

were directed from Glace Bay, a change for the better took place.

Of the 700 shareholders of Scotia stock no fewer than 530 are residents of Nova Scotia. And the remaining 170 odd are scattering. Of the six millions of common stock, Mr. Forget in his own right or name is declared to own only 5 per cent, or \$300,000 worth, or about 4,000 shares if he bought from 70 to 80.

#### JUDGE LAWRENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.

It is generally admitted that, had the law been even fairly well administered in the early days of the strike in Cape Breton, there would not have been the long reign of next to lawlessness that prevailed until the time a judge with some backbone took the matter in hand. Judge Lawrence, in continuing the injunction against Bonsfield and sixty other U. M. W. men, said, among other things:

"On July 6, 1909, according to affidavits of Daniel McDougall, an official of the United Mine Workers' Association, about 5,000 workmen of the plaintiff company ceased work and went on strike, and a very large number of these men remain yet on strike.

During this period the strikers have concertedly and systematically interfered with the workmen of the Company who remained at work. They have insulted, molested, assaulted, beat, watched, and beset these men who remained in the employ of the Company, and that to such an extent the company has been obliged to employ a large force of peace officers and constables, (to the number of 600 at one time, and now 200) to escort and protect their workmen going to and returning from their work.

The affidavits on the part of the plaintiff fully establish these facts and they are not satisfactorily answered by the affidavits read on behalf of the defendants.

Recent cases very clearly establish the right of the plaintiff Company to be protected by injunction in such a case....."

### *- Rubs by Rambler.*

A workmens compensation act may have its advantages, it certainly has its disadvantages. Three Lords against two in an appeal to the Privy Council held that a man's relatives were entitled to compensation even if the tumor from which he died, when using a spanner, was liable to break at any moment, even in his bed. Lord Shaw, who differed from the majority, pointed out that this was a case likely to produce far more harm than good. Employers after this will be very careful not to employ any one with a chronic ailment likely to impair his usefulness, or cause death at any moment. There was great talk of unemployment in Britain last winter. Very many of the unemployed were willing to work, but while some employees could have given them employment they would not, as they had

the fear of the compensation act before their eyes. A reasonable compensation act should meet with hearty approval in all quarters; but when the law is carried to an extreme it is bound sooner or later to frustrate its very aims. If matters are pressed, as seems to be the tendency, the time may be not far distant when Dr. Osler's doctrine will have to be revised and the years shortened beyond which a workmans usefulness ceases to be effective. At the bottom of many of the acts professing to be in the interests of labor, there is much of the worst sort of selfishness.

If the question is asked 'Why do you ask for an eight hour day', it is not a sufficient answer to say, 'Because similar trades in other countries have it.' But are the conditions similar, that is the point. A six hour day in a steel works or some other industry in Pittsburg might not be as good as an eight hour day in Sydney. The worker in the former city if he wants a breath of fresh air cannot get it by putting his head out the door; instead of pure air he will get a mixture of various chemicals, and undiluted flakes of soot. In Sydney he can fill his lungs with ozone. The worker in an atmosphere heavily charged with impurities cannot work so long or so well as he who has the breezes of heaven blowing about his flowing, or scanty, locks. We talk about the depressing effects of stuffy rooms, & stuffy cities and towns are also depressing. In Nova Scotia we have none of such and therefore there is not the call for shorter days of labor to the same extent as in the factitious working centres of the United States or other thickly populated countries.

The compensation bill got a great deal of airing before R. M. McGregor's special committee. A number of lawyers were of the opinion that the object of the bill would bar the infant industries of Nova Scotia. The secretaries of unions and trades councils gave the bill their hearty support, as did also some members of a foreign organization. The most interest was aroused on the night that the representatives of the Relief Societies expressed their views. There were a dozen or so representatives of the Dominion Coal Co's. relief funds, a couple from the Pictou collieries; three from the Dominion Iron & Steel Co's., and two from the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co's. relief funds, every one of them to a man declaring, in the most emphatic terms, that, as between the Compensation Act and the Relief Societies, they preferred the latter every time and all the time. These all said that they wished the bill well for those workmen who had not Relief funds, but they expressed the desire that the act should not apply where there are Relief societies. One of the P. W. A. Relief fund representatives, who had spent much time in Britain declared that had there been such Relief societies in Britain as we have here there would have been no call nor occasion for a compensation act. And the RECORD inclines strongly to that view. Premier Murray toward the close of the last public sitting of the committee spoke strongly in favor of the act, saying it was for the thousands of workmen who had no connection with Relief societies. His remarks were applauded and yet a wily opponent could have well turned the tables on the Premier. It was proved to the hilt that Relief societies were better than Compensation acts. Why then not have a provincial system of Relief societies, or as some may prefer a system of state insurance to cover sickness as well as accident.