

Movement to Lower Wages of Miners in N. S.

Does not come from Operators,
but professed friends
of Labor.

The Post and Herald, both of them, if not official organs of the U. M. W., strong supporters of the foreign society's methods and aims, in hallelujah headlines announce that the Mine Workers, in the person of Jas. B. McLaughlan—note here the Post spells the word as printed setting for ever at rest that gentlemen's nationality,—has laid information against the coal operators charging them with conspiracy to raise the price of coal.

Jas. B. McLaughlan is Secy. Treas. for the local district of Nova Scotia.

It is to be presumed that Mr. McLaughlan is acting in full accord with the views of the higher officials of that notorious society.

It so there is proof to a demonstration that the hybrid society has one policy for the United States and another for Nova Scotia.

Its policy as expounded by Pres. Lewis in a speech delivered a month or two ago is to help the United States operators in every effort made to increase the price of coal. President Lewis with all the emphasis at his command asserts that cheaper coal means lower rates, and that unless the price of coal is put up, wages cannot be increased.

President Lewis goes further,—let this be carefully noted—and urges earnestly that the United States operators combine together, form themselves into an association, whose main object shall be to increase the selling price of coal. The speech in which these remarks occur was published in several of the American journals and also in two of the Cape Breton papers.

Mr. McLaughlan has laid information against the prominent operators of Nova Scotia for having done the very thing which Pres. Lewis besought the U. S. operators to do.

President Lewis knows that miners' wages cannot go up in the United States unless the price of coal is increased.

Secretary McLaughlan pooh poohs this idea evidently or else, as a socialist, he is prepared to see the U. M. W., the operators, the workmen and the coal trade go to smash.—

The U. M. W.'s in coming into this province declared they had come to secure for the mine workers larger and better remuneration for their labor.

Will any one, U. M. W. or abettor deny this assertion.

That is impossible Their statements are in black and white.

How can the rate of wages be increased if there is no increase in the price of coal. If wages cannot be increased without increase of price how is it possible to increase them with a decreased price for coal.

Mr. McLaughlan, from any point of view and from the position of a trades unionist, makes the amazing statement that wages are too high. He may not say

so in words but his action permits of no other construction. In effect he says wages are too high, in seeking to prove that coal is too dear.

He cannot escape from this position.

The higher the price of coal the higher the rate of cutting.

The lower the price the lower the rates.

From 1880 to 1900 when the price of coal was low the average rate of miners wages was \$1.25 to \$2 per day, according to location of mine and ability of worker.

From 1900 on when the price of coal was increased the average of miners wages was two fifty to four dollars a day.

Previous to 1900 when coal was low, laborers at the mines were paid from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per day.

Since 1900 when coal was higher, laborers wages advanced to \$1.40 and \$1.75 a day.

Do the men of Cape Breton wish the price of coal to be lowered.

If they wish that then they desire lower wages.

The district officials of the U. M. W. backed likely by the American officials want lower priced coal in Nova Scotia.

That means, and means only, they wish to see lower wages.

WE LEAVE IT TO THE HERALD.

Yes, even to the Herald though the little reputation it once had for integrity and honesty is now in rags and tatters, and though its nobility, if it ever had much, is in shreds.

And incidentally we leave it to the Post which is not yet wholly lost to shame.

In the Herald of Wednesday the sixth, and in the columns set apart for correspondence from its editorial staff, there appears a quotation from the open letter of Daniel McDougall, president District No. 26, of the U. M. W. and confidential correspondents, and some editorial remarks thereon as follows:—

"Our position has always been, is now, and will continue to be, that we want the company to receive a committee of its employees to consider grievances and to remove the grievances when possible. THAT IS ALL THE RECOGNITION we have asked for."

And this as the Herald's comment:

"Such is the plain deliberate official statement of the position of the U. M. W. made public by Daniel McDougall, president, District No. 26 of that organization.

"The demand is modest, straightforward and reasonable—much more so than the public thought or hoped for.

"The pity is that it was not made long ago. . . .

"So reasonable is the demand that a deluded and misinformed public opinion is already asking what the company is fighting so persistently and bitterly for." &c.

Daniel McDougall's official, plain, deliberate statements are fearful and wonderful things to behold, and so would the productions of anyone who is a Jekyll to-day and a Hyde to-morrow.

The statement of Daniel McDougall is not the first official statement he has made. Not by any manner of means, or to use the other phrase which being forcible has become classical 'not by a jug full.' The Lan-