

opportunism and illiteracy. To demagoguery, for instance, and to demagoguery alone, is to be attributed last weeks episode in a coal mining district in the United States. Here a strike was imminent because of the proposed introduction of safety explosives. The incredible folly of the miners in opposing a measure calculated solely to reduce the risks under which their daily work is performed, is due, of course, to ignorant prejudice. But their leaders, often profoundly ignorant themselves, foster and encourage the ignorance, prejudice, and passions of their followers. Anyone who will take the trouble to read the official utterances of labour periodicals—and the U. M. W. A. Journal is an outstanding example—cannot but admit the justice of this indictment.

As a general proposition, it is true that the leaders of mining labour are antagonistic to the introduction of regulations, devices, and methods that are calculated to prevent loss of life. This is especially true of coal mining.

In Great Britain a temporizing government has pandered consistently to the most radical section of labour-socialists. Whilst the militarism of Germany can hold revolutionary tendencies in check, in Great Britain no such corrective is either possible or desirable. Great Britain, and all Anglo-Saxon countries, must depend primarily upon the controlling influence of educated public opinion.

Now, since mining labour is highly organized, there is present an essential need that operators and owners organize. But this organization must not be called into being as a corporate entity hostile to labour bodies. On such a foundation success would not be worth attaining. The basic problem is not one of warfare, but of co-operation—co-operation, national and international, as between mine owners first, and then as between owners and labour.

The first step in this desired consummation must be local and national union of mine owners or operators. Never was the need so apparent as it is to-day in Canada. Indeed, the value of mining investments depends more to-day upon labour conditions than ever before; and no other factor is so uncertain. Hence, if only as a business precaution, it is incumbent upon mine owners to get together and stay together. Only by mutual trust and concerted action can mine owners hope to guard their interests adequately. And only by temperate methods, wise forbearance, and the dissemination of right knowledge can the confidence of organized labour be won.

Meanwhile it is pertinent to observe that Canadian mine owners will never have as fair an opportunity of organizing as is offered them by present conditions.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The latest news from Gow Ganda is encouraging. Four new substantial discoveries are announced, one of which is that of a silver vein encountered at a depth of one hundred feet.

It is rumoured unofficially that the royalties exacted by the Ontario Government from certain Cobalt mines are to be reduced considerably. This is unquestionably a move in the right direction. Apart from all consideration of business ethics, it is and has been a doubtful method of raising income for the province.

The cost of mining coal in Great Britain is fast reaching a point when the profit to the operator will disappear. When that time shall have arrived, it appears probable that power will be generated at the pit-mouth and distributed over Great Britain from enormous central stations. Some such change must take place within a comparatively short time.

The Elmore vacuum-flotation process is based primarily upon the selective action of oil for metallic mineral particles in a flowing pulp of crushed ore and water. The addition of acid materially increases this action. The air or gases dissolved in water are partly or wholly liberated upon lessening the pressure below that of the surrounding atmosphere. Gases, also, may be generated in the pulp, or by introduction from an external source. The bubbles of gas attach themselves to the oiled mineral particles and cause them to float to the surface of the liquid. The quantity of oil and acid necessary ranges from 3 to 10 lb. per ton of ore treated. A large variety of cheap oils and residuums have proved suitable.

About 70 machines are now in use or under construction. An extraction of 98.8 per cent. is recorded on a 3.48 per cent. copper ore in which barytes formed the gangue. For a 3.40 per cent. molybdenite ore, feldspar gangue, an extraction of 93.2 per cent. was obtained. Gold, silver, lead, antimony, zinc, graphite, ores and tailings have been successfully treated. In one copper mine where three units are installed, the working costs are about 75 cents per ton of ore treated. At another mine, one unit handles from 120 tons to 200 tons per week. The ore in this instance carries 0.75 per cent. copper and is concentrated to 16 per cent., leaving 0.14 per cent. in the tailings. The approximate working cost (not including general management) is 24 cents per ton. Other much lower costs are recorded.