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# MARITIME *city* MINING RECORD.

MAY 9. 1917.

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—First Class both for Domestic and Steam Purposes.—

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SOUTHBOUND

Superior Div.

438'

P. M.

2 48

3 35

3 52

3 55

4 12

4 23

4 35

4 48

5 06

5 20

5 35

5 50

6 10

6 30

6 45

7 08

7 20

7 29

A. M.

NORTHBOUND

Inferior Div.

437.

P. M.

3 55

4 00

4 15

4 23

4 35

4 48

5 06

5 20

5 35

5 50

6 10

6 30

6 45

7 08

7 20

7 29

P. M.

STATIONS.

POINT TYPHOON

INVERNESS TACE

PORT HASTINGS

PORT HASTINGS

TROY

CEMONISH

CRANMORE

JUDIQUE

MARYVILLE

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Tamp Bars.	Track Tools.	Surface Cars.
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## MARITIME MINING RECORD.

THE MARITIME MINING RECORD is published the second and fourth Wednesday in each month.

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STELLARTON, N. S.

MAY 9, 1917

## THAT PLEBISCITE BILL.

As there is now no official daily report of the proceedings of either branch of the local legislature people have to be content with the summary which the Chronicle or the Herald may be pleased to give. Possibly these summaries are not absolutely to be depended upon. Even if each paper tried to give an impartial account, there remains to be taken into consideration the subconscious bias. In assuming that an endeavor is made to be impartial, it is possible we are a little more than generous, for some members on each side do not hesitate to say they have been misrepresented, and not unintentionally. However, let that go. The bill was discussed on several occasions in the House of Assembly. We give elsewhere, copied from the Herald whose report was the fullest, and the more correct, a report of one of these debates, preceded by an explanation of the bill by the Herald.

It will be noticed that in this latter the Herald says there are two factions among the miners of Cape Breton. We do not like the word, as it may convey a wrong impression. There is one faction the U. M. W.'s. The P. W. A. had and held the field for a quarter of a century before the U. M. W.'s of America, and some thirty-six years before the U. M. W.'s of Nova Scotia made attempts to usurp the place so long held by it. The Herald styles the P. W. A. the "Moffat faction," and the U. M. W.'s the "anti-Moffat faction," and says that the Moffat faction is recognized by the company and has its membership dues collected.

The P. W. A. had lodges in Cape Breton recognized by the operators of the several collieries over twenty years before the Dominion Coal Coy. was organized. When the Dominion Coal Coy. came on the scene in 1893, it continued the policy of recognition, adopted by its predecessors, and continues it to this day. To ask the Dominion Coal Co., after all these years, to recognize a "faction" is asking a little too much. It is, as we have frequently said, asking the Dominion Coal Coy. to recognize two labor unions, not rivals, but determinedly antagonistic to each other. The Company has done business with the P. W. A. since it took over the Southern C. B. collieries, and no good reason has been advanced to show why the Company should transfer its friendship to new and untried friends. Friends

did we say? Not friends, but those who in season and out of season denounce the Company in no stinted or stulted phrasology. The Company is not yet "off" with the old love, and it cannot well be "on" with the new. That two rival organizations, striving for supremacy, should be recognized by a corporation, is an impossible thought. It would, to waste no words, be hell to the Company. The why so is obvious. The Record-wholly agrees with the remarks of Premier Murray. The passage of such a bill could only mean that the breach presently existing would be widened. Any such legislation would be pernicious and far farther reaching than its promoters dream of. Make it applicable to the coal trade this year and then similar legislation could next year be made applicable to every industry in Nova Scotia. It would surely be a case of sauce for the goose being sauce for the gander.

## NOVA SCOTIA'S UNDEVELOPED MINERAL WEALTH.

It was an oft-repeated tale, forty or less years ago, that large as were the extent of her coal fields, there was more iron ore in the province than there was coal to smelt it with. Possibly people to-day are not so enthusiastic on this point as were those who preceded them, and this possibly is not to be wondered at, seeing heroic attempts have been made to locate deposits of quantity and quality entitling them to be classed as of present day commercial value, and have failed. The day may come, when owing to the scarcity of richer, the large deposits of low grade ore, may be utilized, but that day is not yet. To-day, any old rock of the color of coal is, so we are told, being palmed off on the public as the genuine article, and the public is glad to get it. And so may it be, in some day in the future, that furnace men may be willing, not to say glad, to secure any ore that carries iron.

While there, reasonably, may be doubts as to the quality and the quantity of her iron ore deposits, there is no doubt as to the vast extent and value of her oil shales. For many years, and more particularly since the time the writer had the privilege of visiting and going through the several departments of one of the four largest of the Scottish shale plants at Broxburn, in the Lothians, he has wondered that no big effort has been made to utilize native shale. The quantity of oil distilled from the Broxburn shale was low in comparison with that obtained, say fifty years ago, from the Stellar coal at Stellarton. It is possible that there are no other shales in the province comparable with this oil coal, which covers considerable territory in Pictou County, but the Record's opinion is that there are shales in several counties, notably Antigonish and Colchester, which yield oil in larger quantity than the Scottish shales. The first of the oil shale works established in Scotland has not, from a dividend-paying standpoint, been as successful as those that came later, and that is not to be wondered at, as the business was new, and as a rule experience is at times a somewhat costly article. The works, however, all along have paid a fair dividend, while that earned and paid by the later established concerns can best be described by the word handsome. Shortly

previous to the beginning of the war parties in Pietou induced British capitalists to interest themselves in Nova Scotia's oil shales. The prospects for development looked bright, until war broke out. There was also another factor tending to delay development, viz., a dispute as to who held a controlling interest in the areas to be transferred to the British capitalists. The present great demand for all kinds of oil should attract attention to the extent and value of the province's shales. We are glad to notice, better late than never, that the Morning Chronicle has a short article on the subject. We draw attention, particularly, to the last paragraph, for the reason that the writer, somewhat brusquely, a few weeks ago, asked the premier why, instead of nibbling at many things, he did not attack that which in the future might be a source of great wealth. It was suggested that an act should be introduced, at this session, declaring that all minerals, all over the province, not covered by lease on the 1st of a set month be declared to be the property of the government of the province. The premier, who, except when he is unduly chafed by, and railed at by, the opposition—never turns one away with a saucy word, said it was "an idea worth considering" and so it is, and it is to be hoped the premier will next year act on the suggestion. The following is the Chronicle's article on the subject, and as reading matter it is a long way superior to the Chronicle's articles on purely partizan political subjects:—

"For fifty years or more it has been known that the carboniferous shales of Nova Scotia, principally the Pietou and Antigonish formations, will produce oil. It is said by men who think they are competent to judge that, should the mineral oil wells of America go suddenly dry, there is enough reserve oil in the shales of Nova Scotia to supply the Dominion of Canada for hundreds of years.

"Whether that be correct or not, there are in Nova Scotia some of the best oil shales in the world, which in all probability will sooner or later be called into use. Some of the shales of Antigonish run as high as 23 gallons of oil and 38 pounds of ammonium sulphate to the ton. In Pietou County, the Stellarite (coal oil), runs from 53 to 199 gallons to the ton; while the ordinary shales give from 14 to 42 gallons to the ton, with a production of ammonium sulphate a little in excess of that of Antigonish.

"Immediate steps should be taken to ascertain the extent, the quality, and the probable cost of mining these shales, and the average production of oil per ton of shale. A portable field apparatus for determining the quantity of oil, gas, and ammonium sulphate (contained in the shale) could be profitably worked; and, valuable data filed, that should be of use to the Government when the necessity will come to supply oil from these shales to the nation.

"Owing to the large consumption of gasoline, the use of oil as a fuel in steamships and the failure to discover new oil fields of any magnitude, the time is not far distant when our reserve of oil will be needed; and all information, relating to the productiveness of these shales, should, as early as possible, be in the possession of the Government, so that when the time comes that they will be needed, the trouble

and time of prospecting, locating, and proving, will be saved, and an immediate start could be made to erect reducing plants to produce oil and ammonium sulphate (fertilizer) sufficient to enrich the total farming area of Nova Scotia yearly. These shales are easily obtainable for testing as they crop to the surface.

"In Scotland, according to Dr. Ellis' report, the following valuable products are manufactured from oil shales: Gas, naphtha, gasoline and motor-spirit, lamp oil, lubricating oil, solid paraffine, smokeless fuel, and carbo for electrical purposes; sulphate of ammonia, a fertilizer that sells in the United States from \$60 to \$75 a ton. The shales of Nova Scotia are equal to, if not better than, the shales of Scotland, and there is no reason why an industry equal to that of the Scottish oil shale industry could not be established in Nova Scotia when the demand requires it.

"The Government should reserve title to all the oil shales in the Province, as they are a valuable asset and of incalculable worth. Some interest is now being shown in the licensing of oil shale areas; but it would be a mistake to lease oil shale lands, as productive oil areas, may, when the demand for oil becomes urgent, be held idle, due to litigation, as has been the case with areas held for coal, gold and other minerals. This is a matter of great national importance. It should be dealt with by the Industrial Research Board, appointed by the Dominion Government, in the interests of the nation and the Empire."

#### JOTTINGS FROM HALIFAX.

The following resume of the debate on the Plebiscite bill at one of the sessions of the assembly is from the Halifax Herald:—

The bill regarding the miners' plebiscite, which was introduced by Mr. Cameron two months ago, and which a majority of the members never seemed to take seriously, came up for discussion. Here, in brief, is the story of that bill:

From a labor organization viewpoint there are two factions among the Cape Breton miners, a Moffatt faction and an anti-Moffatt faction. The Moffatt faction is in favor with the company, is recognized by the company, has its membership dues collected from the wages of the men by the company and has a labor contract with the company. The anti-Moffatt faction have organized what is known as the United Mine Workers of Nova Scotia. The new organization has no great issue with the old organization, the P. W. A., further than a desire to get the secretary of the P. W. A., John Moffatt, eliminated. They think such elimination can be effected if they can build up their organization to a sufficient strength, but in order to build up their body they need money. To get this financial strength they want the Dominion Coal company to collect the dues from their members as the dues are collected from the members of the P. W. A. The Dominion Coal company bluntly refuses to recognize the new union and to collect its dues and legislation is being sought to compel the company to make such collections. The bill introduced by Mr. Cameron provides that a plebiscite vote be taken among the miners, all



workers at the mines, whether members of either union or of no union whatsoever—having a chance to vote regarding which union they would prefer. If a majority of the miners say they prefer the United Mine Workers then, by the bill, the Dominion Coal company would be compelled to "check off" United Mine Workers' dues.

The above is a fair statement of facts which could be made more interesting reading if the opinions of the rival factions could be given regarding each other. Such opinions, however, are too lengthy and border too closely on the libellous for statement herewith.

It was with a state of affairs existing as above that the discussion came up on Saturday.

Mr. Tory wanted a fuller explanation regarding the proposed "check off."

Mr. McInnes explained how, under the law, the Dominion Coal company were allowed to "check off" the dues of the P. W. A., and explained that at Stellarton, where some 3,000 men are employed, there was no union "check off," neither was there any at Springhill, where some 1,500 men are employed. He thought it would be drastic legislation to tell any corporation that they must retain certain sums from men's wages to pay to a society to which they were opposed.

Hon. Mr. Armstrong said his most serious objection to the proposed plebiscite bill, was the fact that such a plebiscite would constitute a direct charge on the revenue of the province, and he did not think any private member had a right to introduce such a bill.

That statement brought Mr. Cameron to his feet to tell the commissioner of public works and mines that it was strange he should only be making such a statement after having been familiar with the bill in all its stages.

Premier Murray very emphatically stated his opposition to the bill. He said the first duty of the house was to decide upon the soundness of the principle of the legislation. It was his personal judgment that the bill was calculated to perpetuate and continue with renewed bitterness the troubles now existing. These differences would have to be settled by other means than legislation. The ascertaining of the fact that the P. W. A. or the United Mine Workers was preferred would not bring the men any closer together. He was prepared to admit that probably the result of the plebiscite would show that the U. M. W. had a majority, but the P. W. A. could not be destroyed in that way as long as that organization remained within the law. Never, in the history of labor organization, as far as he could discover, had corporations been forced to hold back part of workmen's wages as dues to a labor organization, and he thought it unwise for the legislature to embark on such legislation; the principle, to him, seemed unsound.

After some further discussion, in which Mr. Douglas expressed the opinion that there was something mysterious about the manner in which the committee on law amendments had been dealing with the bill, there was an agreement that it would not be put to vote until a later sitting of the committee of the whole house.

In a discussion of the bill to empower the government to appoint a commission to investigate conditions at the collieries, Hon. E. H. Armstrong said that the duties of the commission which was to be appointed included an investigation into prices.

Mr. Kinley: Should not Nova Scotia industries and Nova Scotia customers be given the preference?

Mr. Armstrong: What does the honorable member think himself?

Mr. Kinley: I think they should. I think that some effort should be made to see that Nova Scotia industries are provided with coal. It is a vital matter. We should have the preference over all other customers.

He asked if anything was being done to protect the supply to our own province.

Mr. Armstrong said that present conditions were unique and exceptional. He believed the coal operators had been straining every nerve to make the best possible distribution. The coal companies had put forth every effort to keep our industries going and Nova Scotia industries, compared with those of other provinces had little to complain of.

Mr. McInnes said that coal was being sold in Boston at a lower price than in Nova Scotia and explained how it happened. Immediately after the outbreak of war business was paralyzed and in order to keep up production the company entered into contracts with three Boston firms to supply large quantities of coal at a price that was much lower than now could be obtained. Owing to the shortage of ships it was difficult to make deliveries and the company on several occasions had been threatened with action for non-fulfillment of contracts.

Mr. Douglas called attention to one pleasing feature of the mines' report where it was shown that during the past year the output per man was in excess of any year in the history of mining in Nova Scotia. This reflected great credit on the miners considering the war time conditions and the absence of so many young and active men at the front.

At a subsequent debate on the bill further explanation was given. This time the Chronicle's report is utilized:

In the Committee of the Whole there was some discussion of the Bill providing for a plebiscite among the coal miners of the Province as to their preference for the Provincial Workmen's Association or the United Mine Workers of America. Premier Murray discussed the clause providing for the declaration of a holiday on June 30th at all the mines in order to take the plebiscite. He said that he thought this a rather serious proposal, meaning the loss of thousands of tons of coal. He said that Provincial and Dominion elections were held without the holding of a holiday, and he failed to understand why a holiday was necessary in this case. The total daily output of our coal mines was about 20,000 tons and this would be a big loss at this time. Furthermore, he thought that this proposal meant an injustice to the miners, thousands of whom would not want to lose a day's work. Mr. Butts, Hon. E. H. Armstrong, and Mr. Douglas contributed to the discussion, Mr. Douglas suggesting that the vote among the miners be taken in the evening, as in the case of

the plebiscite on the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Bill was left in Committee.

When the Women's Franchise bill passed its second reading in the house of assembly without a speech, except that of Mr. Graham, who fathered the bill, without a dissenting nay, or an assenting aye, and without emotion in the shape of the faintest applause, I characterized the proceedings as a fiasco. People not in the ken supposed the franchise was sure to be granted; those who knew the ways of politicians said they would take no chances on its ultimate passage, and these were right. What would have been the fate of the measure had it been sent to the legislative council is problematical, but the dear young and old chaps there were not given the chance to be denunciatory or appreciative. The bill met its fate in the place it first saw the light. What caused every member of the assembly, save the promoter, to sit mum, when the speaker put the question? What is chivalry? Was it a desire to say nothing harsh in the presence of the ladies who filled the gallery? Was it caution, in the form of a desire not to be too pronouncedly in opposition until a better idea of how the cat would jump could be obtained? Had the opponents of the bill, silent on the second reading, come to the conclusion that a vote to give the bill the three month hoist would not affect future prospects? It is hard to say. The whole performance shows what a funny thing is politics, and how many different ways there are of playing the game.

Mr. Tory, M. P. P.'s amendment to the Compensation act caused a good deal of discussion, somewhat gingery at times, and made the friends of the combined scheme uneasy for a while. The amendment was that the Dominion Steel and Dominion Coal companies should come under the act, whether the workmen wished it or not. The amendment was lost by only five votes and so close a vote on so important a subject, non-political, if such a thing is possible these days, was a little surprising. It was not a straight party vote, as far as the Liberals were concerned, as four or more did not vote with their leaders, but it was straight enough from a Conservative standpoint, as all the members of that denomination stood pat, except Mr. McInnes, who was excused from voting, as he is solicitor for the Dominion Coal company. Some of those favoring the Dominion Coal company's combined scheme think Mr. McInnes should have voted, but I think he acted prudently. With the knowledge in his possession Mr. McInnes could not have done other than voted for the scheme. Had he not done so would he not have given occasion for the opponents of the combined scheme, the U. M. W.'s to cackle. Of the debate it may be said that on the one side it was a fierce, a ferocious attack upon the Dominion Coal company, its ways, its works, and its management, and some very unparliamentary language was used in reference to the P. W. A. Politics, it is feared, is at the bottom of it all; both sides are jockeying for positions. That's about the size of it in the writer's humble opinion.

Much peculiar legislation is sought for by cities

and towns. Here is the section of a bill promoted on behalf of the city of Halifax:—

In place of ordering any premises to be vacated under this Section the Board may in its discretion declare such premises to be in an unsanitary condition and that no rent shall thereafter become payable by any occupant thereof until such unsanitary condition has been remedied to the satisfaction of the Board. Upon such declaration being made and served upon the owner, agent or lessee of the premises, no action, distress, or other proceedings for the recovery of any rent accruing after such declaration and before such unsanitary condition has been remedied shall be taken or be legal, nor shall any tenant be evicted or expelled for non-payment of any rent claimed for such period, and in addition to any remedies or defences at law possessed by any person, any such owner, agent or lessee attempting to put in force any warrant of distress or to evict any such occupant for non-payment of any rent accruing for such period shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars and in default of payment to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month.

There are some amusing things said and done in the legislature. I will give an incident, rendered all the more spicy when one considers that Mr. Finn is a M. P. P. for Halifax and Mr. Pearson connected with the Morning Chronicle. Mr. Finn had expressed his opinion on Mr. Pearson's veracity, to which that gentleman replied in these terms: I would not seek Mr. Finn's opinion at any time, in any place, upon any subject. Now, I consider that a clean and clever, though not a kindly cut. Mr. Finn, a member of the committee, made no retort, but he had a champion.

When the House met, Mr. Butts rose to a question of privilege and discussed an incident at a public hearing before the Committee on Law Amendments which had concluded just before the House opened. Mr. Butts said that the Committee had been hearing the views on a Bill affecting the Nova Scotia Tramways and Power Co., Ltd., of a gentleman coming before the Committee either personally or in the interests of that company: All went smoothly until Mr. Finn, a member of the Committee, made some statement. Thereupon the gentleman referred to denied the statement made by Mr. Finn. The gentleman, said Mr. Butts, did not exactly say that Mr. Finn was a liar, but that he had lied. He, Mr. Butts, had called the attention of the Chairman of the Committee to the matter, but nothing was said and the Committee broke up.

Mr. Butts said that the House should not tolerate a person who was before the Committee entirely at its pleasure to go before that Committee and call one of the members of the Committee a liar. Mr. Butts then moved that Mr. G. Fred Pearson be called before the Bar of the House and asked to apologize and retract his statement.

Premier Murray said that he did not see that the House could take notice of the matter. He did not think there could be any question of privilege in regard to a happening that took place before a Committee of the House, particularly when the House was not in session. If there had been any wrong

done, the matter, as he saw it, would have to be the subject of a report from the Chairman of the Committee regarding the incident, but he did not know what jurisdiction the House would have in the matter.

It was funny that Mr. Finn should find a champion in Mr. Butts, but then Butts may have been impelled by that fellow feeling which is said to make one wondrous kind. Some two or three weeks ago, Mr. Moffatt, general secretary of the P. W. A., was before the Law Amendment committee. Mr. Butts tried to put him through the third degree, and in the process told Mr. Moffatt that certain people in Cape Breton did not think him of much account. Mr. Moffatt checked up, and told Mr. Butts that he was absolutely a nobody, and one in whom no man, woman or child in Cape Breton placed the least reliance. Now, surely here was a glaring breach of privilege. Did Mr. Butts appeal to the chair, or did his comrade Finn? Not a bit of it. Why? Because he (Butts) was provokingly aggressive and just got tit for tat. I am afraid that our legislators when young were never duly impressed with the hymn for children, the lines of which are:

"Let dogs delight to bark and bite,  
For God has made them so"

But—

The plebiscite bill was up yet another time on Thursday, the 3rd. Premier Murray said that he still believed that no good could possibly result from this legislation. He felt strongly that the present was a very inopportune time to hold such a plebiscite, which would only serve to perpetuate the feud between the two labor organizations. He had been immeasurably strengthened in his views by facts which had come to his notice since the discussion of the matter in the house on Wednesday. He had since conversed with men who were regarded as labor leaders in the Province and found that these leaders realized the enormous importance of getting the miners of the Province together with common ambitions and common ideas.

With regard to interviews which representatives of the U. M. W. had had with him and which had been referred to by Mr. Douglas, Premier Murray said that he had had one or two discussions with them, had given them a sympathetic reception, talked to them frankly, and had felt that it was his duty to help them along reasonable and proper lines if he could do so.

The Premier said that one labor leader had told him that he would not consider as a desirable member of a labor organization a man who would not pay his dues himself direct to the union, but only if the corporation collected it from his pay. This opinion, said the Premier, made one reach the conclusion that all labor organizations should be placed upon their merits and collect their dues themselves.

"I cannot impress too strongly upon the members of the House that, in my judgment, if you leave the situation alone, the workmen of Nova Scotia, particularly the men employed by the coal corporations, will work the problem more satisfactorily on other lines than those proposed by this Bill."

My comment on a portion of the foregoing is that

the labor leaders, to whom Premier Murray refers, had no extended experience. That which is considered the toniest and foremost society in the land has to continually drum up "slow" members. It was because it was in their own best interest that the workmen asked that their lodge dues be collected in the office. It saved many a strike.

## 'Rubs' by Rambler.

The brutal characteristics of the German soldiery, as brought out in their conduct of the war, has so impressed the people of Britain and in short, the people of all English-speaking countries, that they have all but come to the conclusion that everything German is bad and that continually. This is an error, for there is no gainsaying the fact that before the war, in some things, the German people excelled. There is chemistry, for instance, and there is education. In Britain, to a large extent, and in Canada, wholly, when a boy has left school the state, the government is done with him, and concludes that it has done all required of it. That is just where our system of education falls down. In Nova Scotia, it is true, we have established technical classes, which in a far away sense may be called continuation schools, but these classes come in after the lad has selected a trade, whether suited to his proclivities or ability or not. In Germany, when a lad has gone through the common school the community is not done with him, but follows him and endeavors to teach him a trade for which it is found he is best suited. It is claimed that if after the war we are to maintain commercial supremacy we must take a leaf out of the German education book.

A well-known writer in a London paper has this to say on the subject:—"Before the war Germany was the land of education. Illiteracy is practically non-existent. The Government insists that all classes of the population must be educated. The Government has made as serious an effort as ever has been made to enlighten all its citizens. This is a matter which must occupy our minds at the present time. If we are to cope with Germany in economic matters after the war we must steadily face our own shortcomings in education with the object of overcoming them, and we must with the keenest attention watch the steps which are being taken by Germany to improve her educational standing. What do we see? In every one of the federal states we notice the authorities providing for the training of the young in occupations which will be useful and profitable after the war. The Economic Conference at Paris, where steps were taken to provide for joint economic action against Germany after the war, has given a tremendous impulse to movements having for their object the equipment of all classes of the population for the coming struggle in the fields of manufactures and trade. Perhaps the most significant movement is that in favour of an extension of the system of compulsory continuation schools.

"I may be permitted to say that we have here

much to learn. Even a bright child of fourteen, taken from school and set to work under unfavourable conditions, may become dulled and lifeless and unpromising material for citizenship in any walk of life. Character is unformed, the significance of education has not yet become apparent, the child has not learned to think for himself, and he must be saved from himself. To accomplish this purpose the continuation schools have been founded in Germany to meet the needs of those whose parents cannot afford to keep them longer at school. In towns of over 10,000 inhabitants, attendance at these schools is obligatory. It is now proposed to make this attendance obligatory in smaller towns and in most populous country districts."

Some of the Nova Scotia newspapers are in raptures over the action of the Dominion Government in removing the wheat tariff between Canada and the United States. This is claimed to be a great triumph for the 1911 Fielding reciprocity plan. Pshaw! The removal of the wheat duty is a war measure and necessity knows no law, either protection, reciprocity, or free trade. It is forced on one that certain of our Nova Scotia newspapers are far more concerned for the Western farmer, than for the people of this province. Had the Fielding measure carried in 1911 the revenue of Canada in 1916 alone would have suffered to the extent of millions of dollars, without having received the equivalent of a brass farthing. Now just watch what effect free wheat between the U. S. and Canada will have on the cost of living, which is once more a text of some newspapers. Since the order in council passed, flour has gone up in some parts of Nova Scotia to \$14.00 a barrel. As it mounts in price listen to the shouts of "Hurrah for the Western farmers."

What rule guides governments in the appointment of commissioners? The federal government's commissioners are a judge, a college principal and a former leader of the Halifax longshoremen. These gentlemen have been appointed to enquire into conditions at the southern C. B. collieries. Would it not have been well to have had on the commission at least one more or less familiar with the coal trade. Of course the commission as it is may reconcile the warring factions at the coal mines, but that is not the only thing to be settled, according to writers in the press, and numbers of the people. And then there is the Victoria General Hospital commission, consisting of two judges and a merchant. Would it not be aiming at the fitness of things, eternal and otherwise, if one member of the commission knew something of medicine and surgery?

The temperance reformers are quite satisfied with the bill to amend the Nova Scotia act, as amended by the house of assembly. At this writing the chances are that the bill will have no easy passage through the legislative council. The ground of that body's opposition will be that the bill encourages the spy system, for which they have no love at all. Some think that Inspector Tracey, who has done splendid work so far, and made many successful raids, adopts methods neither dignified nor gentle.

Defenders of Mr. Tracey say he is justified in wholly discarding velvet gloves in attacking felons who deliberately break the law of the land.

The Herald must be given credit for having insistently during the past two or three weeks warned the people against not only a possible, but a probable famine next year. At first many people looked upon the appeals as frantic, but opinion is veering round to the belief that they are worthy of being listened to. Premier Murray has frankly confessed that within the past three weeks he has begun to consider the food question as a very serious one. It is a serious question, far more so than the bulk of the people have begun to realize. But this is not greatly to be wondered at in face of the oft repeated assertion that comparatively few Nova Scotians really realize that Canada is at war. Life goes on in the province as if there was no war. There is no stinting, not to say saving, and no apparent diminution of pleasure and general jollity.

The Daylight Saving scheme is seemingly to be held in abeyance in Nova Scotia this year. It was thought that there might be a plebiscite on the question in Halifax this year, but that is now doubtful, unless a special bill has been since Friday presented to the legislature. It is curious that the working men of Halifax are opposed to the measure, seeing they would be the gainers by it. People cannot get it out of their heads that putting the clock an hour ahead on a particular morning means an hour's earlier rising every day. They may see their error by and by. The Manchester Guardian thus refers to its adoption in Britain:—"The country as a whole has found the experiment the unqualified success that the Home Office recently reported it to be. Its precise economic value is uncertain. Undoubtedly coal, oil, and electricity were saved last summer, and in serviceable amounts, but the figures can be no more than estimates. What may be termed its humane value, in the provision of an extra hour of daylight for outdoor life and recreation, can also only be estimated, though no estimate can rate that value too highly. This country—as well as almost every other in Europe—now knows from the experience of last year how easily a great social advantage is to be gained from a trifling mechanical change."

#### BENEVOLENCE V. CHARITY.

A New Zealander left the residue of his estate for distribution by his trustees among "benevolent" and other causes. The Court of Appeal for New Zealand decided, by a majority of four judges to one, that the gift was void, and passed to the next-of-kin. This decision has been upheld by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Lord Buckmaster said that in accordance with a well-established series of authorities, a gift for benevolent purposes was bad, because such purposes went beyond the legal definition of "charities," a word which had always possessed a limited and technical meaning. It was far too late to question the soundness of those authorities.

## AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

An Inverness man writing to the Morning Chronicle says:—

Given a Government railway from the Strait of Canso to Eastern Harbor, the coal of Chimney Corner, St. Rose, and Inverness could be conveniently shipped every summer from that harbor to the St. Lawrence markets. The southern section of that railway would carry the coal of Mabou and Port Hood to Port Hastings for similar shipments. This is especially important, seeing the present and prospective requirements of those great central coal markets.

The Record would like to see the railway referred to built, and all the coal seams of Chimney Corner to Port Hood well opened up, but never in the hope, or with the intention of sending coal to the St. Lawrence market. Inverness county has had its own experience of the St. Lawrence market, and that is not stimulating. Had the Inverness company never sent a pound of coal to the St. Lawrence it is possible the colliery and the railway would not now be in the hands of a receiver. Neither Inverness, Pictou, nor Cumberland county colliers can hope in the present times, nor for an indefinite future time, to profitably compete with Cape Breton in the St. Lawrence markets, unless possibly under wholly governmental control. And even then it might not be other than a losing speculation.

The local government has acquired power to appoint a commission to make open and naked every matter or thing in connection with the coal industry in Cape Breton county. A champion of Inverness is chagrined that Inverness county has not been specially mentioned and writes to the Chronicle thus:

The Government of Nova Scotia ought to appoint without delay an independent and intelligent commission of expert miners to visit and examine all the coal mines of Inverness county, in order to see and say what is the matter with them. I would ask that this commission take particular pains to ascertain and examine conditions at the Inverness colliery. It is not when a mine collapses that steps should be taken to preserve it. Rather than have all these mines idle the government itself should take and operate them.

There is no necessity for such a commission to take particular pains to ascertain and examine conditions at the Inverness colliery. Such a request is a slur on the Mines Department. The Department may not have officers with time to enquire into such matters as transportation, coal prices, wages, etc., but it has officers who should be able to give all needed information as to conditions in the mine, and any obstacle that stands in the way of, or renders impossible, enlarged production, and that the Record thinks is what the writer of the extract is after.

The writer above quoted tells us:

There is a good coal mine at Port Hood, a good coal mine at Mabou, a good coal mine at Inverness, a good coal mine at St. Rose and a good coal mine at Chimney Corner. All of these are idle, except the mine at Inverness, and that one appears to be getting notably out of wind. It is known all over Canada that these mines are idle. Is it good statesmanship to allow them thus to remain?

It may not be good statesmanship. An old rhyme runs:—

“Oh for the want of pocket money and for the want of cash

Many a bonnie laddie wants his bonnie lass.”

And there is no doubt it is for a similar reason the local government does not lend money to open the mines and the federal government does not build a railway to transport the products.

Than F. W. Gray, of the Dominion Coal company's staff there is no man better able to write in a luminous way on the merits of the Dominion Steel and Dominion Coal companies' combined scheme, and the Compensation Act. We do not except the Compensation board as a whole or any individual member thereof. Some Record readers may be under the impression that the acceptance of the combined scheme means a full contracting out of the Compensation act. Let Mr Gray speak:

It has been made to appear that the workmen of these companies voted for the retention of the Relief Societies as against the Workmen's Compensation Act. Mr. Douglas is reported as “pointing out the superiorities of the Workmen's Compensation Act, which he said would add at least \$50,000 annually to the expenditures of the Coal company, and accounted for their opposition.” The only meaning one can extract from this is, is that the Coal company is endeavoring to withhold from its workmen the benefits of the Compensation Act, and to substitute some compromise. What are the actual facts?

The contracting-out scheme on which the workmen voted, and gave a favorable decision of three to one, provides that the workmen shall receive ALL the benefits of the Compensation Act, PLUS a donation from the company to the Sickness Fund of 25 cents per month per man, or at least \$30,000 per year.

The added expense of the Workmen's Compensation Act to the company will be very much more than the \$50,000 named by Mr. Douglas. It will be nearer \$200,000, and in addition as a free gift, the company offer \$30,000 to the Sickness Fund.

The only point in which the contracting-out scheme differs from the Compensation Act is in the matter of administration. It is proposed that the payment of compensation for accident shall be administered by a Board on which workmen and company are equally represented, and that in case of

any dispute whatsoever the decision of the Compensation Board shall be accepted as final.

No other industrial company in Canada, and now in the United States is known to have made so generous a proposal to its workmen. The proposal made by the company was in actual fact far more generous than any official of the Relief Society had ever dared to hope for. And yet it is stated the company used undue influence, bribes and liquor to influence the vote!

If ever a straightforward generous offer was made to workmen, this was a case. I defy those who have opposed the scheme to produce a parallel case in North America. The only charitable construction one can place upon the misrepresentations that have been made, is that the opponents of the scheme do not understand it.

It is unfair to all concerned, unfair to the Coal company, but much more unfair to those dependent widows and children whose source of relief is imperilled by the misrepresentations of ill-informed politicians, that the impression should be sought to be created that the contracting-out scheme of the Dominion Coal company involves any relinquishment by the workmen of the benefits conferred by the Act. It gives all these benefits and **very much more.**

The more the contracting-out scheme is examined and probed, the greater publicity that is given it, the better for the scheme, because it is a fair, generous scheme designed to supplement and round out the deficiencies of the Compensation Act. Any opposition there has been to the scheme is entirely due to misunderstanding of its scope and plan. Any other kind of oppositions must be deliberate and intended to mislead.

Work at the collieries at Little Bras D'Or is progressing satisfactorily, the one drawback being the scarcity of labor. The new slopes have been sunk, which, given miners, should add materially to the output in the coming months.

"It never rains but it pours." The saying may be applicable to the appointment of a commission by the Labor Department, and the proposed appointment of a similar body by the local government, to inquire into the conditions generally at the coal mines. The commission appointed by the federal government began its sittings last week. It has been specially appointed to inquire into differences among workmen, and between a section of them and the Dominion Coal Company.

It was reported the end of last week that, through the mediation of the commission appointed by the Labor Department, the P. W. A. and U. M. W. might come together, if the officers of both societies would resign. The proposal was submitted to the P. W. A. lodges. At the time of this writing the result of the appeal is unknown. The Record has only to say, if the P. W. A. consents it have better done so three or four weeks ago without the aid of a commission. A similar proposal was made by the McLaughlin party then. An agreement to come together on such basis must be humiliating to the older members of the P. W. A.

## A PRESENT DAY GREAT PRIVILEGE.

(British Weekly.)

It is a great thing to be living in a time like this. So long as man dwells upon the earth, this very time whose air we breathe shall be celebrated and recalled. Men shall ponder the influences which led on to the crisis, taking guidance and warning thereby. More clearly than do we, those who come after us shall perceive the principles which were grappling them, even if they are so minded, to deny that, out of the immeasurable agony, mankind emerged as from the dead into newness of life.

Every morning just now we are confronted with an event which, in quieter times, would have kept us talking for years. We are like travellers flying through space, who look out of the windows each morning and see a new world.

What scenes are crowding in upon us!

We are at length seeing almost for the first time the backs of our enemies! The patient, plodding, pushing business of thirty months is at length wearing through the heaped-up preparations designed for our overthrow. We are beginning to see how far from being vain—even on the narrow field of immediate success—was the travail unto death of our fair manhood in the terrible days when nothing but is never so fine as when it rests upon faith—when now, already, what do we see! Once more—the backs of our enemies, their faces turned homewards, with all the bitterness of soul which such an attitude must let loose within them. We see France, with her head now fairly lifted up from the abasement of forty years' moral captivity, and ready, when the cannons cease, to make gifts of intellect the glory of her perished fanes. Ourselves we see shaken out of various lethargies of the soul—out of the lethargy of physical comfort, out of the dullness of mere wealth, out of the growing suspicion of liberty, out of the mean doctrine of rights—eager once again for adventure—which is the very salt of our race—with little patience for those who are only wise enough to be afraid.

And, on the top of everything, the retreating forces of the enemy; the rejuvenation of France; the return on our own part—so at least I love to think—to the tradition of Milton and of the English Admirals—the tradition of faith and venture; the ferment of the moral sense of America until now the brew is at the boiling point; on the top of all this, we have in this blessed resurrection-time of Nature, with the sun passing into spring, and summer only a matter of weeks, on the top of all this, we have Russia, with an action as sudden as all the great things Russia does, taking hold of her political freedom, with the simple and irresistible gesture of a strong peasant who takes up a thing with both hands.

Human liberty is one of God's interests; so that there must be joy in heaven over the new birth of a people.

## RUSSIA'S GLORIOUS PART.

By Rev. J. A. Hutton.

Those who have learned to love the Russian people through their literature will look forward to an immense accession of vitality which will now be let loose for the common good of the race. For the quality of that literature is its dark energy and fulness. Denied all free expression, denied its proper exercise in political institutions and responsibilities, the Russian soul has been compelled to turn in upon itself. And so, for the most part, the Russian spirit has expressed itself in works of imagination. Forbidden to advocate, or to preach, or to protest, all that the sensitive Russian could do with his overflowing heart was—to tell a story. And so in that medium, the medium of fiction, Russia leaves all other countries so far behind as to be almost out of sight. The sensitive Russian, forbidden to protest against what he saw—in the matter of tyranny and oppression—could only tell what he saw, and tell it with a truth deeper than the truth of nature and fact, the truth of genius and imagination. He could not denounce the political system under which he lay helpless; but he could describe it. He could not stand upon the hustings; but he could sit in some garret and write—could write his heart-breaking stories of the "humbled." He could write "The Inspector-General," describing the corruption and bribery amongst officials, until all Russia first rocked with laughter and then paused and wept with grief and shame.

But what day it will be for us all, for the whole world, for the Kingdom of God, when Russia begins to devote her virgin soil no longer to heart-rending psychology, but to positive product and enterprise! What will it not mean for us more Western peoples whose spiritual blood has grown thin, who have forgotten the vision of the depths and the heights, what will it not mean when the Russian genius is set free to report to us in the daylight the things she has discovered to be there in the long darkness!

Oh, the patience of the Russian soul, the reservoir of tears!

A writer in the New Testament said of Jesus that "He tasted death." It was the awful agony of Jesus, not that He died, but that He tasted death; He felt the saltness of it. Reverently may we use the words of Russia, as Russia has become incarnated in her men of genius. They have passed through everything, tasting everything, feeling everything. Like Dante, the Russian soul has passed on its pilgrimage through Hell. Their stories, their tales, their proverbs, are full of that terrible experience.

I cannot measure the full glory of the thing which Russia will give us all when, as we believe has now happened, she gets justice and a chance. If the height to which a soul may rise bears some relation to the depth it has the power to penetrate, truly the River of God will be full of water. What the Russians will say will silence or put to shame all our more trivial speech. And not for a hundred years

at least will any theory of life be accepted as corresponding to man's true nature which will propose for him that he should live merely for the day and be satisfied with the things of this world.

I see a deep but most intelligible design of God in this, that it is Russia which is to inaugurate the new time that is coming. Russia with her faith—a faith become instinctive through the necessities and hardships of a thousand years. Russia, which will not pause or come to rest on any mere claim of right; which will always lie open to terrible questionings and even nightmares of the spirit—in which all the glory of this present world will suddenly have the taste of ashes for her.

Dr. C. W. Saleeby, speaking at Sheffield, declared that, while we have enough whiskey in the country to last six years, we have probably not enough wheat to last six weeks. He urged that alcohol should be used for anaesthetics and munitions, and not taken into the human body. It was not meant to be swallowed, any more than petrol. On the last day in January there were 157,000,000 gallons of proof spirit in the country—enough to kill everybody, without troubling the Germans. We ought to follow the lead of our French Allies, and commandeer the whole supply for use in munitions.

Ireland had none of the coal which made England rich, but she possessed in her mighty rivers white coal of which millions of horse power were being lost every year. Northern Spain had been transformed by the use of water power for generating electricity, yet Northern Spain had no river like the Shannon. The Canadians and Americans who had chained Niagara could, with the use of British capital, harness the Irish rivers, build up Irish industries, stop emigration, and make Ireland what she certainly was not now—a country of opportunities. Many Conservative M. Ps. had assured him that England could not talk about the rights of small nations, while ignoring the insistent demand for some readjustment of Irish affairs.

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## Synopsis of Coal Mines Regulations.

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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.

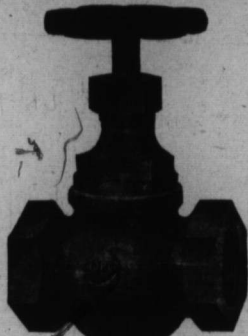
For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. W. COBY,

Deputy Minister of the Interior.

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## DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

Hon. E. L. Patenaude, Minister.

### Mines Branch.

#### Recent Publications:

- Building and ornamental stones of Canada, (Quebec), Vol. III, Report on, by W. A. Parks, Ph. D.
- The Bituminous Sands of Northern Alberta, Report on, by S. C. Ellis, M. E.
- Peat, lignite, and coal; their value as fuels for the production of gas and power in the by-product recovery producer, Report on, by B. F. Haanel, B. Sc.
- The petroleum and natural gas resources of Canada: Vols. I & II, by F. G. Clapp, M. A. and others.
- Electro-plating with cobalt, Report on, by H. T. Kalmus, Ph. D.

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 1915.
  - MEMOIR 20. Gold fields of Nova Scotia, by Wyat 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 1504. Ponhook Lake Sheet, Nova Scotia.
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### Concerning the 'Record'

The first Number of the 'Trades Journal' was issued the first Wednesday of 1880. The 'Journal', while taking a deep interest in the Coal Trade, was more particularly interested in matters affecting the welfare of those employed in the coal mines of the Province. Its aim was to secure for these better working conditions, and to give them the standing in the community to which, it thought, they were entitled. That much good was accomplished along these and kindred lines is acknowledged by all able to make comparison between conditions as they existed in 1880 and as they exist now.

In 1898 the name was changed to the Maritime Mining Record, in order to express more distinctly the place it was intended to occupy. Since then, till now, its pages have been devoted chiefly to coal mining, which is the staple industry in Nova Scotia. With the growth of the trade it has grown in influence, and is now considered the one reliable authority on all matters connected with the coal trade.

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