costs and earnings as the result."

Despatches from Washington state that the Tariff Committee will reduce the duty on coal from about 67 to 50c. a ton. Nothing is said about slack which is the more important item so far as N. S. is concerned. The change in duty will have no appreciable effect on exportations of Canadian coal.

- Rubs by Rambler.

A few weeks ago the editor, presumably, of the Eastern Chronicle, dedicated to the Mining Record a short article showing the large amount at which farms, farm buildings, implements etc, were appraised. The figures were dazzling, and taken at their face might seem for ever to settle the point as to farming being the backbone of this as of all the provinces of the Dominion. Following the custom of the country, a pernicious custom, I admit, which is when one receives a gift or a present, he must in some way, at some time, reciprocate by returning a gift of equal or greater value, on the spur of the moment, and in token of good will I set about to dedicate to the editor of the E. C. an article showing approximately the number of mortgages on farm lands in this county. On second thought I concluded that might not look quite patriotic, and that even though the dedication was a mark of friendship, it might be construed unfavorably and evil spoken of, so I refrained. The other day I came across a statement which I may safely dedicate to my friend, seeing I am not the originator of it, and which serves my purpose capitally. Addressing the Royal Commission, appointed to enquire into assessments etc. in Cape Breton, Mr. D. A. Cameron, solicitor for the municipality, said:-

"The general assessor had been well with the mark when he had stated that not one farm was self sustaining. There was not in fact one farm in the county of Cape Breton worthy of the name. There are not fifty farms in the entire county upon which a man can make a decent and comfortable living. The proof of this is to be found in the very large quantities of agricultural products imported for consumption and even for seed purposes."

In comparison with the above statement of Mr. Cameron, anything the Record ever said in reference to farming in this province was laudatory. As the farmers' friend it seems that a plain duty of our friend of the Eastern Chronicle is to flail Cameron and scatter to the winds his chaff.

Being popularly supposed to be "void of art" no one would have imagined that it would be left to Gen'l Manager Cowans to bewitch President Lewis. And yet that is the operation which the U. M. W's of Springhill will be ready to declare Mr. Cowans performed on Mr. Lewis. Very many conjectures will be made as to how he managed it. That he did it and did it successfully is testified to by the following statement of Pres. Lewis:

"I have had an interview with Mr. Cowans. The basis of the whole trouble between you can be described in three words, 'lack of confidence' between the men and the management. You distrust Mr. Cowans and he in his turn lacks confidence in you. While such a condition prevails there never can be harmony and peace. I am bound to say that I do not think all the fault was on the part of the management. I worked for twenty two years in coal mines, and know