

Company effected improvements in one department of their many sided business, which resulted in a saving at the rate of \$50,000 or so a year. And what is being done in the way of saving at Trenton is being done at the Steel Works at Sydney Mines. The ore furnace there was lately thoroughly refitted and several remarkable improvements effected. The capacity of the furnace, by ingenious devices suggested by Mr. Thos. Cantley, the General Manager, and his energetic up-to-date staff, has been largely increased. It is now more effective by at least twenty per cent. than before the improvements were made. When the furnace turned out 90 to 100 tons a day it was considered to be doing fine work. Since the refining the output has gone up to 125 tons instead of 90 or 100, and this has been kept up steadily without fluctuation. This means a big reduction in the cost of production of pig iron, or put another way it can be said that the company are getting from twenty-five to thirty-five tons of iron free from labor costs. The management are emboldened to a forward policy from the fact that the Forget element having held out the olive branch, is no longer a disturbing factor.

#### RESOLVED TOO SOON.

There were passed at the annual convention, so called of District No. 26 several resolutions and a cart load of whereasis. One of the latter runs:—

"Whereas the members of this local union have conducted the strike in a peaceable, satisfactory and most effective manner—therefore—"

Well, as to the 'peaceable' part of the business, the Herald's assertion that it is beyond the Mayor's power to keep order is sufficient comment. If the strike has been "satisfactory" to the strikers, what is the need of the district local to shed tears?

### - Rubs by Rambler.

A gentleman called me to the side the other day, and abruptly put the question: "What do you think of this tuberculosis propaganda? I looked him a moment as I was under the impression that he had been appointed a place in one of those sprouting societies. I asked if he wanted my private opinion or an opinion that would please everybody and hurt none. "Oh, the former," he replied. Well, I said I think it is a case of much cry and little wool. Its a sort of fad. These societies are a sort of refuge for those who have not the stamina to join in a temperance crusade. It is highly respectable to belong to a tuberculosis society, while it may be a bar to a desired entree to belong to a society that is not popular while practical. I believe that continuous contact with fresh or pure air is beneficial, but pure air does not necessarily mean icy air or biting blasts. Take the so called sanitoriums, I believe there is room for complaint at the, let me say, inhuman way the patients are at times

treated. What is the sense of exposing a patient to the elements regardless of his condition. All the doctors in christendom won't convince me that a shivering wretch is, with every quiver, taking on vitality. Many patients come back from these cold air hospitals worse than when they went in. And then the sanitoriums are not available to the people who need them most—if there is virtue in them. They are not for the very poor whose surroundings are by no means conducive to health. Prevention is better than cure, and therefore temperance societies are better than tuberculosis ones. Listen to this:

"Dr. Jacques Bertillon, the chief of the fingerprint department of the French Police, says the most important cause of the development of tuberculosis is the use of alcohol in beer and spirits. In the northern part of France, where cider, beer and brandy are largely drunk, there were 230 deaths from consumption to every 100,000 of the population in 1906. After the age of thirty, he says, consumption is two or three times more frequent among men than women, largely because the drinking of alcohol is more common with men. To combat consumption, Dr. Bertillon urges that it is necessary to combat alcoholism, and especially the use of beer and spirits."

The air fiends in church and railway carriages, who think they are doing God service in having chilling drafts playing around, are perhaps responsible for more lung troubles than they are aware of. Pure air and cold drafts are two very different things.

Mr. J. B. McLachlan has been betraying his old symptoms. Writing to the Halifax Herald whose columns, due to the fact that it is short handed in its editorial and reportorial departments, are open to every weary Willie that comes along, Mr. J. B. McLachlan, Sec'y-Treas of District No. 26, says, "A year ago the Dominion Coal Co'y refused to meet any committee of the workmen other than from the P. W. A. These two grievances are now happily removed. The change is complete: the D. C. C. Lot only has ceased to lay off our members because of their membership in the P. W. A. of A., but now receive committees of our men when any local trouble calls for such... One coal company has granted us full recognition with the check off." The fact is there has not been an iota of change. The Dominion Coal Co. threw a number of men idle in slack times and kept those, naturally, who had made an agreement with the company. There is no co. I company in the province that has refused, in a quarter of a century, to receive committees. If times get as slack again as in the fall of 1908 there might be more discharges and they would not likely be local union men. Mr. McLachlan further says:—

"A number of petitions from the men at several collieries on the mainland have been received, asking that an organizer be sent to organize them into local unions of the U. M. W. of A.; but on account of the known hostile attitude to our organization by the management at these collieries the work has been deferred for the present. Once all matters are completely straightened out in Cape Breton these men shall have the opportunity of joining the trade union of their choice, and fighting for it if need be."

If McLachlan had half the candor of Bonsfield it would be to his credit. There was no need of petit-