

of perjury. If it was a lame theory all the better for the prisoner, but it was the only theory which in my opinion could be evolved from the evidence and hence the only one urged by me. In a word I was merely theorizing, that is, arguing that the evidence might be construed reasonably to mean that Mr. Moffatt was actuated by such, and such a motive in acting in a particular manner. That is all. It is done by prosecuting officers in every cause that is tried wherein he addresses a Judge or Jury. Of course if there was no evidence it would be my duty to say so, but I don't think you, Mr. Editor, would say there was no evidence. The proceedings have been published in the papers, and while Mr. Moffatt was undoubtedly innocent of the crime of perjury, there was a lot of evidence adduced which considered in one light would give a strong appearance of guilt. Judge McGillivray very properly did not consider it in that light and acquitted him. I do not think Mr. Moffatt ascribes to me overzeal in my work. It is well known to him as to you that my personal sympathies in the fratricidal war going on in the P. W. A. is with the old association, and it is my earnest wish that the well meaning men who are working on the other side will see the error of their ways and ultimately desist from their purpose.

If I didn't tell it not many Record readers is from a moment imagine that the following newspapers on this side have been told by certain unionist visitors, and by certain cable correspondents, that tariff reform is making tremendous headway in Britain. Not at all, even if it is making a little noise in England. The liberals have lost some twelve, perhaps thirteen, seats since the general election, and not more than two of these seats were won by the Tories on the question, and this should be a matter of surprise to the dull times taken into consideration:—"Free Trade as it is in England, is an aphorism that has played its role in the Motherland and will soon be off the stage forever. The next election will be won on tariff reform increased duties and the present Liberal government unless they adopt some of this new platform, they will never be heard of after the next general election." Rats.

The C. B. papers tell us that a deputation consisting of the ministers, and certain members of the Glace Bay Town Council waited on the Dominion Coal Co., relative to cases of distress in vailing at the collieries during the past, at most, a couple of months. I confess to being amazed at the assertion that there is distress due to the named cause. I cannot understand it at all. The times at the collieries in the province during the past eight years have been brisk. As a rule the supply of labor was not equal to the demand. The companies each and all bitterly complained of voluntary idleness on the part of large numbers of the employees. There would be in spite of the pleadings of the press and the bosses have their frequent off days and holidays. And there was no whimper of distress due to idle times. No sooner, however, are the men subject to some days of enforced idleness than the cry of

distress is heard. It is beyond ordinary comprehension. Last year some 1000 or so men, and boys were idle, of their own accord, or went out on strike, in other words, over a trifling matter, trifling in a material sense, if important from a sentimental stand point, for a solid three months, without a hint at the end of that time that they were hard put. On the contrary it was declared they could stand a longer siege. How is it that after 78 solid days loss of time, there was no cry of distress in the one case, while in the other, with the loss, I judge, of less than the half of that number of days, people are running about and calling attention to the distress. To those of us who have been exultant over the good times at the collieries in recent years, this cry of distress after an insignificant period of idleness comes as a shock. What is wrong?

(Since writing the foregoing I have read a statement in the Glace Bay Gazette which says conditions have not been exaggerated, rather minimized, so that public attention might not too generally be attracted to them. The Gazette is taking a wise course, for it is certainly, to say the least, a reflection on the community and the class that such a state of affairs should exist. It is all very sad and discouraging. The one gleam of light is in the statement made by the Gazette that more bank accounts were opened this year than in any previous one. This fact surely lends emphasis to the hints which I have not sparingly thrown out, that the distress is not wholly or even in large part attributable to the comparatively few days of enforced idleness in the past month or two. Why does not the Gazette, which is on the spot, send out a commissioner to investigate the causes leading to the present condition of some of the colliery workers. If sickness has played its part then that should be made known, so that the stigma of thriftlessness be lifted. If a few idle days are not the primary cause,—of some being in want, then it should so be declared, so that any odium attaching to the trade and those engaged in it may be removed.

I have more than once said that socialism cannot make headway or come into operation, before there has been affected a tremendous transformation in poor weak human nature, and, or, before there has been a great uplifting in the morals, or to put it in another way, the characters and conduct of our peoples. I have pointed to the I. M. R. as an instance of a lack of business capacity on the part of successive governments, and point to the evidence given at the Marine Department investigation, as proving that the government, if not conniving at extortion on the part of supply men, has not the business capacity to check sharp practice, and showing that certain people think it is not wrong, but shows skill and acumen to bleed the government to the utmost. As has been well said, in view of happenings in government departments, and in city councils, "Government ownership goes by the board." before such exposures, at least so far as it means 'government operation.' If the representatives of the people cannot be trusted to buy a load of hay at the market price, what is the use of talking nonsense about entrusting them with the management of railways and of-