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MARITIME MINING RECORD.

NOVEMBER 14. 1917.

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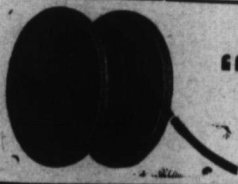
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SOUTHBOUND Superior Div.		STATIONS.	NORTHBOUND Inferior Div.	
436.			437.	
A. M.			P. M.	
10 40		POINT TUPPER.		5 40
10 55		INVERNESS DOVE.		5 45
10 59		PORT HASTINGS		5 50
10 12		TRUY.		4 55
10 47		CRAIGMOIR		4 57
9 44		JUDIQUE		4 53
9 57		MARYVILLE		4 45
9 58		PORT HOOD		5 00
8 53		GLERBOO		5 15
8 40		HAROU		5 25
8 30		GLERBOO		5 35
7 54		HAROU		5 45
7 40		GLERBOO		5 55
7 35		BLACK RIVER		6 05
7 12		STRATHLON		6 15
6 55		INVERNESS		6 25
A. M.				P. M.

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MARITIME MINING RECORD

Vol. 20

Stellarton, N. S.,

November 14th., 1917

No 9.

THE NEW REVOLUTION.

(Manchester Guardian.)

The "Times" has lately been trying to make our blood run cold by an elaborate description, in a series of articles, of the great revolutionary movement which, it seems, threatens the foundations of society. We are divided, it appears, into two nations. One is a Socialistic nation, and consists of skilled and organized labour. It takes the lesser share of the burdens of the war and gets the greater privileges. The other nation is individualist and patriotic, and consists of all the rest of the people, the rich and the poor, the millionaire, the professional man, the business man, and the unskilled labourer. It is a quaint association, and one is at first inclined to dismiss the entire scheme of the "Times" writer as the baseless fabric of a dream. But there is just a little solid kernel of reality in it all, and this may be seen from a paper "presented to the trade union movement by the command of the National Guilds League." It will be remembered that some weeks ago the Reconstruction Committee issued a report on Joint Industrial Councils. The idea of this report was the formation of councils, national and local, of employers and employed, for the joint governance of the industries in which each party is interested. It was the belief of the Committee that organized workpeople are demanding a more direct and living share in the control of the work by which they gain their livelihood, and the suggestion was that this demand could be met by associating their representatives with employers in a council which should form a kind of government of each trade, not only dealing with conditions of labour but exerting itself to promote the development of the industry, to foster education and initiative, to stimulate and supervise the introduction of new processes, and in general to deal with the many objects in which employers and employed agree in their interests as well as those in which they differ. To the unsophisticated this seemed a somewhat advanced proposal. But the National Guilds League, in the "observations" which they address to the trade union movement upon it, regard it as a very milk-and-water performance. They hasten to say that it has no connection with any proposals of theirs because it aims at a "permanent improvement in the relations between employers and workmen," whereas the League wants to abolish these relations altogether. To the Guild it seems impossible that employers and employed should sit on one council, because they have opposite interests and aims. The Guild, that is, repel the suggestion of an underlying unity of aim and insist on a radical and insuperable antagonism. They set out, they explain very frankly, "not to improve relations between employers and workmen but to make the whole relationship impossible. Discussions and agreements between the parties are for the time

being unavoidable, but they "are merely expressions of the economic power of the parties, and rest not upon good relations but upon a fundamental antagonism." The Guild, in fact, take us back to the days of open war and breathe the very spirit of the hard master of the days of "Mary Barton" and "North and South," who knew not "men" in his employ but "hands" that worked his machines. They call for the class war, not satisfied with the national war that we have on our hands. If improved machinery should prevent many disputes which now occur, it is the hope and belief of the Guild "that this would result in stimulating new disputes on more vital issues."

That all this is of the nature of a revolutionary movement we may admit, but we do not share the alarm of the writer in the "Times," because we take it to be the expression of a very small handful of academic people, deriving only spasmodic support from the current tendency of trade unions to revolt against their own leaders and substitute the authority of the shop steward. An anarchic movement of such a type may give trouble, but in the long run is far more dangerous to its own side than to its opponents, far more to be dreaded by those who desire to see organized labour strong for the prosecution of existing order of society.

The Guild, however, has its own view, which seems quite definite as far as its goes, of the industrial future. "The proper industrial function of the State is to nationalize industries, and therefore to entrust their management to trade unions." Apparently, the property in coal-mines or railways is to be in the hands of the State, but they are to be managed exclusively by miners and railwaymen. The employer as such is to be eliminated. As to this, it may be remarked that it may be possible to eliminate the employer by confiscating the goodwill of his business and turning him out of his office, but it is not possible to eliminate the employer's function. Someone must still direct the coalmine, the cotton factory, or the railway, and the work of direction is arduous, responsible, and difficult, making such call on brain and nerve that the men who can respond adequately are rare—rare enough to get monopoly payment for their services. The trade unions as they are have had no training in this work. It has not been their business. But if they could take it on at all, they would have to evolve an official class, a directorate, a supreme and subordinate management and the rest, parallel to that which exists now. The must compromise and mine coal. It is easy for the distinction between the man who gives orders and the man who executes them does not arise from the wickedness of human nature, but is inherent in the character of high organization. Divergencies of interest, just parallel to those which we know, would arise between the management and the workpeople. It would make very little difference that the manage-

(Continued on page 15.)

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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R. DRUMMOND, PUBLISHER.

STELLARTON, N. S.

November 14, 1917

CONCERNING CERTAIN A.M.W. RESOLUTIONS.

Elsewhere, from the Sydney Post, we give two, what are termed startling resolutions passed at the late sessions of the new Miners' Society. The Record accepts the Posts' version of these as correct, as on the authority of the Glace Bay Gazette, the Post and the secretary of the society are very chummy these days, and have, therefore, friendly intercourse. It is said that the passing of the resolutions caused some little excitement in Sydney and the surrounding populous districts. And they have caused no little surprise on the Mainland as well. The surprise on the Mainland is due chiefly to the lack of comprehension of what is contained in the phrase "British fair play," so far at least as the second resolution is concerned. There is nothing British about it. The resolution adjudges certain men guilty of a very serious offence, who have not been given opportunity to state their case or in any way defend themselves.

The resolutions demanding the discharge of certain officials are based on a statement in the verdict returned at the coroner's inquest, and on one made by what the Record has termed "the Donkin inquiry." The Record, at this time, will not attempt any defence of the management of the Waterford Mine. The Record is not in a clear enough position to say a word either in condemnation or commendation of the management, for the simple reason that no evidence published has connected the two officials named with the causes leading to the disaster.

The Record has knowledge to the effect that the verdict of the jury published diverged in a very important particular from what may be termed the "draft" verdict. In the verdict as first drawn out the names of a number of officials, some higher and some lower, were given as entitled to severe censure. Why did the jury expunge those names from the verdict returned in court? Did the jurors, on second thoughts, realize that the evidence was too general to warrant them in connecting particular officials with blame? Had the jury evidence sufficient to show that the disaster was due to culpable negligence on the part of one or two minor officials? To lack of supervision and discipline on the part of some higher official? or to a woeful error of judgment on the part of the responsible management of the mine? If the jury had such evidence why were they not honest enough, and straightforward and courageous enough, to name the officials and point to the evidence which convicted them of either culpable negligence, or of unfitness for their positions

owing to an inexcusable display of ignorance and incapacity? Was the jury in a position to assert beyond question where the accident happened, we mean the exact spot in the mine? Was the jury in a position to say that the ventilation in every part of the mine was wholly inadequate? To the first of these questions the Record affirms they were not, and this affirmation is made in face of the fact that the experts on the Donkin enquiry have given all but a definite opinion as to the exact place in which the explosion originated. The Donkin Commission said that no part of the force of the explosion had escaped by way of the shot hole; and that part had escaped as flame down through the cleavage, promoting a gas or a dust and gas explosion. The commission, in the Record's opinion, made here a vital omission necessary to a reasonable comprehension of the position. It failed to say whether the only partially effective shot had released a somewhat extensive pocket of gas, or whether, when the supposed firing of the shot took place, there was gas in the place with which the flame of the shot could communicate. If the latter, the question arises, How came it there? Had the examiner been given explicit instructions easily comprehended, in reference to examinations for gas, and the method to be employed for its expulsion when encountered. If the management had done its duty in this respect then, to borrow a sentiment from the Coal Mine Regulation Act, they had taken "reasonable precautions" in respect to gas in working places. A compliance with the demand in the resolution is equal to a summary conviction and swift condemnation of the two officials named therein. Ah, but it is much more than that. It is a condemnation and conviction of the coroner's jury; of the experts on the Donkin Commission; of the management of the Dominion Coal Coy., and of the Nova Scotia Department of Mines. Three of them may have been guilty of indiscretions that cannot well be atoned for. The sin of the fourth may have been one of omission. But alleged to be guilty one or all, surely, surely in the interest of common decency and common British precedent, each and all of them must be given opportunity, before their reputations are blasted, to prove, or at least attempt to prove, their innocence.

The Dominion Coal Co. cannot afford to comply with the threat in the resolution. If its management believes that the disaster was accidental and the causes that led to it beyond the power of officials to foresee, then it cannot be expected to accept the assertion in the resolution before submission of the proof. If, however, it admits that certain of its officials were guilty of neglect, and steps had been taken for a proper discipline, then the threat loses its point and effect. Should, however, it concede to the request for dismissal, a request based on grounds which up to the time of its making it had not given consideration to, the management leaves itself open, possibly, to a charge of having a mantle of mercy which smothers a correct sense of justice.

Turning to the resolution we read:

"Whereas the Special Commission appointed by the Government of Nova Scotia found the method of mining adopted by the officials of Dominion No. 12 Mine made impracticable the airing of that mine."

We have before us the report of the commission and nowhere in it can we discover such finding as stated in the above extract. Indeed in the report occur these words:—"Our duty appeared to us to be to determine in what part of the mine the explosion occurred, what was the cause of the explosion, and to suggest such recommendations as would make for greater safety in the future."

In summing up, the commission reports:—

"In view of the evidence touching this lamentable accident, we beg to submit the following recommendation, and trust that your honorable Government will, in the interests of the safety of life, approve of the issuing of instructions or the enactments of legislation that will give these recommendations effect.

"Where balances, cross-outs or other single places are driven, we recommend that to prevent accumulations of gas a more effective means of directing the air to the faces should be adopted than the practice we found in some cases obtaining in No. 12 Colliery.

"The Deputy Inspectors should be instructed to accompany as often as necessary mine examiners on their regular examination rounds to satisfy themselves that such examinations are made within the time required by the Coal Mines Regulation Act and that the reports of such examinations are in strict accordance with the facts as found.

"The Coal Mines Regulation Act should be so amended that the examiners shall be required to state the approximate quantity of gas when found in any of the places they have examined."

The only grounds the framers of the resolution have for the statement that "the method of mining made impracticable the airing of that mine," is the recommendation of the commission that "a more effective means of directing the air to the working faces should be adopted." We do not think that there is any justification for reading into these words the view that the method of ventilation was impracticable or, in plain terms, reprehensible. Possibly it may be assumed, from what the commission said, that the method of ventilation was not wholly modern, but it may not be inferred from their recommendation that any shortcomings were wholly heinous. The Record may not say the methods of ventilation were not faulty; we are ready, however, to maintain that the commission has not declared that they were so bad as to justify the demand for the removal of the officials without permitting them a word in their own defence.

The resolution not only asks the Dominion Coal Coy. to remove these men but for the moment to cancel their certificates. Surely, of leaders of a miners' union, it may be expected that they are at least a little familiar with the Coal Mines Regulation Act. The Act lays down a course of procedure in such cases as the one being dealt with. For the Department of Mines to dismiss any mine manager summarily without a full, free and fair trial would be for the Department to fly in the face of the Act for which it is chiefly, if not wholly, responsible. To make this clear let the sections of the Coal Mine Regulation Act bearing on cancellations, be quoted:

"6. If at any time representation is made to the Commissioner by the Inspector or any other person that any manager, underground manager, overman

or mine examiner, holding a certificate under this Chapter, is by reason of incompetency, drunkenness or gross negligence unfit to discharge his duty, or has been convicted of an offence against this Chapter the Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, inquire into the conduct of such manager, underground manager, overman or mine examiner; and with respect to such inquiry the following provisions shall have effect:

- (a) The inquiry shall be public, and shall be held at such place as the Commissioner directs;
- (b) The Commissioner shall, before the commencement of the inquiry, furnish the person into whose conduct the inquiry is to be made, with a statement of the case upon which the inquiry is instituted;
- (c) The person into whose conduct the inquiry is to be made may attend the inquiry by himself, his solicitor or agent, and may, if he thinks fit, be sworn and examined as a witness in the case;
- (d) The Commissioner shall have the power to cancel or suspend the certificate of the person into whose conduct the inquiry has been made if he finds that he is, by reason of incompetency, drunkenness or gross negligence, unfit to discharge his duty, or has been convicted of an offence against this Chapter;
- (e) The Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, require the person into whose conduct the inquiry is to be made to deliver up his certificate, and if such person fails without sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to comply with such requisition, he shall be guilty of an offence against this Chapter. The Commissioner shall hold the certificate so delivered up until the conclusion of the inquiry, and shall then either restore, cancel or suspend the same according to his judgment in the case;
- (f) The Commissioner may also by summons under his hand require the attendance of all such persons as he thinks fit to call before him and examine for the purpose of the inquiry, and every person so summoned shall be allowed to be a witness attending on a subpoena before the Supreme Court."

These sections are evidence that the "demand" on the Government to cancel certificates cannot for a moment be entertained, until a stated procedure is complied with. A shipmaster casts his vessel on the rocks. The owners of the vessel may summarily dismiss him, but his master's certificate can neither be suspended nor cancelled until after a full and fair trial before the Board instituted for the purpose of dealing with such cases.

The demand for the dismissal of the Deputy Inspector is not open to the objections that may be put forward against cancellation of certificates for the simple reason that the Government Council may at any time send a deputy about his business, but if that indefinable body did such a thing, on the immediate demand of any person or any body of men, it would leave itself open to a charge of the sordidest kind of pusillanimity. To the Record it looks as if the demand for the dismissal of the Deputy means at the same time a demand that the officials of the Department of Mines, from the Deputy Commission up vigorously pull their own noses. Will they do this?

The resolution in reference to the Dominion Coal Coy. and the Nova Scotia Coal Co.'s areas is in comparison with the other, a tame affair. While in the dismissal resolution certain things are "demanded" in the matter of the coal areas, a mild "request," without hint of a threat is preferred. All the same the resolution is a heavy slap at the Provincial Government, who are claimed to be the custodians of all coal areas in the province. The subject matter of the resolution is not a new thing. The Provincial Government, for years, has been striving after a solution of the problem. In a sense, as the writer may show in an article to be published, if nothing intervenes, by and by, the whole trouble over certain submarine areas is due to the fact that the predecessors of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. at Sydney Mines were lacking in vision.

OFFICIALS AND COMPANY INDICTED.

The Glace Bay Gazette of 1st November gives the following in reference to the action of the Grand Jury in reference to the cases of two officials of the Dominion Coal Company, a Deputy Inspector of Mines, and the Dominion Coal Company. It is regrettable that a synopsis of the evidence to the jury cannot be given. It is to be hoped that every opportunity will be given to all interested to give evidence that will throw needed light on the disaster. Neither the coroner's jury nor the Government commission have measured up to what the public had a right to expect for them. More light undoubtedly is needed before a conclusion is come to:—

"Yesterday the grand jury brought in a true bill of manslaughter in the case of A. McEachern, superintendent of mines, A. R. McDonald, manager, and Michael McIntosh, inspector of mines, who are charged with manslaughter of the 65 men who lost their lives in the explosion in No. 12 mine on July 25. The corporation as well as the individual has been indicted and a true bill of criminal negligence was brought in against the Dominion Coal Co.

"D. A. Cameron, K. C., crown prosecutor, is desirous of trying the case on Friday, but as the defense will thus have only one day to prepare a case, it is anticipated that a continuance will be granted. If a continuance is granted a special sitting of the Supreme Court may be held, as the next sitting does not take place until February.

"Ten witnesses, including three examiners, two brattice men, one timberman and several other workmen, some of whom were in hospital during the former investigation and not examined then, were examined yesterday. The depositions taken in the coroner's inquest at Waterford and in the provincial government investigation were before the jury yesterday. Of the jury, Robert Reid is the only one from Glace Bay.

"For the prosecution E. McK. Forbes, barrister, Glace Bay, is acting with Mr. Cameron, crown prosecutor. For the present Walter Crowe, K. C., Sydney, is acting for the defense, but it is understood that H. Mellish, K. C., Halifax, will conduct the case when it comes before the Supreme Court."

THE CREATOR AND PRODUCER OF WEALTH.

"Most thinking persons are agreed that Labor Unionism is based on sound economic principles, that it has a compelling message to present to

society, and that it represents one of the greatest and most significant forces of modern civilization. Its chief objects are a fair deal as between Capital and Labor, greater industrial efficiency, co-operation between workers for mutual protection, for the redress of grievances, and the removal of social and economic inequalities. Its final purpose is to secure for the workingman—the producer and creator of wealth—the position in organized society which is rightly his. Rationally expressed and properly understood, the message which Unionism has to submit must carry conviction to every reflecting mind, and enlist the sympathy and co-operation of every enlightened person."—Sydney Post.

The foregoing may be accepted as a prevailing opinion of the day, as expressed by a present day journalist. Taken as a whole the paragraph is worthy of perusal. Its beauty, however, is marred by a half dozen of words permitted, in the hurry of the call for copy, to slip in. These words are where it is said, of the workingman, that he is "the producer and creator of wealth." The short answer to that is, he is neither. Were we inclined to be critical we would say that if trades unionism believes that its members are creators and producers of all wealth, then trades unionism is not based on sound economic principles, but on an economical fallacy. In the production or the creation of wealth, labor does not play the leading part, which many, in a new gotten zeal ascribe to it. It may be nearer the truth to say that it does not assume even a secondary part, and that may be said without the slightest detracting from the dignity of labor. There are socialists who say that the workingman is entitled to all he produces. Were that so, then there would be no place for employers, and little necessity for wealth or capital. Looked at from one angle such a statement is startlingly puzzling. The miner produces a box of coal. Well, let us say he is entitled to it. But of what value is it lying at the front of the face. The loader fills the coal in the box and says, "The coal is mine, I loaded it." The engineman says it is his because, unless he hoisted it, it was valueless. They all forget that there would be no entrance to the pit and no way of getting the coal to the surface unless capital, wealth, had first played a part. The workingman cannot well be the creator of wealth. The chief factor tending to the steadily increasing accumulation of wealth in its varied forms is the vast and varied resources of nature. And next comes brains. To rightly utilize nature's resources skill, ingenuity, vision, in short brains, are essential. Every thinking body must admit that if there has been tremendous addition to the wealth of the world in the last century or more, it is attributable in best part to the work of men of genius and vision, to organizers, to men of push and force, who have compelled nature to yield of her treasures in increasing abundance. No doubt the workingman has many just demands, but those cannot be based, as some strive to do, on the assertion that the wealth that has been, and is being made, has come out of the pores of the bodies of the workingmen, or that it was created by the vigor with which he manipulated his fingers and his thumbs. A labor leader cannot possibly well be prevented from trying to impress his followers with the breadth of his views when he shouts, "Men, you are the creators and producers, and therefore entitled to all," but surely we may

ask, with proper humility, even writers for political purposes to refrain from statements whose tendency is to make certain unthinking folks attach an inflated importance to the positions they occupy in the making of a country. We absolve the writer in the Post from any desire to beguile the workmen. He simply, without study, fell into the repetition of a frequently heard, and yet wholly erroneous assertion.

• Rubs by Rambler. •

Referring to the resolution of the A. M. W. for the discharge of certain New Waterford mine officials, the Halifax Herald of 30th ult says:—

"Premier Murray was in Sydney on the day following the passing of the resolution, and was a witness of the excitement that has been caused. On his arrival in Halifax he would find awaiting him a copy of the resolution and a letter from Secretary McLachlan. The premier was not willing to discuss the matter at any length until he looked into what has been done by the attorney-general's department. It was Mr. Murray's opinion that the verdict of the coroner's jury and the report of the special commission appointed by the government would be the basis for action in due time, and that the courts of the country would arrive at the decision in regard to the placing of guilt.

"The claim is made in defense of the three officials that the man who was really to blame was killed in the explosion. The miners of New Waterford indignantly deny this accusation."

The third sentence in the foregoing extract is a little puzzling. If the Attorney-General had taken action before the resolution was passed there would be considerable satisfaction in knowing at whose instance or instigation it was taken. The coroner's jury said there was blame attachable to certain of the officials. The Attorney-General could not take any sensible action until he knew who he was to proceed against. How did he find out the names of the parties the jury referred to? He could not have got them from the commission, unless that body was guilty in its report of a suppression of the whole truth, and we dare not entertain such idea for a moment. The claim made by those who defend the officials may have more in it than the mere wish to show sympathy. The Record is bound to speak according to its light, fall friend or fall foe. Just think for a moment over the finding of the commission as to what occasioned the explosion. It was caused "by the flame of the shot escaping by a cleavage in the coal and communicating with gas." What gas? Why was it there? Why was the gas not removed? Whose duty was it to remove it? Was the shot fired without the place being brushed? If the shot was fired, while gas was in the place, was it a violation of the law? If it was, who was responsible for the violation? These questions answered may convince the fair-minded that the friends of the officials may have at least a plausible defence to offer.

• • • • •

Is Murray anybody? It might be impolitic for Rambler to say aye or no. So your readers will be

left to judge. Here is what the Eastern Chronicle says:—

"Worse and worse, Premier Murray is giving the Borden government the support of his government! The Liberal party may well say to Premier Murray, It would be all very well to dissemble your love, but why do you kick us down stairs!

"The Liberals are not fools, or children. They can manage their own affairs without dictation from anyone, even if that anyone is Premier Murray or Hon. W. S. Fielding.

"In the presence of these facts could not Premier Murray give Sir Wilfrid and the Liberals a chance to work out their own salvation? What is he butting in for? Sir Wilfrid understands the Liberals of Nova Scotia and their principles; they understand him and have that confidence in him that he will never ask them to sacrifice those principles for his sake. Why then should Premier Murray get in between the Liberals and their leader.

"Hon. Mr. Murray makes the grave mistake all throughout his statement that he and his union associates, East and West, are the Liberal party. They are not the Liberal party and Premier Murray and his cabinet have no license to speak for the Liberal party in Federal politics."

"That Premier Murray has not been left without a friend is evidenced by the following from the North Sydney Herald, a perfervid grit:—

"From a provincial point of view, Nova Scotia is to be congratulated on retaining the services of Premier Murray. Valuable as his services would be to the country at Ottawa, it would be a great blow to Nova Scotia to lose him. Mr. Murray's political record is unique, and his position before the people of this Province is so strong that it is without a parallel, having regard to the fact that he is now in the twenty-second year of his premiership. Nova Scotia certainly would hate to exchange him for any man whomsoever in Canada."

Premier Murray is not the only one who comes in for a cuff. The Eastern Chronicle has something to say of Mr. Fielding. For instance:—

"For fourteen years the Liberals of Nova Scotia and the Liberals of Quebec worked side by side to keep Hon. Mr. Fielding in power as Finance Minister, and it comes with a poor grace from him, of all public men to cause strife between them. Hon. Mr. Fielding's suggestion that sometime or other the Liberals of Nova Scotia can "co-operate again with Sir Wilfrid and the Quebec Liberals in the maintenance of Liberal principles" is utter nonsense coming from a man who is doing his best to pry them apart. We may have some further comments on Hon. W. S. Fielding sometime; no space to-day. It will do today to say that since he caused the defeat of the Liberal party in 1911, he has been living in a cave of Adullam. Sir Wilfrid stayed, took what was coming to him and did what he could to bind up the wounds of his party. Now, after a lapse of six years, Hon. W. S. Fielding comes out to knife his old leader and his old party. We hope we won't say anything out of the way when we come to words with him; at present all we say is that it would have become him better had he remained in his cave, for we assure him that Liberals think mighty little of

his chattering since he came out. One would have thought that Liberal leaders would indignantly protest and they did, but instead of standing by their party in the ignominious plight that the Borden government had pushed them into they threw up their hands and cried, "Kamerad, Kamerad!" like trapped Germans on the battlefields in Flanders. Who would have thought a couple of months ago that Liberal leaders such as Carvell, Rowell, Fielding, McLean, et al, would kiss the hands of those who smote their party with a political club similar to that which was used by President Kruger in South Africa on the English and is constantly being used by petty tyrants in the South American republics?"

Referring to the meeting in Sydney of the A. M. W. Association a Cape Breton paper says:—"A noteworthy fact in connection with the meetings held during the week was the marked sobriety among the miners and the absence of anything like disorder at any of the meetings."

Why "noteworthy"? Was it expected that the miners would conduct themselves like hooligans? True, the new society has eliminated from its objects the fostering of thrift, industry and sobriety, but surely it was not thought that this elimination was equivalent to an intention that its members could get full as fiddlers and paint Sydney red and no questions asked. They surely did not think they could kick up any old caper in Sydney and be immune from the consequences? Did the newspaper think they might set the cops at defiance and exclaim, "Touch us if you dare. If you do the executive of the A. M. W. will give you mayor twenty-four hours to apologize and pay damages, or else all the miners in Nova Scotia will be commanded to go idle two days a week if you don't?" Levity aside, some papers by the way they write lead country people to imagine that good behaviour on the part of miners is the exception, something "noteworthy," the exception and not the rule. There was a meeting of ministers in New Glasgow a few weeks ago. There were four times as many as there were delegates of the A. M. W. in Sydney. Many newspapers took notice of the meeting, and yet not one of them recorded it as remarkable that they all kept sober and behaved themselves. Why was their good behaviour not commended? Simply because people expected they would behave becomingly. The P. W. A., the union which the A. M. W. has superseded, had conferences in Halifax and other towns for thirty-five years, and in that time no newspaper expressed wonderment that every jack man of them could make his exit from the city or town without the aid of a friendly arm, a charity ambulance, or a borrowed wheelbarrow. Though the injunction as to sobriety has been deleted from the constitution, the papers had no right to think that a precipitate fall was sure to follow.

Commenting on an Ottawa despatch to the Herald which claimed that Murray's statement had the approval of many of the leading Liberals in Nova Scotia the Eastern Chronicle utters this timely warning and caution to "ca canny":—

"In connection with this extract from the Herald we may state that if Mr. Sinclair approves of the extraordinary debacle of some Liberals he has carefully concealed his approval from his political

friends in Guysborough and Antigonish. We believe that the Herald misrepresents Mr. Sinclair. However, if there is any taint of the apostasy of other politicians clinging to Mr. Sinclair the wholesome loyalty of the Atlantic winds in Guysborough and on the highlands of Antigonish will send it glimmering.

If true concerning Hon. R. M. MacGregor it may have serious consequences to his party in this county, to himself and others. So far there is not a breath of suspicion of disloyalty to his party against Mr. E. M. MacDonald. His friends expect him to run in this county as a straight Liberal. In the contest sure to come where will Hon. R. M. MacGregor stand? Behind E. M. MacDonald, Liberal, or behind Mr. Alex. McGregor, Conservative, and supporter of Hon. A. K. McLean?"

I am so pleased with the foregoing extracts that I can heartily say "Carry on, carry on."

The Halifax Herald calls upon its readers to beware of sudden conversions, and yet it may be hard to pick out from among the sudden political conversions of the past ten or more days a more sudden and startling one than that of the editor of the Herald himself. Why, in an issue ten days ago he had an article so effusively laudatory of Premier Murray that the poor chap blushed as the boys shouted, "The Halifax Herald on Murray." The Herald declared Murray to be the most amiable of gentlemen. Go easy. Murray has been known to "get mad," and when in that mood to be as obstinate as D. D. or, to use a pet phrase, "as they make them." Some hope he got mad when he read the threatening resolutions concocted by fellows on whose heads he had heaped—at least tried to—coals of fire! The Record joins in the hope. If he keeps in a proper mad mood till the 17th November then the demand of the A. M. W. will be fittingly answered.

THE TWO RESOLUTIONS.

(Sydney Post.)

Two rather sensational developments occurred yesterday afternoon, one, the calling for the dismissal of New Waterford officials and the other the despatch of a telegram to Fuel Controller McGrath asking him to come immediately to Nova Scotia. The telegram to the fuel controller was in the form of the following resolution:

"Whereas, a condition exists in Cape Breton county which prevents the production of coal and the development of coal areas and tends to increase the price of coal;

"And whereas details of this condition show that coal areas of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company are bounded and broken by coal areas of the Dominion Coal Company thus preventing the development and the fullest production, greatly increasing the cost thereof and working a hardship on working men;

"And whereas full information concerning these conditions are in possession of the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia, now in annual convention at Sydney;

"Therefore resolved that this convention instruct its secretary to immediately communicate with the fuel controller of Canada acquainting him with these conditions and request him with a view towards materially increasing coal production to come to Nova Scotia or send a representative and use what in-

Continued on page 14

AROUND THE COLLIERIES

NEW WATERFORD MINERS AND THE A.M.W.

The Chronicle's Sydney correspondent writes:—"The break of one of the most important locals with the A. M. W. executive is the first the new association has experienced." Of a truth, but could a break have occurred sooner seeing the new association is only cutting its teeth.

In last issue we spoke of what a beggar would do if put on horse back. From New Waterford comes the news that a particular beggar arrived at the goal in record time.

Said Solomon, "Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird." The New Waterford men are now wondering what sort of little chickens they were to hop right in.

The chuckle of the Glace Bay Gazette, when it read the New Waterford local resolution, was of the jubilant order.

Bide a wee. There will be more breaks yet if the executive does not cease its gander gabble.

The old saw is, "Marry in haste, repent at leisure." The New Waterford adaptation is, "Join in haste and repent in a hurry."

"The product of a fanatical and unbalanced mind," so says the New Waterford local of the Sydney resolution. The moral is plain. Alexander the Great did not approve of elephants being led by goats. To be led by unbalanced minds is unthinkable.

And the sad reflection is the locals, that the vote of the members made the passage of the Sydney resolution possible.

The Record regrets that the New Waterford resolution, which contains a dozen or more excellent texts, did not come in time to permit of a dozen sermonettes. The S. O. R. sign was up.

There shall be no hanging without a hearing declare the New Waterford miners.

In 38 years the executive of the P. W. A. were never so slapped in the face, for the simple reason they never had been guilty of so crass folly.

For the seven months ending July some 220,000 less tons of Canadian coal were imported into the United States than in the same period of 1916.

For the seven months ending July last Canada imported from the United States about 1,350,000 tons more coal than in the 7 months of 1916. It would be satisfactory to know how much of this increase is due to shortage of Nova Scotian shipments to Montreal.

The Sydney Record of 29th ult. says:—"When the Grand Jury meets to-morrow morning it is understood that the crown prosecutor will ask that the jury investigate the circumstances in connection with the explosion at No. 12 mine, New Waterford in July last. A number of witnesses will probably be sent before the Grand Jury. In event of an indictment being found it is altogether likely that it will go over until the February term."

A spokesman of the A. M. W. says that an increase in wages of the Nova Scotia miners will be asked for, bringing the wages up to what they are in the West. All right. A corollary of that is Western prices for coal. In Vancouver coal is nine dollars a ton.

Here is something from the Coal Trade Journal which goes to show that the leaders of a Union may educate their following into an undesirable idea of independence:—"One of the peculiarities of the bituminous situation, at the present time, is the fact that the U. M. W. leaders do not seem to be able to control their constituency. They are acting independently and making demands without the sanction of the officials. All this means a lessened tonnage at a time when coal is so much in demand."

The citizens of Springhill are to be commended for refraining to attach to the motion to interview the government any irrational demand, or silly threat if a demand was not complied with. Had they been less in earnest they would have sought a little profitless notoriety by adding to the motion a threat that if the government did not lend a willing ear and take bona fide action by a specified date, they would ask all the miners in Nova Scotia to work only two days a week, after the expiry of a set time.

It is declared that at a meeting a while ago, as stated exclusively in the Record at the time—the "word" exclusively is used for the benefit of certain of our contemporaries who are prone to yelp the word—at Sydney Mines the leading officials of the A. M. W. declared that before he was done with them there would be a whole lot behind prison bars, from the Commissioner of Mines down. A beginning has been made in the direction indicated, but the commencement is not at the head. My! would not it be interesting to see (the sober face of the Commissioner of Mines pressed between the bars, shouting for Jimmie and saying, as Jonah said to the whale, "Let me out, let me out." Seriously, let every one who is culpable be brought to account, but let it be done without wholly unnecessary gestulation.

The following may be applicable in some measure to Nova Scotia:

"It can fairly be said, in view of the very serious condition which confronts the coal producing interests, that the opportunities for any great increase in production are, to say the least, doubtful. It has been stated in the columns of this journal that the whole situation depends upon the activity of labor. Evidently this part of the community throughout the United States does not come forward as it should in regard to helping out the very strenuous condition which exists in the coal producing field. Coal is so absolutely the foundation of all other industries, that one must view the present conditions as most serious, to say the least."—Coal Trade Journal.

Around the Collieries.

The Glace Bay Gazette fell from grace the other day when it condescended to notice a remark of the secretary of the A. M. W. to the effect that to him the Gazette was an "abomination." Why did the Gazette retort by saying it held the secretary in similar esteem? Where was its pride when it took the slightest notice of the remark? If the Gazette wishes to snipe Jimmie the Record herewith furnishes him with material for a good shot. Let him put this one to the secretary: "James, you announced in trumpet tones, say two or three months ago, that as soon as certain of your desired objects had been accomplished there would be so phenomenal an increase in the output from the mines that those who slighted the force of the A. M. W. would stand dumbfounded. James, you have gained your objects, but so far there has not been the increase of a single ton to the total output. Dear James, kindly tell an expectant public about what time they may look for a fulfilment of your vociferous promise?" A question like that is legitimate and rest assured it will prove effective in preserving the peace.

It will be noticed from a reading of the findings of the commission of the New Waterford explosion that two of their recommendations refer to the examinations of the mines for gas, etc. The Record thinks it is scarcely necessary to clog the Coal Mines Regulation Act with too many details when the object aimed at may be attained in a very easy manner. At least three of the coal companies use forms which are filled in every day by the examiners, and if the examiners can be relied upon at all, the answers to the questions in the forms supply the necessary information which every manager of a coal mine should possess. Here are a few of the questions which the Night Examiner must answer:

Time entered mine, and by what way.

Working and other places visited.

Any gas? Where and cause?

Any working places requiring timbering for safety?

Have you left your initials and date on each place visited?

What time did you commence to examine workings?

Did you examine all places giving off gas within three hours of men entering places?

Time left mine. By whom relieved and when?

If the examiner is a reliable man, and it is the blame of the manager or superintendent if he is not, the proper officials should have knowledge of the state of the workings. One other question might be added, though it is embodied in a number of the special rules, "What steps were taken, or ordered to be taken, for the removal of the gas? What was the quantity of gas in places giving it off?" The objection to a set form of questions is that they become a matter of mere routine and mechanical repetition. If they do the manager can select, on occasions, a sleuth to follow the examiner a half hour after the examiner has begun his rounds, and afterwards compare notes. If these differ he should know the reason why, and be governed accordingly.

A peculiar Draegar fatal accident occurred at the Albion Mines ten days ago. To save the necessity of writing, the following account, which is similar to the information received by the Record, is taken from the Evening News:—"It seems that a connection was being established between the Purvis seam slope and the Albion colliery. Places were being driven up hill and down hill to meet. When they came within a few feet of each other the lower place being very gassy, extra precautions were observed. A connection was bored through and a pipe inserted to drain the gas off. The gas however, did not pass off as anticipated and it was decided to punch the hole through yesterday. Eddie Hall and his butty put in their shift without mishap and were followed by Rod Martin and his butty. The men wore the Draegar apparatus. Mr. Martin was captain of a company of five men. Before leaving the surface the helmets, etc., were carefully examined. Each man examined not only his own outfit but the outfits of the other men as well. Martin and his butty proceeded to the working face and the other three men remained a little distance away in reserve. It seems that Martin found his helmet was not working as it should for he suddenly said to the man with him, "Let's get out quick," and he started out on the run. He reached the slope, where he collapsed and fell. The men with him placed him on a timber trolley and had him taken to the surface as quickly as possible. On arrival there the helmet was removed, but it was found that the spark of life had fled.

The verdict in the case of the death of Martin, of the Stellarton Draegar Corps, was that the deceased had met his death from suffocation through a defective Draegar apparatus. The jury could not say when or where the defect occurred. The doctor who was called when Martin was brought to the surface affirmed that the deceased had died from suffocation. A witness declared that Martin did not die from want of oxygen, as the machine was still running, and could be heard running, when the helmet was taken off. Evidently there are things yet to learn about the workings of the Draegar.

A man equipped with a Draegar cannot discover for himself how much or how little he is using of the oxygen or, when he reaches a given point, how much further he can go with what remains. The gauge is on his back and his butty has to read it for him. To the uninitiated it seems strange that a device cannot be invented that would give the wearer of the apparatus indication of the rate and amount of consumption of the oxygen. If a device cannot be made to carry necessary indications to the front of the wearer's body where he may read for himself, why could not a buzzer be attached to the dial of the apparatus and also a bell, the buzzer to attract the attention of the Draegar wearer that the bell was about to sound. If the bell sounded one, that meant that 30 minutes oxygen had been used, if the bell struck two, 60 minutes oxygen had gone, and so on. Could not the lack of pressure which causes the hands on the dial to move round be made to do an additional service. An improvement is needed in order to give confidence to the Draegar men, otherwise they may become timid and fear is fatal to the efficiency of a Draegar man and the likeliest thing to bring the apparatus into disrepute.

Referring to the discovery of coal in Antigonish County the Eastern Chronicle says:—"Messrs Henry and James McNeil and Messrs. William Glendenning and Isaac Conway, report that they have found the long sought for coal seam at Big Marsh, Antigonish County. They have sunk a slope down for 90 feet and driven a tunnel on the seam over 40 feet. The seam, they say, is over five feet of excellent coal. It is stated that the reason the seam was not discovered by other prospectors was that it dips opposite to what the geologists stated. That is quite possible as the strata is somewhat broken in that region. If our advice were any good it would be for the finders to prospect under ground very thoroughly before going to large expense. Of course, geologists are only geologists, but we would rather have the find dip in the direction indicated by them."

The advice contained in the foregoing is wise and timely. There have been instances in Nova Scotia of rare folly, in spending a small fortune overground before what was underground had been even partially ascertained. Take Macean Station mine for example. Very many thousands of dollars were spent in the erection of an elaborate plant, and after that was done the coal below was wanting. And this is only one of several instances.

SPRINGHILL AND GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

(Halifax Herald, Oct. 30th.)

More effective governmental control of the coal areas of Nova Scotia was forcibly advocated at a meeting of the citizens of Springhill last evening, when a committee was appointed to interview the provincial government upon the possibility of opening up new workings in this area. The meeting was attended by the leading business men of the town and all the Protestant clergy, while members of the A. M. W. crowded the remainder of the town hall.

In his opening speech, Mayor A. B. Wilson stated that the present situation of the town was a precarious one. A few years ago four slopes were in working condition. The Dominion Coal Company has been forced to abandon three of these, owing to fire and other causes, leaving only the west slope in full operation. The north slope, recently flooded to extinguish a fire, was still full of water, and the present pumping equipment seemed unable to cope with the task of emptying it. If a disaster like that of the New Waterford mine should occur in the one slope working to-day, or if, as was more probable, the seam should be worked out, the town would be left without industries. The mayor suggested that it was time for the citizens to take action upon a situation which imperilled the very life of the town. He himself had interviewed General Manager MacDougall about the matter, finding Mr. MacDougall fully alive to its seriousness. He would suggest that a citizens' committee be appointed to bring the whole situation before President Workman, of the Dominion Coal Company.

The discussion which followed showed that the meeting felt that a most speedy action was necessary if the future of the town was to be secured, and it was finally moved by H. S. Terris that the citizens of Springhill appoint a committee to go to Halifax and interview the provincial government upon the

subject of the opening up of a new slope. This was carried unanimously, Mayor Wilson and Messrs. Daniel Murray and Daniel Matheson being appointed as the committee.

The importance of the whole matter lies in the fact that Springhill is a single industry town. In this it differs from most Nova Scotian communities. If the mines close down, the town closes down with them. Only about half the number of men employed four years ago are employed to-day. Unless drastic action is taken, the future looks very dark.

Continued from page 11

fluence might be necessary to thus effectively enlarge the much-needed supply of coal."

Demands Dismissal of Employees.

The following resolution regarding the explosion at New Waterford was adopted:

"Whereas, sixty-five miners lost their lives in the explosion which took place July 25th last at New Waterford;

"Whereas the coroner's jury which made enquiry into the deaths of these sixty-five men found that the gross irregularity of mining as followed in this mine has been largely responsible for the retention of gas thereby causing an explosion resulting in the death of these men, and find the officials guilty of gross neglect;

"Whereas the special commission appointed by the Government of Nova Scotia found the method of mining adopted by the officials of Dominion No. 12 mine made impracticable the airing of that mine;

"And whereas, notwithstanding the fact that these findings have been made public by the coroner's jury and special commissioner, and neither the Dominion Coal Company nor the provincial government has taken any action whatever to remove these officials nor cancel the government certificates held by these officials;

"Therefore be it resolved that this convention of the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia demand of the Dominion Coal Company that Alex. McEachern, superintendent of the New Waterford district; Angus R. MacDonald, manager of No. 12 mine, and McLeod McIntosh, deputy inspector of mines be dismissed from their present positions and be given no official jobs in any of the said company's mines, and that we demand that the government of this province cancel the mining certificates held by these men;

"Be it further resolved, that this convention give the Dominion Coal Company and the government of Nova Scotia until November 15, 1917, to remove these men and in the event of their still being in the job at that date that we ask the miners of the province to remain idle on Wednesday and Saturday of each week until these men are removed;

"Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the fuel controller, the minister of labor, Hon. G. H. Murray, premier of Nova Scotia, and to Mr. Mark Workman, president of the Dominion Coal Company."

(Continued from page 6.)

ment might in the last resort be elected by the work-people. If the industry were to succeed it would be the manager who could make it go, who would get and keep power, and the qualities he would require are just those which the successful employer of our own time displays. The revolt against State Socialism which the Guild expresses is largely due to the dawning perception that the State, though in theory democratic, is in industry as hard as another master, and rather more irritating in its mechanical ways. The Guild is a refuge from the State, but would in fact evolve very similar characteristics, because these emerge from the nature of industry rather than the imperfections of institutions. That the trade union is in any way a suitable body for conducting industry the Guild does not attempt to show. What is pretty certain is that if national Guilds could be set up trade unions would, after no very long interval, arise within them to defend the special interests of the worker as against the general interests of the industry. A trade union is not a Guild, and cannot be transformed into one without abandoning its proper and socially useful functions. Nor will the State if it nationalizes any industry be so complaisant as at once to relinquish control in favour of a section of its people, nor so inconsequent as to spoil the property which it takes over by eliminating from its management all the men of experience and special capacity.

H.

"Steady, all of us! There is a virulent fever in the air. We must prescribe the medicine of a sane, national sentiment. Call in Dr. Bull. Take long breaths and long views."—John Bull.

Says H. G. Wells.

"Thank heaven for President Wilson, that man of English blood and tradition who can say for Englishmen what apparently they may not say for themselves."—Daily Mail.

The Official Mind.

"Officer (to guard on bridge of transport): 'Send that man down here.'

"Guard: 'There ain't no man here, sir.'

"Officer: 'But I see one.'

"Guard: 'He ain't a man, sir. He's a sergeant.'"

—Tit-Bits.

General—

fvvv.

Misunderstood.

"Officer (whilst examining recruit): 'Got any scars on you?'

"'No; but I've got some cigarettes over there in my coat.'"—Tit-Bits.

The Officer Passes.

"'Wot's that 'ere red edging round 'is shoulder-straps for?'

"'Don't yer know? It's that red tape we 'ear so much about!'"—Passing Show.

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Synopsis of Coal Mines Regulations.

COAL mining rights of the Dominion, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the North-West Territories and in a portion of the province of British Columbia, may be leased for a term of twenty-one years, renewal for a further term of 21 years at an annual rental of \$1 an acre. Not more than 2500 acres will be leased to one applicant.

Application for a lease must be made by the applicant in person to the Agent or Sub-Agent of the district in which the rights applied for are situated.

In surveyed territory the land must be described by sections, or legal sub-divisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory, the tract applied for shall be staked out by the applicant himself.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of \$5 which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

The person operating the mine shall furnish the Agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a year.

The lease will include the coal mining rights only, rescinded by Chap. 27 of 4-5 George V. assented to 12th June, 1914.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. W. COBY.

Deputy Minister of the Interior.

N. B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.—83875.

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The Mines Branch maintains the following laboratories in which investigations are made with a view to assisting in the developing of the general mining industries of Canada:—Fuel Testing Laboratory, Ore-Dressing Laboratory, Chemical Laboratory, Ceramic Laboratory, Structural Materials Laboratory.

Application for reports and particulars relative to having investigations made in the several laboratories should be addressed to The Director, Mines Branch, Department of Mines, Ottawa.

R. G. McConnell, Deputy Minister.

Geological Survey.

Recent Publications:

Summary Report of the Geological Survey for the Calendar Year 1916.

MEMOIR 20. Gold fields of Nova Scotia, by Wyatt Malcolm.

MEMOIR 44. Clay and shale deposits of New Brunswick, by J. Keele.

MEMOIR 59. Coal fields and coal resources of Canada, by D. B. Dowling.

MEMOIR 60. Arisaig-Antigonish district of Nova Scotia, by M. Y. Williams.

MEMOIR 78. Wabana iron ore of Newfoundland, by A. O. Hayes.

MAP 63A. Moncton Sheet, Westmorland and Albert Counties.

MAP 150A. Pouchok Lake Sheet, Nova Scotia.

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