

any way upon his department, or upon the manner in which he was conducting, or misconducting, that department. We, on this side of the House, as hon. gentlemen on the side of the House representing the constituencies, like to voice the grievance we have to voice in this House at the present time arises from the fact that the prices of food-stuffs have been allowed to soar so high that to-day it is practically impossible for the ordinary laborer to provide for the actual and bare necessities of life.

"It reminds me of a friend of mine who was speaking of a neighbor and who said that he had a large supply of very inaccurate knowledge. There may be this difference between my friend's neighbor and the Minister of Labor, that while my friend's neighbor and the Minister of Labor apparently has no information at all, and, further directed, and his labors are useless than that, his activities are misdirected, and his labors are useless, because he is unable to point out any good that has come of these labors, then I say they are misdirected and useless and a waste of time."

One would set down this prosaic roundelay to a fuddled condition of the pressman, were it not that on a former occasion the hon. member treated his constituents to sentences equally opaque.

One of the chiefs of the Trades and Labor Council in Sydney, C. B. will not have conscription because it is not a democratic measure. In this he is merely echoing what had been said by the Simpsons of Toronto, and more loudly by the Watters of Montreal. To me it appears that the bawling bodies are badly mistaken. Leaving out Germany, an absolute monarchy, do the fellows mean to say that Britain is not in the best sense democratic; and then there is France, a republic. France has conscription of a kind far more drastic than what is proposed for Canada. The United States has ever been deemed a democratic country. If conscription is undemocratic, the wonder is that the people of the United States—those who are not aliens—have accepted it without demur. But conscription is really a democratic measure in that it applies to all the people, high or low, rich or poor. If it calls upon the miner or the miner's son to fall into line, it calls also upon the millionaire or the millionaire's son to do likewise. It is no respecter of rank or riches. It is democratic in that it insists that what the goose must do, so must the gander. The same gentry who declare conscription to be undemocratic, say they might be able to subscribe to it if it had, as an accompaniment, conscription of wealth. How thoughtless or selfish are some labor leaders. They would have some men pay double toll. There are thousands of men under forty who are wealthy. Conscription is to apply to them as individuals, as well as to the day laborer. Are those to be asked to give of their wealth as well as themselves, while the day laborer gets off with, say a poll tax only. Conscription of wealth! What are the fellows bawling about. It cannot be done. It would be suicidal. Wealth may be taxed, indeed it may be confiscated, but what would follow? Chaos.

The Federal Trade Commission appointed by the U. S. Government to inquire into prevailing high prices of coal, have settled down earnestly to busi-

ness, and are already doing grand work, as may be gathered from the following authorized statement:

"The Federal Trade Commission desires to hear from persons who know of instances of extortionate prices being asked for coal, or where dealers are making false announcements of 'coal shortage' in order to raise prices and frighten people in submitting to extortion and unwarranted advances. The Commission wants names, dates and facts, and will vigorously take up and investigate and give wide publicity to those that it finds indulging in these practices. There is absolutely no cause for any 'panic' or panic prices, and the Trade Commission is frowning upon either the operator, wholesaler, or retailer who does anything toward creating an abnormal condition, or who is asking abnormal prices."

It must be admitted that the Commission's way of bringing down prices is quite simple, and is certainly novel. But neither its simplicity nor its novelty should stand in the way of giving it a fair trial. I am prepared to do my share of 'frowning,' and if my freely frank friends are to be believed I am a bit of an expert at the business. I go further and say I am prepared to raise a company, or may be a battalion, who in a very short time can be drilled into becoming crack frowners. In so laudable an enterprise one should have the support of the Sydney Post, Sydney Record, Springhill Record and also every paper in every mining county. Indeed the Halifax Herald and Chronicle instead of eternally frowning at each other might vigorously frown for a while at rising coal prices. That would be a patriotic enterprise, whereas their accustomed mode of frowning is not. The experiment is worth trying. Instead of occasionally frowning at our relatives and friends, and each other, let us all join a 'coal price frowning league.' If we keep in good standing in this league, and live up to its one object, who knows but the price of coal, undetermined by persistent frowning, will tumble down in the course of time, say two years. If the new process turns out not to be a success, then it can safely be left to time to smooth out the facial distortions superinduced by testing an American patriotic notion.

We do not think that the two B's had any authority for saying that the new Union is to be called, meantime, the Mine Workers of Nova Scotia. No name has as yet been decided upon by the leaders of both Unions. There is, perhaps, more significance in the words, "but later the name may be changed." In some minds there is no doubt that there will be efforts to have the name more embracing, but this cannot well be as the understanding is that the new Union shall be and remain a purely provincial institution. It is not a correct statement to say that the funds of the P. W. A. have been transferred to the new Union. There can be no transfer of funds to a nameless society, or to a society not yet incorporated. An act of the Legislature, it seems to us, will be necessary, before there can be any transfer. But is there to be no reciprocity? What about the funds of the U. M. W. of N. S. Surely a society claiming to be popular is not without funds.