

by substituting three months

The Solicitor-General for Scotland said that the examinations referred to was not the periodical examination undertaken from time to time by the owner, but a thorough examination such as was provided by the Factory Acts. There was no case for such a special examination every three months.

After more debate, the Government undertook to give further consideration to the matter before the report stage of the bill, and the amendment was withdrawn.

On the motion of Mr. T. Taylor an amendment was agreed to providing that a report of the result of every such examination should within fourteen days be entered in a book kept in the mine and signed by the examiner.

On clause 48, which relates to the qualification and attendance of enginemen, Sir A. Markham moved an addition setting out that the engineman engaged in raising or lowering persons should not be employed for more than eight hours out of the twenty-four, and including modifications where two or more men worked the same engine. He said that there had been innumerable cases in which accidents had occurred after men had been working long hours.

The Solicitor-General for Scotland said that to insert a provision dealing with the period of labour of adults was to do something quite new so far as Acts dealing with safety in mines were concerned. The matter was very controversial, and he could not see his way to accept the amendment.

After discussion the amendment was carried against the Government by 18 votes to 12.

On the motion of Sir A. Markham a part of the clause was deleted providing that enginemen should be periodically medically examined. The Solicitor-General for Scotland mentioned that it had been made apparent that the provision would lead to considerable hardship.

On Clause 60, which imposes restrictions on the use of electricity in mines, Mr. S. Walsh moved to provide that electricity should not be used in any part of a mine where safety lamps are in use.

The Solicitor-General for Scotland said that the use of electricity in mines was not necessarily dangerous. It could only be used underground subject to the regulations of the Home Office, but the amendment would absolutely prohibit its use in any mine where safety lamps were required. That might involve the taking out of a great number of installations which had been put in with the approval of the Home Office, and great expense would be entailed.

Mr. Richards said that real alarm had been felt by the working people in connection with the use of electricity in dangerous mines.

Mr. S. Roberts said that the amendment would stop the use of electricity in the vast majority of mines in this country.

Mr. Harvey said it was inconsistent to compel men to work with safety lamps while an adjacent electrical coal-cutting machine was giving off sparks and in some cases flame.

The amendment was under discussion when the Committee adjourned.

#### E. M. MacDONALD'S CORRECTION.

In the absence of the editor a letter has been received from Mr. E. M. Macdonald, M. P., which in part, is as follows:

"My attention has been called to your issue of June 28th. where on page 14 you were good enough to make some reference to alleged remarks of mine to New Glasgow and Stellarton audiences and in which you attribute to me the statement that not a pound of coal had gone to Montreal when the Tories were in power. I may say that the report of my remarks in New Glasgow contained in the Eastern Chronicle in reference to this matter, were incorrect. What I stated to the audience was this: that the Acadia Coal Company had practically not sent a pound of coal to Montreal during the time that the conservative party were in power. I stated that the Drummond had sent comparatively small quantities during that period. This statement is correct and as you can find on examination."

Mr. McDonald, in addition, calls attention to the fact that Mr. Dick is a high authority on the coal business. The RECORD would emphasize the statement, and would count him a fool who would try to gainsay it. At the same time we might hint to Mr. McDonald, as kindly as we can, that it is possible that he may, at some time, be followed on the platform by some one not ignorant of the fact that Mr. Plummer stated, at a meeting of coal men, without hesitation, reservation, or a blush, that his company would suffer least by any reduction of the coal duty, and the RECORD is wholly of Mr. Plummer's opinion. In short the Dominion Coal Company might struggle on under tariff conditions that would send the Mainland collieries to the wall. A reduction that might not jar that company would heavily jolt all others. We trust Mr. Macdonald grasps what line of argument we would avoid in addressing Pictou County audiences.

#### BRITISH AND CANADIAN PREFERENCE

Sir, Edward Spencer, a banker of very high standing, speaking at a banquet of the Colonial Club in London not long ago, among other things said:

"So long as Britain herself does not languish for want of capital, nothing but good can come from the investment of the surplus savings of the nation in the colonies or foreign countries. It appears that we have about £3,000,000,000 (fifteen thousand million dollars) of British money invested outside of these Islands and it may be divided into two almost equal portions—that invested in the British possessions and that invested in foreign lands. It appears also that the British investor asks, and gets, one per cent. less for the money invested in the British possessions than he gets for the money invested in foreign lands. That amounts to a preference of £10,000,000 a year in interest charges alone—no mean preference as the banker pointed out. That at all events is one solid advantage to the peoples connected with Britain, for no where else would they get the same terms."

Ten to those Canadians who want Britain to give a preference have not thought of this item.

The type of individual, of no benefit to himself or anyone else, is a sore head, a fellow with an eternal kick; a human ulcer always getting the raw edge on tinkling he is,—from the time keeper, the foreman, or the proprietor. Everybody, in his perverted sense of things, is giving him the double cross or has a knife ready to use.