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MARITIME MINING RECORD.

JUNE 13. 1917.

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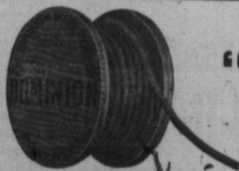
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SOUTHBOUND Superior Div.	STATIONS.	NORTHBOUND Inferior Div.
438.		437.
P. M.		P. M.
3 40	POINT TUFFEL	3 56
3 55	INVERNESS JUNCTION	4 00
3 57	PORT HASTINGS	4 04
3 58	TROY	4 08
3 59	CHERNOBYL	4 12
4 00	CLAYTON	4 16
4 01	JUDIQUE	4 20
4 02	MARYVILLE	4 24
4 03	PORT HOOD	4 28
4 04	GLENDYNE	4 32
4 05	BLACK RIVER	4 36
4 06	STRATHLOON	4 40
4 07	INVERNESS	4 44
4 08		4 48
4 09		4 52
4 10		4 56
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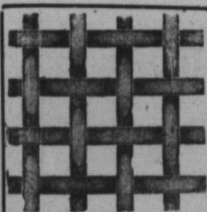
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MARITIME MINING RECORD

Vol. 19

Stellarton, N. S., June 13th., 1917

No. 23

A BRITISH COLUMBIAN VIEW OF ALIEN ORDERS.

The Vancouver Mining and Engineering Journal has as little love for American Mine Workers' Unions as has the Maritime Mining Record. The U. M. W. may be all right in its own place, the United States, but there should be no room made for it in Nova Scotia. Its ideals, and those of, say a union like the P. W. A., are not on the same plane. Nova Scotia mine workers are, in most respects, in advance of those of the workers across the line one reason being that the ranks of labor in the United States are composed, in large part, of illiterate workers from foreign countries. Referring to the stoppage of work at the B. C. mines, and in Alberta, the Vancouver Journal says:—

At the time of writing the mineral industry of the Province is threatened with throttling on account of conditions at the coal mines and coking plants of British Columbia and Alberta. The situation is one concerning which the two governments should get together. These provinces need a Lloyd George to deal with it. The problem of international labor organizations is one that may have to be dealt with by a stern hand. It is just possible that these organizations are the tools of German plotters in the United States, who may be using them to tie up the metal production of Canada so as to hamper the supply of munitions. We know the problem of international labor organization is in some respects a delicate one. Where these organizations are controlled by responsible and reasonable men they are not a subject of complaint, but when they get into the hands of unscrupulous persons operating in a foreign country their existence in Canada should be made impossible.

The railway labor organizations are an instance of splendid management, loyal to the people and the Government. They determined to stand by the Government in the great war, and they have done nobly. Their policy earns for them the appreciation of their employers and of the people in any reasonable adjustments they may hereafter seek. But with the organizations controlling the labor of the coal miners and the smelters it is another matter. We all remember how, a few years ago, when the coal mining industry on Vancouver Island was in the zenith of its prosperity, unscrupulous foreign agitators brought wreck and ruin over the Island mines, causing riots and bloodshed, putting the Government to much needless expense and trouble in maintaining order, shutting down the mines, and forcing unwilling employees into subjection to their demands, delivering to the coal industry a blow from which it has never recovered.

On the Mainland we now see an attempted repeti-

tion of the same thing. The Rossland mines have been shut down, the closing of the Trail, and possibly other smelters is threatened. For nearly a year the smelters have been unable to get sufficient supplies of coke and have had to run with a number of furnaces unable to operate. The result was that the mining industry was so seriously hampered that the production fell short by about \$3,000,000, and that at a time when the highest prices experienced in a quarter of a century were ruling, and the industry in this Province had the finest opportunity ever presented for its development.

GERMANY'S ONE GLEAM OF HOPE.

That deep anxiety is growing in Germany in regard to the military position there can be no doubt. The truth cannot be hidden from the people all the time, still less from all the people all the time. The German Press does its best under official compulsion to obscure facts or to gloss them over by specious comments and explanation, but this is work which can never be done with complete success, and the truth is leaking out. Were it not leaking out, were the people as confident as they were a year ago, there would be no need for this rather hysterical appeal to the nation which Luedendorf has thought it his duty to write. The new situation is unquestionably creating a very deep anxiety among all classes of the people. And it is because of this knowledge that all classes of the population regard the submarine warfare as their only hope of averting complete collapse. They say in effect: The military situation daily grows more hopeless. All our efforts to break the land power of the Allies fail one after the other. Our strength on land does not increase, while the strength of the enemy broadens and intensifies with every week that passes. England's vast resources, in spite of the terrible drain on them, still appear inexhaustible, and so long as they continue inexhaustible there is no prospect of any one of her Allies breaking away. The outlook, dark enough at the beginning of the year, has grown darker still by the adhesion of America to the enemy. There is only one gleam of hope—the starvation of England.

Dr. Brewster, of Dover, New Jersey, stood clad in a bullet-proof jacket and headgear, his own invention, while a soldier, standing sixty feet away, fired a bullet at him from an Army rifle. The bullet was deflected from the jacket without injuring the wearer.

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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R. DRUMMOND, PUBLISHER.

STELLARTON, N. S.

June 13, 1917.

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

It is refreshing to have some arresting remarks on this much-discussed theme. What Prof. D. J. MacDonald says is not new to many, but the points he makes are not, as a rule, reiterated in the press. They are not the kind out of which political capital can be made, and, therefore, such points are studiously avoided by the partisan newspapers. The following extracts of the lecture, which was given last week in Glace Bay, are from the Glace Bay Gazette. It is to be hoped that the editor will read the lecture over several times, and send marked copies to all of his liberal brothers-in-arms. A reading of what was said might lead to a lessening of much rancorous writing:—

The reverend lecturer in opening his remarks drew attention to the importance of the subject and to the countless so-called solutions which are offered for the High Cost of Living. He said: "Next to the war there is no question more discussed to-day than the High Cost of Living. Everybody is talking about it and either giving or seeking reasons for the high prices that prevail. Some blame this, some blame that. The farmer blames the middleman and excessive railway charges, and the railway man blames unscientific farming. The union labor man shouts 'trusts,' and the big manufacturer retorts unionist restriction of output and wages. The Liberals blame the Conservatives, and the Conservatives blame the weather."

Dr. MacDonald went very thoroughly into the question of the increase in the general level of prices. "In recent years," he said, "the supply of money has been increased more rapidly than the demand for it. Therefore, the value of money has been going down, and so prices have risen. The tremendous rise in prices even since the war began may be ascribed largely to the increase in supply of money. The Allies are paying for supplies through issues of bonds, and this excessive bond issue has had evil results. It has sent commodity price up. Prices have gone up not alone because there has been an increase in the amount of actual money in the country, but also because there has been an increase in the amount of substitutes for money.

"But bad as is a period of rising prices, a period of falling prices would be even worse. It is a period of depression. It was to remedy the evils of falling prices that Bryan advocated the free coinage of silver in the presidential campaign of 1896.

"Price depends on demand and supply. The great increase in the prices of food products, then, can be

explained through lessened supply. Several things show us that supply has not kept pace with demand in Canada. People will use about the same amount of the necessities of life, whether the price is high or low. If then there is a shortage of supply, people compete for the usual amount they consumed and prices go up."

The speaker then made some remarks on the great increase in the price of flour and wheat. He said that it was not enough for us to consider the Canadian supply of wheat when talking about the price of flour. In the case of wheat, he remarked, it is the world supply that influences its price and not the supply of any one country. The world supply has not kept pace with the demand, and hence the enhanced price. A part of the price, he said, was due no doubt to speculation. "In Canada, no doubt, part of the price of wheat and flour represents monopoly profit which should be wiped out by the government, but that the price of flour could be kept down to anything like its old price is sheer buncombe!"

In summing up the speaker said, that the high cost of living is due largely to the declining value of gold and to the decreased supply of commodities. The first, he said, is only a hardship in so far as money incomes are distributed unjustly. High prices work hardships to the people whose incomes do not rise so fast as the rise of prices. The solution for this part of the trouble is a little more Christianity, justice and labor union activity. The remedy for the second cause is increased production. "The present increased cost of living may not be such a misfortune after all if it will bring plainer and simpler living. Before the war a taste for luxury had developed—a taste for those things which no longer count as essentials in the life of the individual or of the nation. The present crisis may lead us to estimate a man's worth, not according to his service to the community. The wage-earners of the country who do not at present get their share of the spoils may get a chance in the uneven fight between capital and labor.

"Let us hope that society will distribute its wealth differently. The solution of the problem depends on the spread of a sense of justice, on the spread of altruism, on the sense of the brotherhood of man. We need a greater diffusion of Christian principles. The grasping, selfish abuse of ability and strength is incompatible with the Gospel. It is the selfishness, worldliness and luxury of the higher classes which in a great measure bring about the degradation of the poor. Let us then have more Christianity, let us have a Christian public sentiment that will make men just in their dealings with their neighbors. Let us distribute the product of industry; that is, fix wages and profits rationally and not blindly as is now being done by brute strength."

THE COAL MINING SITUATION IN THE WEST.

The Lethbridge Board of Trade sends the following article, by G. R. Marnoch, on matters in the West, which is rather interesting. The Record agrees with Mr. Marnoch that the increasing cost of living, as a plea for frequent increases of wages, is being somewhat overdone. In Parliament the other day a Nova Scotian representative declared

that the high cost of the "necessities," was the cause of much distress among the workmen. He drew what was intended for a harrowing tale, but the attempt was a failure, simply because he painted in lurid dark colors. The Record unhesitatingly asserts that there never was a time during the past forty years at least, when there was less visible distress, due to poverty, or cost of living. The evidence of one's eyes points to a wholly different conclusion than a prevalence of "poorhith." The number of automobiles alone gives ample contradiction. "Oh," it may be said, "but those are not owned by workmen." But, indeed, a great number are. In a small town in Pictou county there are over a score of automobiles owned by workmen—in the accepted sense—or workmen's sons. And, further, all the movies in the country are doing a roaring trade. Distress! Why there is none of it through poverty. Mr. Marnoch says his sympathies are always with the miners, because they are fellow citizens, and not much for the operators, because they are outsiders. Outsiders or not, they must be treated squarely, else others who might come from the outside and invest capital and give employment be hindered. In the third paragraph Mr. Marnoch offsets this criticism by saying a kind word about the operators.

"It is rather curious to look at our attitude in Lethbridge to the present situation in regard to the production of coal. We have been looking at the long drawn out negotiations between the miners and the operators in a far-off and disinterested fashion, until within the last few days it has dawned on us that the lack of steam coal for plowing and breaking outfits on our farms is going to have a very serious effect on the production of crops. And this is not a matter of selfish interest for this community; for all through this district we have from the first taken a very serious view of our responsibilities to Canada and Great Britain and our allies; and we know very well that what is expected of us at home here is that we shall all do our utmost in helping in the production of foodstuffs.

In so far as we have any interest as between the operators and the miners, our sympathies are always first with the miners; they are our fellow citizens, and we are sharing their difficulties in regard to the cost of living; whereas we are not liable to be very sympathetic with the owners of the coal mines, who send their money here for investment, and who withdraw their dividends from the community if they do not use them in further development of the mines.

While the operators and the miners were talking in such a way as to indicate that they were likely to reach an agreement, we were not thinking very much about the matter, although we have been rather inclined to think that the miners were exaggerating the increases in the cost of living; while at the same time we have had reason to feel grateful to the mine owners because they have up till now only asked us to pay 25 cents a ton more for coal than we previously paid, while we know that the recent increases in wages and equipment have cost them a good deal more than that.

We are only too painfully aware of the increase in the cost of living ourselves; but we also know that everybody here can be fully employed and can make the most of his time in earning money. There is no slack time for the miners or anybody else, and

there should be no slack time if we are doing our duty in the great work that is before us all. There is no slack time, and no time is spent up at the front in any other than one kind of striking.

The statements as to the increased cost of living especially when we remind ourselves that the steadiness of employment acts as an offset, comparing past conditions with the present, calls to mind the story about the English traveller who had returned from India. He was telling some old Scotsmen about his hunting experiences, and he said he had killed a tiger forty feet long. This was too much for Sandy Macpherson, who drily remarked that some Aberdeen fishermen had lately brought in a skate half an acre in size. The Englishman was mortally offended, left the room, and sent Sandy a challenge to fight a duel. Sandy took that proposal very calmly and told the messenger that if the Englishman would take a few feet off the tiger he would see what could be done about the size of the skate.

That is about what the general public feels in regard to our miners' statements about the cost of living; and the general public also feels that it is in no humor for looking on at a duel, when many of our nearest and dearest are engaged in a life and death struggle for our liberty; and at a time when it is up to each one of us to do everything in our power to help them, and rather suffer something ourselves, than to do anything that will hinder them in the slightest in their splendid efforts.

If the miners will but look at the matter in that light they will not lose a moment in getting back to work; and they need not then fear that public sympathy will be lacking in giving them reasonable and proper help in getting the wages they are entitled to. But the circumstances are far too serious for any right thinking fellow citizen of ours to be justified in stopping work just now.

• Rubs by Rambler. •

From the composition of the Shipbuilding Commission one is forced to the conviction that Premier Murray recognizes that \$2,000,000 divided into five would be no real inducement for steel shipbuilders to erect plants in Nova Scotia, while that sum divided among two dozen wooden shipbuilders, or builders of wooden ships, might give that line of industry an impetus that would bring back to the province some of its famous pristine wooden ships glory.

• • • • •
The Manchester Guardian and other British papers are of opinion that it should be a very easy matter to pacify Quebec. Why, of course, one of the easiest things imaginable. Since Confederation Quebec has been cuddled, crooned over, caressed and got everything she cried for, and all that is necessary is to give her everything she demands,—and more. Is that all? Ah, well, perhaps not; it is a big job to please a spoiled child, especially when it has wit enough to discern that there is keen competition for the privilege of dandling her.

Remarkable, isn't it, that Scotland, which was accredited to be among the thirstiest countries in Europe, is now leading by a long way in the movement for prohibition during the war, and some time afterwards. The Scottish people are at the present time the biggest thorn in Lloyd George's flesh. George favors state purchase; the Scots declare that such a cure would be worse than the disease. Lloyd George may be right or he may be wrong, but the ablest thinkers and writers coming before the public are out and out for Prohibition. It is said that it never would do to deprive the workingman, the munition worker, of his daily grog. The Scottish workmen, even the black squad, say they will do without it. The call for Prohibition is heard all over Scotland. Co-operation has a strong hold in the land of the heather. The annual conference was lately held in Falkirk. The delegates numbered 422 from 215 societies with a membership of 500,000. It was moved and duly seconded that the conference support the total prohibition of the liquor traffic. Then an amendment was moved by Mr. J. M. Biggar—that this conference support State purchase or the nationalisation of the liquor traffic. The amendment did not find a seconder, so the motion was carried unanimously. Mr. J. M. Biggar is secretary to the Glasgow Public House Trust Company. After this in singing "Scotland the home of the brave and the free" he was sure to add, "Where they want have 'Purchase' but are wholly T. T."

The Sydney Post has much to answer for. Regarding a brother in the editorial business, it wrote an article on the action of that negligible quantity, the Trades and Labor Council of Sydney, which had the effect of reducing his brother, of the Record, to a woeful paroxysmal condition. How the Record editor did fly off the handle! And why would he not make believe he was overcome with wrath and just indignation! We are asked in the book, "What will a man give in exchange for his soul?" The latest and truest paraphrase on that is "What will not a man give for the making of votes." The good used by the Post was not a wicked looking affair. The Post characterized the resolution passed by the S. L. and T. C. as a "paltry resolution". The compositor substituted the word "poison" resolution, a clumsy error, but not one to get mad over. The resolution referred to, and all such passed by Trades and Labor Councils are paltry, if not unpatriotic affairs. The Record eagerly remarks, "To deny men the right of the freedom of thought is Prussianism." That's another on the Ka. se. I wonder by what process he muzzles thought. In Britain they are not so far gone as to attempt to do such a thing; but they punish its expression, if it be tainted with sedition, or will in any way aid the enemy.

I take the following from the parliamentary correspondent of the British Weekly. I think. The cutting speaks of Bonar Law, in whom we all should be interested, as he is one of ourselves. I was glad to read that he and Rambler had a like and a dislike in common. He likes a pipe, so do I; he dislikes a cigarette; the same here. I haven't smoked one in fifty years. That is by the way; here is an impartial

criticism of Mr. Bonar Law:—

Both as Chancellor of the Exchequer and as Leader of the House Mr. Bonar Law displays qualities which are considered commonplace, but are not always practised in high places. Besides being unpretentious he is, in the conduct of business, outspoken, open-minded, and obliging. His Budget speech was distinguished by an almost austere simplicity. It lacked the "full-dress style" expected from the Chancellor of the Exchequer once a year, and his frank, facile manner was almost conversational. Much is made of Mr. Bonar Law's habit of dispensing with notes. This is not an unprecedented faculty in Parliament. As Lord Rosebery has recorded, Fox never used notes, and Pitt rarely. The late Marquis of Salisbury had scarcely ever a scrap of paper. There is a danger of Mr. Bonar Law sacrificing accuracy to habit or pride in this respect. Although, however, his Budget speech revealed in him no new power, it brought him closely into touch with the House, which was interested to hear that he has no "Puritanic feeling" in regard to amusements during the war, and that there are few necessities he would not rather do without than the supposed luxury of smoking, although he had never been able to see the attraction of cigarettes! One would not be astonished to see his own preference revealed as the habit of a law officer, Sir John Rigny, was revealed when a pipe dropped from his pocket on the Treasury Bench.

The Halifax Herald has made a discovery, whereat I am glad. It has at long last arrived at a conclusion, long since arrived at by the Record, that the alleged Labor Congress leaders, Watters, and another of that ilk, are not the genuine article. I have all along asserted that the governments, both Liberal and Conservative, have attached far too much importance to the men of the stamp criticised by the Herald. The late Liberal government, for instance, in an effort to placate the leader of an alleged representative council of working men, appointed him on a commission which secured the Dominion in an effort to find out what the industries of the country, and the industrial workers, needed or wanted. And now the Herald informs us that Watters is upside with Tompson, having been sent to an important gathering in the United States to represent Canada. The Herald says, instead of doing that he misrepresented her. Watters and Tompson, supposed exponents of the views of trade unionists, are opposed to conscription, and, sad to say, the lead they have given is being followed by trade unions throughout the land. What a contrast is this to the noble spirit of patriotism displayed by British workmen. They have made noble sacrifices, casting aside trade union rules, sacrificing right and privileges won only after long years of strenuous work, and patient waiting. The British workmen consented to the dilution of labor, which in simple means that they permitted untrained men to take the places, and do as best they could, the work done by skilled hands. A new munitions war bill was recently enacted in Britain. By it strikes are forbidden, and the dilution of labor is extended beyond munition plants, to shipbuilding and in implements making. In introducing this bill the mover, in emphasizing the great sacrifices labor had

made, said among other things:—Imagine the position if we had to make a similar appeal to the doctors or the lawyers. (A Voice: "Or to the farmers.") Yes, or to any class of men who have built up for themselves an organization to protect their interests. If that appeal were made to the doctors, let us say, to allow Mr. Barker to come in and practise surgery, I have no doubt that with a sense of national necessity the doctors would agree to the same principle.

"They would not," called out a member, bluntly. Do you know I am inclined to agree with that blunt member, and let me tell you why. A bill was introduced at last session of the legislature to enable dental surgeons, who had duly matriculated and held diploma from an accepted university, and who had served in the battle line, to practise dentistry on their return to this country, without the examination required by the Dental Association. The bill passed the Assembly, but the councillors, taking their cue from the privileged classes, gave it its quietus. No, not even in war time does one find doctors and dentists, lawyers and embalmers, willing to give up privileges to them belonging. The conduct of the British trade unionists in contrast is noble, and it is sublime in comparison with the conduct of the upper provinces unionists, and their leaders. Even in Nova Scotia there are unionists of whom it cannot be said they have a spark of the splendid spirit displayed by the workmen of Britain. Certain trade union leaders are everlasting coming over such terms as "tyrants" —applied to the masters—"slaves" and "serfs," as applied to the men; "liberty," "freedom," etc., etc., as to what they stand and fight for; and, yet, when they are asked for a display of real patriotism shout "a bas conscription," which in the language of Watters and Simpson is equivalent to "down with Borden the tyrant."

There has been much discussion of late in Britain over the question, "Is it right to plant potatoes, or other food-stuffs, on the Sabbath?" There are, of course, those who say it is wholly wrong, while there are others, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who hold that, under the circumstances, it is a meritorious action. I remember when a lad what a big storm the famous Dr. Norman MacLeod raised over Scotland when, pleading for a less austere and gloomy, joyless, sabbath, he said that the reasons given in the Old Testament for its observance did not appeal to him, because he was never led out of Egypt or out of the House of Bondage. If one is to believe what is written, and what he has been told, he is forced to the belief that the Sabbath of our forebears was not the Sabbath it should be, or was intended to be. The story told of a happening in a Scottish parish may not be wholly a caricature. It runs thus: Said Tam to Archy, "Man, Archy, I saw a fearsome sight yesterday" (Sabbath). "My, Tam, did ye? What was it?" "Why man, I saw Jock Sanderson walking down the Haigh Street, looking as spruce and happy as if it were a week day." We have travelled a long way from the Sabbath of a century ago. It might be well to pause and consider whether we are travelling to the other extreme. The Archbishop has been brought to task by writers in the Old Country, and in a Halifax paper I saw a few weeks ago where he was given a combing down by a naval officer. There

are, however, many who will side with the Archbishop and declare that planting of foodstuffs, in face of a famine, is not only a work of necessity, but of mercy. The Rev. C. J. Barry, a noted English clergyman, put only sides with him of Canterbury, but would go further, as witness:

"The Ten Commandments were part of a primitive code of a primitive people, and the observance of the Fourth Commandment, as well as of many others that were bolstered up with the sanction of Moses, became a fetish to the Children of Israel and in Our Lord's Day was an intolerable burden.

"The Christian Church never took over the Jewish Sabbath. Calvary, not Sinai, and the day of the Resurrection, not the Sabbath, were the distinctive events of the Christian Church. Protestantism made the mistake of exalting the Old Testament and the Ten Commandments to the level of Christ and His teaching. Christians have always felt the call of humanity in its need to be the call of Christ, and in the name of Christ and humanity Christians can go forth on the Lord's Day to sow potatoes and dig allotments to avert famine.

"My only criticism of the Archbishop's manifesto is that it is far too mild and conservative. Why did he not tell the clergy to celebrate the Communion in the fields, or to go out to the allotments and conduct a brief service of prayer for God's blessing on the work? If Clissold Park at the present moment, while we worship, is full of people digging allotments let us pray for God's blessing on their efforts, and let us hope that not all who are helping in this way to pull the nation out of a pit are outside the Christian Church."

• • •

Some who have political leanings and follow the politicians and their speeches in parliament, cannot have forgotten the delectably funny speech attributed to the hon. M. P. for South C. B., wherein, regardless of all rules of speech, he mixed up his tenses in an arresting fashion. One is reminded of the incident from a report of a speech made lately in Parliament by the hon. member. Had the report appeared in a Tory paper one might have readily concluded that it was a wilful and wanton travesty. But as it appeared in the paper in the town of which the member was a former honored resident, one is forced to the conclusion that the report is accurate. If it be a true report, then the conclusion must be drawn that the hon. member for South C. B.'s style is lacking in lucidity. A very candid friend tells me when he begins to perceive that he is not besting me in an argument—that at times I am inclined to be very pig-headed. Were he content to say pig-headed merely, I might remain unruffled, but to have the term prefixed by "very" ruffles me a wee bit, and almost tempts to a reprisal in kind. It may be at this moment a mist is over my mind, for I am forced to the opinion that the following extracts from the Glace Bay Gazette offer proofs that in the matter of lucidity the hon. member's present style is no improvement on the past. Here are two extracts verbatim et literatim:—

"If the Government is to be congratulated on the fact that we have good times, I say that is true to a certain extent, but that it is as false as false can be to a still greater extent. The Minister of Labor the other evening criticised us on this side of the House for daring to say anything which would reflect in

any way upon his department, or upon the manner in which he was conducting, or misconducting, that department. We, on this side of the House, as hon. gentlemen on the side of the House representing the constituencies, like to voice the grievance we have to voice in this House at the present time arises from the fact that the prices of food-stuffs have been allowed to soar so high that to-day it is practically impossible for the ordinary laborer to provide for the actual and bare necessities of life.

"It reminds me of a friend of mine who was speaking of a neighbor and who said that he had a large supply of very inaccurate knowledge. There may be this difference between my friend's neighbor and the Minister of Labor, that while my friend's neighbor and the Minister of Labor apparently has no information at all, and, further directed, and his labors are useless than that, his activities are misdirected, and his labors are useless, because he is unable to point out any good that has come of these labors, then I say they are misdirected and useless and a waste of time."

One would set down this prosaic roundelay to a fuddled condition of the pressman, were it not that on a former occasion the hon. member treated his constituents to sentences equally opaque.

One of the chiefs of the Trades and Labor Council in Sydney, C. B. will not have conscription because it is not a democratic measure. In this he is merely echoing what had been said by the Simpsons of Toronto, and more loudly by the Watters of Montreal. To me it appears that the bawling bodies are badly mistaken. Leaving out Germany, an absolute monarchy, do the fellows mean to say that Britain is not in the best sense democratic; and then there is France, a republic. France has conscription of a kind far more drastic than what is proposed for Canada. The United States has ever been deemed a democratic country. If conscription is undemocratic, the wonder is that the people of the United States—those who are not aliens—have accepted it without demur. But conscription is really a democratic measure in that it applies to all the people, high or low, rich or poor. If it calls upon the miner or the miner's son to fall into line, it calls also upon the millionaire or the millionaire's son to do likewise. It is no respecter of rank or riches. It is democratic in that it insists that what the goose must do, so must the gander. The same gentry who declare conscription to be undemocratic, say they might be able to subscribe to it if it had, as an accompaniment, conscription of wealth. How thoughtless or selfish are some labor leaders. They would have some men pay double toll. There are thousands of men under forty who are wealthy. Conscription is to apply to them as individuals, as well as to the day laborer. Are those to be asked to give of their wealth as well as themselves, while the day laborer gets off with, say a poll tax only. Conscription of wealth! What are the fellows bawling about. It cannot be done. It would be suicidal. Wealth may be taxed, indeed it would be confiscated, but what would follow? Chaos.

The Federal Trade Commission appointed by the U. S. Government to inquire into prevailing high prices of coal, have settled down earnestly to busi-

ness, and are already doing grand work, as may be gathered from the following authorized statement:

"The Federal Trade Commission desires to hear from persons who know of instances of extortionate prices being asked for coal, or where dealers are making false announcements of 'coal shortage' in order to raise prices and frighten people in submitting to extortion and unwarranted advances. The Commission wants names, dates and facts, and will vigorously take up and investigate and give wide publicity to those that it finds indulging in these practices. There is absolutely no cause for any 'panic' or panic prices, and the Trade Commission is frowning upon either the operator, wholesaler, or retailer who does anything toward creating an abnormal condition, or who is asking abnormal prices."

It must be admitted that the Commission's way of frowning down prices is quite simple, and is certainly novel. But neither its simplicity nor its novelty should stand in the way of giving it a fair trial. I am prepared to do my share of 'frowning,' and if my freely frank friends are to be believed I am a bit of an expert at the business. I go further and say I am prepared to raise a company, or may be a battalion, who in a very short time can be drilled into becoming crack frowners. In so laudable an enterprise one should have the support of the Sydney Post, Sydney Record, Springhill Record and also every paper in every mining county. Indeed the Halifax Herald and Chronicle instead of eternally frowning at each other might vigorously frown for a while at rising coal prices. That would be a patriotic enterprise, whereas their accustomed mode of frowning is not. The experiment is worth trying. Instead of occasionally frowning at our relatives and friends, and each other, let us all join a 'coal price frowning league.' If we keep in good standing in this league, and live up to its one object, who knows but the price of coal, undermined by persistent frowning, will tumble down in the course of time, say two years. If the new process turns out not to be a success, then it can safely be left to time to smooth out the facial distortions superinduced by testing an American patriotic notion.

We do not think that the two B's had any authority for saying that the new Union is to be called, meantime, the Mine Workers of Nova Scotia. No name has as yet been decided upon by the leaders of both Unions. There is, perhaps, more significance in the words, "but later the name may be changed." In some minds there is no doubt that there will be efforts to have the name more embracing, but this cannot well be as the understanding is that the new Union shall be and remain a purely provincial institution. It is not a correct statement to say that the funds of the P. W. A. have been transferred to the new Union. There can be no transfer of funds to a nameless society, or to a society not yet incorporated. An act of the Legislature, it seems to us, will be necessary, before there can be any transfer. But is there to be no reciprocity? What about the funds of the U. M. W. of N. S. Surely a society claiming to be popular is not without funds.

AROUND THE COLLIERIES

The Grand Council of the P. W. A. will meet shortly.

In an effort to discover the possible location of the outcrop of the seam of coal struck by a drift from the McGregor mine some time ago, trial pits are being sunk "out back."

The Benefit Society of the Dominion Coal Co., after undergoing the test of an election campaign, is more popular than ever. The men are beginning to see how easy it is to fling away the bone for the shadow. They are glad that they need not experiment on living on the shadow.

There was a report current ten days ago, but which is not repeated, that an eight foot seam of coal had been discovered north-westerly from the old Black Diamond colliery at Westville. Licenses have lately been taken out covering areas in that vicinity, but no real exploitation work has as yet been accomplished.

Sinking and other prospecting work is being done on the Grant-McKay areas on the east side of the river opposite to Stellarton. The late R. E. Dawson, of Westville, at one time worked a pit there on a small scale. The pit was abandoned because the coal did not come up to expectations at that time, when people were somewhat saucier in the matter of coal than they are at the present time.

There is no pleasing the heads of the I. C. R. They bore heavily down on the coal operators previous to 1916, because all the prices of the companies were the same. Then they called the operators "conspirators." And now the railway heads are denouncing the operators because some want a different price from some others. Did the I. C. R. manager when at school ever write the line, "Circumstances alter cases." They are learning it now.

It is said that there is a possibility of the seam of coal back of Athol station, Cumberland Co. being worked by the Maritime Railway and Coal Co. Years ago a slope, over a hundred feet long, was sunk on the property, but as coal was a cheap article those days, the Athol colliery was not in a position to compete with its better equipped neighbors. It is further said that the Railway Department will render some aid in the shape of old rails in building a branch from the colliery to the I. C. R. This road will be a little over three miles long.

The price of United States soft coal in Montreal is from eight dollars a ton up.

The Dominion Coal Co. is more than ever ploughing the gardens of their workmen, while the workmen themselves are busily doing their share to add to this year's harvest.

"Scotia," it is said, will send a small quantity of coal to a St. Lawrence port this season for the I. C. R. A decent sized steamer will very easily carry the quantity named.

The C. P. R. are getting all the coal they can from the Mainland operators, and the peculiar thing is they are cheerfully paying a higher price, and it may be said spot cash at that, than the I. C. R. is willing to offer.

It is reported that the C. G. R. has secured a large number of second-hand coal cars in the United States, which will help out in the present congested state of traffic. Send them along to the collieries as quickly as possible.

The Greenwood Coal Co., Thorburn, has fallen on its feet. The Company has a nice contract with the C. P. R. at a nice figure. By the manner in which things are going Greenwood way, there need be no surprise if Jim Porter and Malcolm Beaton are found in the catalogue of millionaires not far hence.

It is freely reported in certain mining circles that U. S. capitalists have secured an option on the Mabou mines and the areas in connection therewith. It is to be hoped that the report is well founded. Mabou in proper hands, the Record considers a fine proposition. With a man big enough to overcome a few miles of transportation difficulties, Mabou should take a leading place among the C. B. collieries.

Hans Logan, the genial ex-M. P. and managing director of the Maritime Coal, Power and Railway Coy. is as busy a man these days as walks on Cumberland Co. soil. He accosts every vagabond he meets and asks him if he came across any coal outcrops in his peripatinations, thick seams or thin, so long as they can be called coal. This is assuredly a novel way of prospecting, and yet, curiously, it is meeting with a measure of success.

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The Main Deep of Dom. No. 11 is being brushed below No. 3 Landing to allow the extension of the main haulage.

After the new houses are up the Acadia Coal Co. think there should not be great difficulty in an augmentation of its working force.

The C. G. R., alias I. C. R., will take under contract from the mines in Cumberland County some four to five hundred thousand tons of coal within the next ten months, and more if they can get it.

New Mine at Charbonnet
It is told the Record that the output of the Greenwood Colliery mounts up, on occasions, to near the 300 hundred tons a day mark. This is a creditable showing for so new a mine.

It is said that even in colliery towns, oil stoves for cooking are coming into vogue. The question is, where is the hot water for baths and washing days to come from?

The Dominion Coal Company find it difficult to procure vessels for their Montreal trade. Because of this some of the Sydney and Louisburg locomotive drivers are at lower classes of labor.

Mr. Gordon, Comptroller of the D. C. Co., is on his annual tour of inspection to the Company's offices and works in Halifax, St. John, Springhill, Quebec and Montreal.

A new colliery office is being erected at Dom. No. 7, "The Hub," to house the augmented electrical staff occasioned by the introduction of weekly pays. At other collieries where existing offices are sufficiently large, alterations are being made to meet the new conditions.

Why does not some one in the Federal Parliament jump up and ask why coal is selling so dear in the United States as compared with Nova Scotia? In former days delight was taken in asking why coal was dearer in Nova Scotia than in the United States. The tables have turned. The lowest bids the School Board of Chicago received for bituminous coal was \$6.40. The average of the bids was over \$7.00, compared with an average of \$2.75 for the years previous. At the prices tendered the School Board figures that the fuel bill would be close on \$1,000,000. Whew!

Oh, if Nova Scotia had only coal now to spare and ship to Boston what big profits would accrue. Coal in cars at Boston is now selling at from \$10.50 to \$12.50 a ton. Bostonians, however, have been told if they hang on to the fall, the price may tumble to \$6.00

Two-thirds of the output of the collieries of the N. S. Steel and Coal Company at Sydney Mines are necessary to supply the Company's own needs. The output of the collieries for the four months of 1917 show a fair increase over the corresponding months of last year.

The Halifax folk who tore their hair at the information that N. S. coal was sold cheaper in Montreal than in the province have the consolation of knowing that the tables are turned, and that Montrealers are paying about two dollars more a ton than Halifaxians for the same grade of coal.

A new 1,500 kilowatt electric generator is being installed at the Central Electric Plant of the Dominion Coal Co., at Dom. No. 2. The installation of several electric pumps and other electrically driven apparatus at various collieries has made increased generating equipment necessary.

The baneful after-pay "absenteeism," which formerly was so detrimental to outputs has, apparently, disappeared, due, it is said, to three causes, viz., The National Service appeal for greater production, weekly pay, and the vigorous prosecution of the Temperance Act laws in Glace Bay and surrounding collieries. Whatever the cause, it is true that all collieries report an almost normal working force every Monday and it is also true that outputs on Monday are, barring accidents, within a very few tons of being normal. This is a most pleasing contrast to former days when the loss of 5,000 tons fortnightly—after each pay—was a common occurrence.

In response to the Government's appeal for increased production of foodstuffs, the Dom. Coal Co., has decided to plant five hundred bushels of potatoes on that large tract of land formerly known as the Lingan Golf Links. Mr. J. D. McKinnon, of the General Office staff, an expert in this particular line of agriculture, is supervising the work. High School boys from Glace Bay, under the direction of several experienced men, have been employed for the past two weeks preparing the ground for seeding. When the crop is gathered in the fall it is understood that it will be retailed to the Company's employees at reasonable prices through their stores.

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

Would the Local Government be justified in rendering financial assistance to parties prepared to open out and establish small collieries tapping the thinner coal seams, that is seams four feet and under? In the Record's opinion the Government would be wholly justified. It would be a commendable action. The country must have coal, and at this time, if the demand is to be met to even a partial extent, every available source should be tapped! It may be said in objection that the thin seam mines, the smaller collieries, would rob the larger of men. That does not always follow. In several districts in Cumberland, for instance, there are many men who have left their farms, their small holdings or their homes to work in the mines. After absence from their homes for a time they forsook the mines and returned to their holdings, the distance of their homes from the mines obliging them to board out. If a mine were nearer their homes they would willingly work in it. There is Thorburn, for instance. Men have been found quite willing to work in the new Greenwood Mine, or the old McBean, who could not be prevailed upon to work in Stellarton, even with train accommodation. No doubt there is something in the contention of a coal operator when he says, "Why should I divide my forces. Why should I work three mines when two of them can accommodate all the workmen I can secure?" The argument is reasonable in the main, yet it does not apply in every case.



The Dominion Coal Coy. is coming in for compliments these days. This from a contemporary.—"The Canadian Government feel compelled to allow the entrance of wheat into the United States because of the restricted outlet caused by submarine operations and the shortage of ships, and concurrently with this apparent surplus of wheat in Canada, the price of flour jumps in one week from \$12.50 to over \$15.00 per barrel, and it is confidently predicted flour will shortly reach \$20.00 per barrel! The Dominion Coal Company had the courage and foresight to use its purchasing capacity last summer to purchase flour in large quantities, and it is and has been selling flour to its workpeople at from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per barrel below the wholesale price. This Company is selling potatoes to its workpeople at 85 cents per bushel, while the local farmers are asking \$2.00 a bushel. What is there that makes the same bushel of potatoes worth 75 cents last autumn and \$2.00 to-day, when the cost of transportation and all other costs play no part in the increase?"

A correspondent writing to the Halifax Herald also commends the big Company for keeping down prices. Says Mr. Buckley:—"I also wish to assert that we would be paying \$10.00 for soft coal if it were not for the fact that the Dominion Coal Co. stood between the dealers and the citizens in regard

to the price of coal. This goes to prove that the D. C. Co. is not the grinding monopoly it was predicted it would be.

Despatches in certain daily papers claimed that the work of the Royal Commission was as great a success in Springhill as in Cape Breton County. The Springhill Record cannot be said to be jubilant over results. The report in that paper of a meeting of the employees leaves the impression that the work done by the Commission was not greatly appreciated, as witness:—

"The result of the Royal Commission's visit here is that conditions are practically the same as before their coming, but the Commission gave the Committee to understand that they could not change conditions. The schedule, as submitted to the men by the management of the Company a few weeks ago, was unchanged, the only change being an agreement for paying for shovelling down coal."

It is further stated that the men did not seem to be altogether pleased with the results of the Commission's visit. That can well be believed. There are some who set their faces against being pleased. Further our Springhill contemporary says:—

"The principal business of the evening was the organizing of a Labor Union in Springhill. Messrs. Baxter and Barrett, of Glace Bay, who were introduced by Mr. Bonnyman, told of forming unions in different parts of Cape Breton, and of the many difficulties they experienced. For the present the new Union is to be called the Mine Workers of Nova Scotia, but later the name may be changed. The two Unions in Cape Breton, the U. M. W. and P. W. A. have amalgamated and all the property owned by the P. W. A. has been transferred to the new Union, and in Cape Breton the management of the Company has agreed to stop off the dues in the office.

In response to the Government's appeal for increased production of foodstuffs, the Dom. Coal Co., has decided to plant five hundred bushels of potatoes on that large tract of land formerly known as the Lingan Golf Links. Mr. J. D. McKinnon, of the General Office staff, an expert in this particular line of agriculture, is supervising the work. High School boys from Glace Bay, under the direction of several experienced men, have been employed for the past two weeks preparing the ground for seeding. When the crop is gathered in the fall it is understood that it will be retailed to the Company's employees at reasonable prices through their stores.

113

POTATOES

We have become so accustomed by daily use to the potato that we can scarcely realise how slow its progress was in winning public favour. The Spaniards first brought it to Spain, early in the sixteenth century, from Peru, where it had been cultivated by the inhabitants, together with the haricot bean and maize, for ages before the discovery of the New World by Columbus. In Elizabeth's reign Raleigh, Hawkins, and Drake are all credited with introducing it into this country, but it does not seem likely that our modern English potato is a direct lineal descendant of any of the tubers brought over by these heroes of romance. Ireland was alive to its great food value for man some time before England, where potatoes were first used for feeding cattle, though early in Charles II.'s reign potato cultivation was advocated in order to feed the starving poor. To Lancashire belongs the honour of being the first English county which valued the potato at its true worth; it became a regular crop here at the end of the seventeenth century. Fifty years later it had spread all over the country.

The number of separate pieces in a modern aeroplane, quite exclusive of the engine, is 2,234. Each piece has to be made with the utmost accuracy and of the best material, and then all must be fitted together with the highest skill. The materials include the finest timber, the highest qualities of alloy steel, textiles, mechanical instruments and guns.

At first the farmers said, "Don't send me a lady, an educated woman; we want women accustomed to the work and brought up in the country." But the farmers now find that educated women use their brains and learn more quickly, says Miss Baker, secretary of the Surrey Women's War Agricultural Committee.

"When I look round at our great Empire," said General Smuts in a Guildhall speech, "I feel that liberty is once more justified of her children." The Maharajah of Bikanir declared that British rule in India rested on a much firmer foundation than force. It rested on the principles of justice and equity, humanity and fairplay.

LLOYD GEORGE AND PREFERENCE.

We have given the gravest consideration to this problem, and have decided that in order to develop these important enormous territories in the future it is necessary that exceptional encouragement should be given to the products of each part of the Empire. We believe that a system of preference should be established, while not involving the imposition of burdens upon food. We believe it can be done without that, and, of course, when food is at its scarsest and its dearest that is not the time to talk about additional burdens upon it. But for the purpose of preference that will not be essential. We have confirmed that by every means, and more particularly by taking measures which other lands have taken for improving communication between one part of the Dominions and another. By this means the products of one country inside this great and imperial Commonwealth can be brought more freely, readily, and economically to the markets of the other.

This great Empire has infinite resources of wealth in minerals, food products, and timber, and in every commodity needful for the aid of man, and it is obvious that it is an advantage not merely to the particular countries where these products come from but to every other part in the Empire, including the United Kingdom, that these commodities should be developed to the utmost. It enriches, it strengthens, and it binds together the Empire as a whole.

An annual saving of 50,000,000 tons of coal a year is known to be possible, said Lord Sydenham in an address to the British Science Guild. It is estimated that in Scotland more than 1,000,000 electrical horsepower can be obtained from water.

Provincial Mining and Stationary Engineers Examinations.

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MINE MANAGERS, UNDERGROUND MANAGERS, AND OVERMEN'S CERTIFICATES, will be held at Sydney, Inverness, Stollarton, and Maclean, beginning JUNE 19th, 1917, at 9.30 o'clock a. m.

Examination of Candidates for Stationary Engineers' certificates will be held at North Sydney, Inverness, Stollarton and Maclean, beginning JUNE 19th, 1917, at 9.30 o'clock, a. m.

All applications from candidates should be received at the office of the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, Halifax, not later than JUNE 15, 1917.

Blank application forms for certificates can be procured from the Inspectors in the Mining and Engineering Schools, or from the Mines Office, Halifax.

HIRAM DONKIN,

Deputy Commissioner Public Works and Mines.

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HALIFAX, N. S.



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, renewable 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.

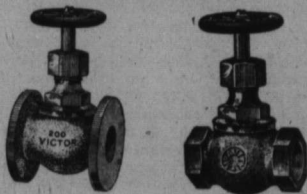
For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

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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.

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