

I say touching the liberals and labor may be accepted as unbiased. Well, then, I make bold to say that during the last quarter of a century labor got more concessions from the liberal government than if there had been a dozen labor members in the House. Labor got all that it asked for and what more could have been given? Indeed I say it, and don't fear contradiction, that it got more than it, of itself, thought of asking. Somethings, that it got, were only asked for when the advisability of asking for them was pointed out. The workers at our collieries got so many substantial concessions that the time actually came—I speak by the book—when being asked: 'What more', they had positively no answer. The only thing that suppliants for votes of workingmen can think of to draw these out are the Eight hour day and a compensation act. As far as the miners are concerned there is no agitation for an eight hour day, there is a little cry, but it is for the purpose of keeping interest alive; and as for a compensation act, the colliery workers know that no compensation act would make up for the loss of the Relief societies. The workmen handle the Relief funds; compensation monies they surmise would be largely handled by the lawyers. The men that are howling loudest for a labor party are the two or three men on the staff of the Halifax Herald, and they do not belong to the working class, but to the 'idle rich.'

I read an article the other day in a New Glasgow paper which said that the law in Britain was still 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. As a Scot might say that is havers. In no country perhaps in the world is justice so evenly meted out. An eye for an eye is the law of the vendetta in the Southern countries of Europe, as it is also the law of the Southern savages of certain of the United States. Savages they are though pale faces and not Indians. It is surely because justice in Britain is both swift and sure, that lynchings in Britain are unheard of. The laws delays and leniency have made perfect brutes of some people in certain of the States. Was ever anything more horrible heard of than a negro's body being cut up into pieces and the shreds taken away as souvenirs, or of reminders of the brutal deed being made out of rags steeped in the blood of the victim. The law of the vendetta and of lynchings is wholly and solely vindictive. The aim of the law in Britain is first of all reformative and last of all vindictive. Intermediary aims are that it be remedial and exemplary or deterrent.

A delegate to the American Federation of Labor, one who attended the Labor Congress at Quebec, speaking before the Federation said that the 'Canada for the Canadians' policy, found little favor with Canadian workmen. He further said that "not for a fancied insult to Great Britain would Canadian workmen take up arms against their United States brethren." It is possible that there are some Canadian workmen, who, like this delegate, are poor specimens of the true citizen, and who like him have no minds of their own but are for ever chasing the socialistic will o the wisp. No war and no armaments is the cry of a certain section of the socialists. Desirable; but nothing more than a dream for many a day yet. Canadians of the Draper order might well take a lesson from the German soc-

ialist workmen. Some time ago at one of the International Conferences a motion was made, by a British delegate I think, in favor of disarmament. Here the German socialist workmen drew the line. They would not have it. First patriots, then socialists, unlike Simpson and his crew, first socialists sure, next Canadians—perhaps.

It is to be hoped that one result of the 'conspiracy' trial in Halifax will be the formation of a provincial coal producers organization, whose objects shall include a price for coal that will leave a profit. The leading operators have been up before the police court in Halifax either as conspirators or witnesses. A conspirator is one who plots in secret, his purposes being sinister. Because, as brought out in the evidence, certain operators met to discuss 'business' they have been hailed as conspirators. Well, the moral is plain: let them now come out in the open, and make no bones about it. Let a properly officered organization be formed. There can be no objection to this. The Coal Trade Journal says that there is a probability of the formation of an organization of the producers in the great competitive fields. The sentiment expressed by many operators is that something should be done and done soon. The Journal says the point on which there seems to be reluctance is "Who will be our leader; who will take the initiative? How can we get together, when and where?" No such questions need be asked in N. S. The leading operators when they next appear at court in Halifax can meet and send out notices for a general conference. The Record advised this years ago; and had its advice been taken there would have been no conspiracy trial at the present time.

A Mr. J. J. McKay, a good natured socialist of the harmless kind, who quotes largely from socialist writers not quite so guileless, thinks that once the workingmen become managers of, as well as producers in, industrial concerns, all their woes will end. Our friend may be mistaken. Then may be but the beginning of their troubles. In France the workmen had eighteen years experience in running a colliery. At the end of that time finding they could not produce as much—profit, and they got it all—as the workmen employed in the collieries run by companies in the good old way, they chucked the whole thing. Mr. McKay never comes across any of these things. The success of a colliery does not depend on the producers wholly. Not at all. Good, well paid, management tells.

The value of Canada's export of coal in 1890 was in round figures \$2,500,000, and in 1909 4,500,000. In twenty years the value of coal exported increased by ninety-one per cent., or at the rate of four and a half per cent. a year, an increase not at all satisfactory when compared with the increase, during the same period, of coal imported, chiefly from the United States. In 1890 the value of imported coals was \$8,316,000. For the last year, ending March, the value had risen to \$28,236,000, an increase in twenty years of three hundred and five per cent., or at the rate of fifteen and a quarter per cent. per year. In other words the increase in imports of coal is nearly four times the increase in exports, and yet there are those who profess to be striving after better conditions for labor at our collieries, who are resorting to every device in order to facilitate the imports of coal from the United States. Their conduct is inexplicable and their actions passing strange.