

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

MINING RECORD

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SIGNALS OF DISTRESS.

The local president of that foreign organization the U. M. W. has since last issue of the RECORD thought fit to address an open letter to Mr. Jas. Ross, Pres. of the Dominion Coal Co. which is a wonderful if not exactly a fearful production. The local president of the U. M. W., the Sydney Post, his backer, and certain other co-laborers, after having manned, and viciously months, have become worried and disheartened, are relinquishing their efforts and flying signals of distress. Their pumps they find suck wind and throw little water, so with useless pumps, and a bruised and battered ship they are flying signals of distress and therefore intimating that they will be glad to be assisted and towed into any port, anywhere. In Dan McDougall's open letter: in the Posts comments thereon which summed up reads: "We always thought the demands of the U. M. W. were trifling, but not till now did we realize how 'trifling' they were"; in the desire of Counsel of the U. M. W. to waive all further examination of Lestige; in that delegation of stiff Tories, and U. M. W. sympathizers to the Premier; in the stealing of coal near New Aberdeen, and in the violent and most reprehensible language said to have been uttered by a Mrs. Coos' clergyman, language compared with which innocent, we have the spectacle of the U. M. W.'s throwing up their hands and exposing all their cards on the table. The U. M. W.'s is storm tossed, and in their distress give emphasis to the axiom "Any port in a storm." Buffeted and beaten they are ready to haul down the colors they, for a while, so proudly flaunted, on any old kind of an excuse or any make believe sort of recognition.

Even though Dan McDougall had the assistance, in inditing the letter, of the whole titrant staff of the executive of the foreign order, his statements are inconsistent and illogical. Passing over the deliberately misleading statements, as to a new charge for tools and over charge for powder, we read: "When the dissatisfaction and distrust became acute and seemed irremediable by CONSTITUTIONAL means, a large majority of the miners of Nova Scotia invited the U. M. W. to come to Nova Scotia. For what purpose were they invited? To remedy the many grievances which the men were supposed to labor under. That was the object the dissatisfied ones had in asking, and the removal, rather attempted removal, of those grievances was

the object in the coming of the U. M. W. These alleged grievances we are told were the outcome of the short term contract. The U. M. W. promised not only immediate redress of all grievances, but the procuring of many unsought for benefits. Then Mr. McDougall innocently goes on to show that all the fair promises were so many pretexts by declaring that the U. M. W. never had it in their minds to interfere with the contract. Mr. McDougall's words are "We are now willing to live up to its terms in the spirit and in the letter." Seeing the contract does not expire for three months yet and had high eighteen months to run when the U. M. W. invasion in force took place, how does it must have believed that some material benefit was imminently to accrue to them or they would not have bid the devil good morning months before they had any occasion to meet him. Mr. McDougall says he had asked the company to receive a committee to discuss the complaints of ill treatment. A board of conciliation called for the purpose declared the men had no just complaints, and why therefore should the company be asked to review or discuss the decisions of the Board. Mr. McDougall tells us that the decision of the Conciliation Board was that the company had shown a preference for one section of its employees and had not discriminated against the other. Such a deliverance appals the local president. He calls it an unintelligible finding. Is Mr. McDougall unaware of the fact that a preference may be shown to some without any injustice to others. Though Mac the untravelled Scot, has never, like Watkins the ubiquitous Welshman, come under the mollifying influence of Sankey's voice, it has never been said of him that he is less religious than his confere. Assuming that he is a Christian by profession—though that is not evident in his practice or in his appearances in the papers,—we might ask him if ever he heard or read of the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. All got justice, one finding of the Board and, on similar lines runs the finding is far from unintelligible.

After the strike is nearly three months old Mr. McDougall for the first time tells us what the real demands of the U. M. W. were. Everybody, including the Post, thought that its chief demand was 'recognition'. We were all woefully mistaken. 'The Dominion Coal Co. has been fighting against recognition. They have been fighting a straw man. Jas. Ross has asserted and reasserted that the company will never recognize the U. M. W. and now Dan. McDougall rises up and solemnly says to Mr. Ross "Pray, who asked you, sir." Mr. McDougall with all the emphasis and adjectives he can command asserts that the strike would never have taken place had the company shown any disposition to receive a committee of its employees to consider grievances, and to remove the grievances if possible. The furnace of affliction has worked fervent and effectually in the local president's case. He is now as modest as a Scots maiden and as meek as Moses. Is the local president of the U. M. W. unaware of the fact that the Dom. Coal Co., while it recognizes the P. W. A., prefers or favors the open shop, and has therefore been, is now, and presumably, ever shall be pleased, or, if that be regarded as an extravagant term, shall be content, shall not have the slightest objections to meet their employees, singly or in batches of two or ten; the company shall meet committees of employees