The District Ledger

Industrial Unity is Strength. | The Official Organ of District No. 18, U. M. W. of A. | Political Unity is Victory.

No. 18, Vol. VII. | THE DISTRICT LEDGER, FERNIE, B. C., DECEMBER 27, 1913. | $1.00 A YEAR

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WISHING ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FARRINGTON AND PRICE'S REPORT

Scranton, Pa., December 15, 1913.
Hon. Thomas W. Crothers, K. C.,
Minister of Labor for Canada,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Sir,—I have just been favored with a copy of the official report filed with your Department by Royal Commissioner Samuel Price, who, I understand, was appointed in accordance with an act of the Dominion Parliament to investigate the coal miners' strike now existant on Vancouver Island. Because of my having had charge of this strike from its inception, I think I can discuss the report with a reasonable degree of assurance that I know my subject; and as the representative of the men involved in the strike I feel that I have a license to defend them against the injustice done their cause by reason of the Commissioner's manifest failure to reveal the truth. Therefore, in the absence of a personal meeting, I take this means of communicating to you the statement that the Royal Commissioner's report is neither an impartial nor a complete exposition of the situation on the Island. Much of it is composed of a quotation of an opinion written by a former commissioner in connection with the Island strike of 1903, and which opinion was virulent in tone, unwarranted by the facts and injurious to the miners of that time, but entirely foreign to the present controversy; yet it is now reproduced in Commissioner Price's report, evidently to deceive the public and injure the men engaged in the existant strike. Moreover, as a Congressional guide the report is misleading, and worthless as an historical document, for the reason that the Commissioner has given but scant consideration to the miners' side of the dispute, while he has overstepped propriety to find justification for the iniquitous attitude of the mine owners. He has given credence to rumor when rumor was damagaing to the miners' union, and excused the evil practices of the mine owners in the face of tangible proof of their guilt.

To those who are familiar with conditions on the Island it is clear that the Royal Commissioner has predicated his report upon the unsupported statements of the mine owners and their satellites; and, on the other hand, denied the union men the opportunity of appearing before him in defense of their position or to refute the untrue statements of these hostile agents. In view of my prominent connection with this trouble I should be expected to have much valuable matter to contribute to the investigation, and I have, yet I was given no opportunity to present it to the Commissioner. In fact, I never met him but once, and then only informally, during my brief conference with you in Vancouver City the first week in July. I do not mention this because I feel slighted, but because it shows the Commissioner was not anxious to have facts. Furthermore, I have made careful inquiry of the District and Local officers connected with the strike, and many individuals of influence and activity among the strikers, all of whom unite in declaring they did not have the privilege of appearing before the Commissioner, and none of whom unite in declaring they did not have the privilege of appearing before the Commissioner, and none of whom were even aware of his visit to the Island; which further indicates his desire to escape rather than to find the truth.

Couple his transgression in this respect with his transparent disposition to favor the mine owners and his apparent willingness to accept and include in his report everything, no matter how flimsy, that reflects discredit upon the United Mine Workers of America, and you must agree the Royal Commissioner's report is destitute of justice to the striking miners.

The miners have been insistent in their claims that the Canadian Collieries Company are employing Orientals, in violation of the Provincial Mining Laws, to break the strike. The Commissioner has concealed the true conditions in this respect by making irrelevant comparisons and by failing to give an account of the number of Orientals employed during the two and one-half months intervening between the last day of May and the date of his report. However, accepting his figures as a basis for computation, we find that of all the men employed in all the coast mines during 1912 less than 20 per cent were Orientals, and that of the men employed under ground by the Canadian Collieries Company eight and one-half months after our men were locked out, or in May, 1913, the ration of Orientals was more than 62 per cent. And had the Commissioner considered the additional number employed during June

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INJURIES TO A MINER WERE FATAL

Austrian Was Employed Bringing Bringing Loaded Coal Cars to the Tipple

At 4.30 Tuesday afternoon, Arthur Lotina,a ged 26, a driver at number 6 shaft of the Galt Collieries, received injuries while working in the mine which proved fatal, the unfortunate miner succumbing an hour later, just as he had reached the hospital.

Lotina was working in the main entry and was ready to bring his loaded train of cars to the tipple. A man named Willets was working in a branch entry, and had received the signal from Kosneak, the trapper at the junction, that he had the right of way over Lotina. He had started his cars toward the tipple, but Lotina's light was seen coming down the main entry, contrary to the signal given by the trapper. The grade on the main track is steep, and sprags are used to brake the cars. Evidently Lotina had lost control of his cars, and Willets, seeing this, endeavored to give him the right of way, so that a collision might be averted. He cut his horse loose and told Lotina to jump from the car. But the victim was doing his best to save his own horse, not realizing the danger to himself. The horses were cut loose, but it was too late for Lotina to jump, and by this time the cars had gained considerable speed. Willets' forward car just butted over the main track, and Lotina was caught between this car and the bumper of his own car, being dreadfully crushed. It was found later that he had neglected to place the sprags o n the wheels of his car, they being found on top of the car. He had been given the signal to stop, but could not do so on account of the lack of brakes.

Deceased was an Austrian, and has no other relatives here except a cousin. The funeral took place on Friday when the mines were idle.

DISASTROUS PANIC AT CALUMET, MICH.

Parents Crush Babes—Celebration Was for Children of Striking Copper Miners by Western Federation Women.

CALUMET, Mich., Dec. 24.—Four score persons, mostly children, were killed tonight at a Christmas celebration held by copper mine strikers in Italian hall because of a needless panic caused by a false alarm of fire.

While several hundred miners and their wives looked on and scores of children pressed eagerly toward the stage to receive Christmas present, a man stuck his head in at the door of the hall and yelled "Fire!"

The cry was taken up at once by those in the hall. Every one started for the doors. The weaker persons were thrown to the floors and those behind tried to climb over the human barrier.

In a few minutes the panic was stopped by the fact that the stairway and the other avenues of egress were blocked so effectually that those within could not get out and those without could not get in to aid the malmed and remove the dead.

Festival Becomes Tragedy

The alarm was spread outside the hall by a few persons who had been near the door and escaped unhurt. A crowd soon assembled and the work of clearing was begun.

The only regular exit was a stairway at the back of the hall. When this had been cleared of the bodies that filled it to the top and a quick accounting had been made, it was found that 74 corpses had been piled up besides the hallb uilding. It was believed that probably a dozen more had been carried away by friends.

The dead included 37 girls, 10 boys, 13 women and five men. The excited relatives stood about the building, some dazed by the sudden change from holiday festivities to tragedy, others calling hysterically for a missing child and a few even threatening violence to the rescuers forcing them back from the long row of bodies.

Event Long Anticipated

For many days the children of the copper mine strikers had waited anxiously for the free Christmas tree exercises that had been arranged by the woman's auxiliary of the Western Federation of Miners. The entertainment was set for the early evening and the hall, which is on the second floor, was soon filled to the limit.

SENGHENYYDD DISASTER FUND

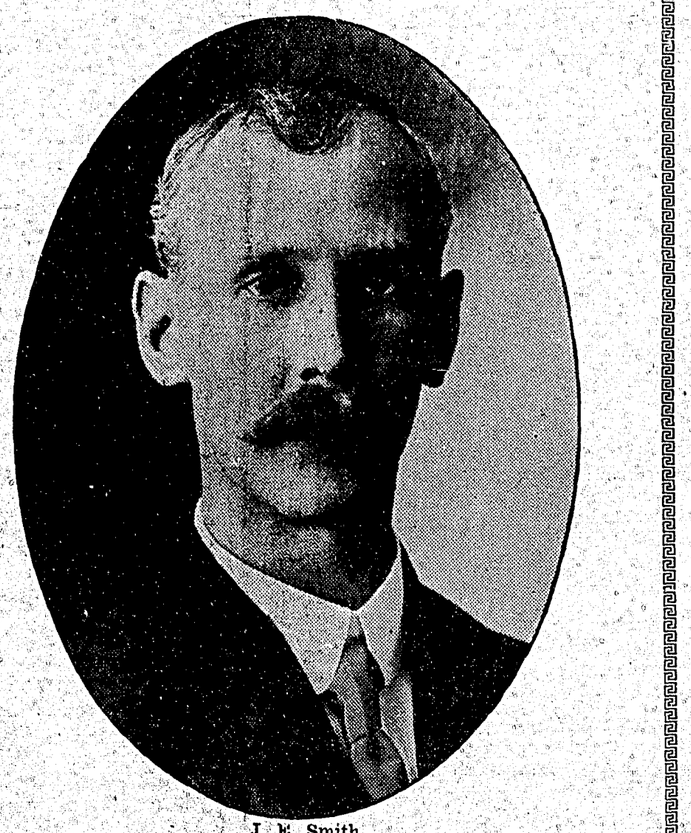
The Male Voice Party recently organized for the purpose of raising a fund for the dependents of the Senghenydd disaster, will have their first practice at 7 p.m. sharp, Sunday, Dec. 28th, 1913 at the home of Mr. Tom Biggs, McPherson Avenue. All members and intending members are courteously requested to be punctual in attending practices.—T. BIGGS, Conductor.

THE CHILDREN'S ANNUAL

The children of Fernie will receive their annual treat at the hands of the Trites-Wood Co. on New Year's morning, when thousands of bags of candies will be distributed to all those who present themselves at the store by 11 a.m. Do not get there too early, as you may have to wait in the cold, but be on time.

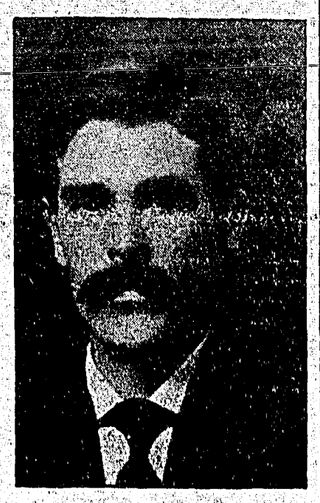
Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Kennedy, of the Trites-Wood Co., leave for Spokane on Sunday, where they are staying over the New Year.

Election of District Officers



J. E. Smith

SUMMARY OF TELLERS' REPORT



Wm. Graham

Sub District No. 1

W. L. PHILLIPS	924
W. BALDERSTONE	536

Sub District No. 2

W. HAYSOM	515
J. BURKE	485
G. POUNDER	430

For President
J. E. SMITH
(Acclamation)

For Vice-President
W. GRAHAM
(Acclamation)

For Secretary-Treas:

A. J. CARTER	2031
D. H. HYSLOP	1192
T. FRANCE	1110

For International Board Board Member
D. REES
(Acclamation)

D. Rees

Sub District No. 3

J. LARSEN	453
A. McROBERTS	410

Sub District No. 4

T. NOILES	414
J. NOBLICK	174

A. J. Carter

CONCERT ENTERTAINMENT

To be Held in the Methodist Church on the Evening of December 30, Starting Promptly at 8 o'clock

The program is especially arranged for the edification of the mothers and children attending the dinner the same afternoon, who are cordially invited to bring their friends with them.

Rev. D. M. Perley will preside over the entertainment. The following named well known residents of the city have consented to make short addresses appropriate to the occasion: Mr. H. Martin, Mr. Thos. Uphill, Mr. Joseph Sutton, Mr. H. Wilkes, Dr. Bonnell.

Miss Ruth Wilson, assisted by her brother, will render a selection of songs and musical pieces on the electrical grafonola. The program will consist of over 20 selections. The concert will commence promptly at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 30th. No admission charges.

Widows desiring to participate in above treat are requested to given in their names to the secretary of Miners' Union (T. Uphill) as soon as possible.

POCAHONTAS MINERS PROTEST

At a public meeting of the citizens of Pocahontas, held on Sunday, November 30, 1913, it was proposed, seconded supported and carried unanimously that Messrs. McBride, Bowser, Borden and Dogerty be written and informed—

"That the citizens of Pocahontas strongly protest against the persecution of people on strike on Vancouver Island and that steps be taken by these officials to end the strike at once; and that the strikers in prison be released at once.

(Signed
T. W. O. BROADBENT
T. CHAMBERS,
E. N. FISHER,
Committee appointed by the aforesaid meeting

DEATH

In Vancouver, B. C., on Dec. 13, Margaret, wife of Wm. Talbot, late of Michel, B. C., and daughter of Jas. Harmison, Badlington, Northumberland. In child-bed. The funeral took place on Tuesday, Dec. 16, and was attended by friends and relatives and members of Local Vancouver No. 1, S. P. of C.

OUR CONCERT

Last Monday's concert, while not a success when regarded from an attendance viewpoint, as a demonstration of vocal and musical talent was a revelation to many. To the Coal Creek Amateur Dramatic Society belongs the bulk of credit for the evening's entertainment; while Fernie and Hosmer also supplied their quota, little Miss Elsie Robson, of the latter town, being exceptionally good. Although but eleven years old, her sweet soprano voice rang out clear and sweet, while her quaint interpretation of the Gaelic accent created much amusement.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the Coal Creek party, and it is to be regretted that they were not encouraged by a larger audience. Among those who contributed were the following time-honored favorites: J. McMillan, Mrs. Percy, W. R. Puckey, R. Billsborough, J. T. Puckey, Miss Isabel Mann, G. Finlayson, D. F. Markland, R. Sampson, T. Biggs. Fernie-Coal Creek Excelsior Band rendered several selections very creditably.

J. W. Bennett distributed the prizes, interspersing his remarks with his usual humorous and jocular remarks, while Dave Rees, International Board Member for District 18, acted as chairman and addressed the meeting at the opening of the concert.

Miss Macleod and Miss Lily left on Wednesday for the former's home in Nelson. They will return to Fernie for New Year's Day.

Skating is now in full swing at the rink and a large number of skaters turn out every night to enjoy the ice, which is now in great condition.

We have not yet noticed a plethora of hockey matches, but presume that they will be put on the tapis some time after the season is over. And Fernie has the makings of a real good team.

A number of Fernie people intend to take in the trainmen's ball at Cranbrook on New Year's eve. This function has the reputation of being the very best in the Kootenay.

Mr. H. Simmonds, evangelist, from Lethbridge, will preach in the Olivet Baptist Church next Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7 p.m. This being the last Sunday of the year, the services are being made especially interesting and a cordial invitation to attend is extended to all.

Next week promises to be a busy one at the Methodist Church. The Christmas tree and children's entertainment on Monday evening, and the miners' dinner on Tuesday with free Victrola program following, will both prove popular events. Then on Wednesday, the 31st, the young people will have a New Year's Eve social. After this, at 11 p.m., there will be a union watch night service in which Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist congregations will join forces in the Methodist Church.

RELEASE MAN AND CURSE DOCTORS

TRINIDAD, Colo., Dec. 20.—Mike Lavoda, organizer, and Tom Parrett, union headquarters doorkeeper, were released Tuesday by the State troops after an examination before "Czar" Chase's military commission. They were arrested as they were returning to Trinidad from Ludlow in an automobile last Friday and have been held in the county jail without warrant of law.

It developed Tuesday, when the two men told of their hearing, that military authorities thought they would catch Ed. Doyle, secretary of the Colorado United Mine Workers, when they stopped the automobile in which Lavoda and Parrett were riding. Doyle had just been released, on order of the governor, from the city jail, and General Chase already had made plans to rearrest him, but Doyle was on his way to Denver.

Parrett was released after a short examination, but Lavoda was grilled by the seven militia officers composing the military commission and Judge Advocate Boughton for five hours.

Uhlich Well Read

"They asked me everything about myself from the day I was born," said Lavoda Wednesday. "I couldn't tell them anything they wanted to know, so they let me go. You know, when a fellow is fighting for something good he doesn't mind, even if they send him to jail. That is how I felt when I was in that dark, stuffy cell, and I was so happy I just kept singing union songs all the time."

Robert Uhlich, president of the Trinidad local, is still held in the city jail. Tuesday the military officers decided to let him have some books from his library to read.

They were surprised when the man whom they have branded as an anarchist, and whom they have tried to connect with a murder plot, asked for such books as "Pickwick Papers," "The Three Musketeers," and "Les Miserables."

Soldier Insults Doctors

Trinidad citizens and business men were indignant Wednesday over insults offered by a militiaman near Segundo to Dr. Chisholm and Dr. V. Clausi, who were on their way to visit a patient Tuesday. The soldier ordered the two Trinidad physicians to stop, and when their car skidded on the snowy road, cursed them foully. Dr. Chisholm remonstrated and was greeted by a new volley of oaths.

The two doctors reported the matter to General Chase, in Trinidad, Tuesday afternoon.

"It's you so-called 'good citizens' who are giving me more trouble than all the foreign strikers," Chase is said to have told them, although he promised to investigate their complaint.

A heavy snow, which began falling at 2 p.m. Tuesday and which continued all night, caused a great deal of discomfort to strikers in the various tent colonies. All the union men, however, have been plentifully supplied with coal, and their tents are floored and banked, so that they will not suffer even from intense cold.

At the militia camps, where the State soldiers have been sleeping on straw beds made on the ground, there is more real suffering than in the strikers' colonies.

Strike leaders here believe General Chase put himself in a hole Tuesday when he declared that if Mother Jones comes to Trinidad she will be jailed.

With the aged angel of the coal miners in jail, they declare, the strike will be as good as won because of the immense weight of the public sympathey which will be aroused for her and for their cause.

On the other hand, if Chase does not arrest her he will be in the position of having his bluff called.

Double Pay for Guards

Former mine guards who have joined the State militia are still drawing pay from the coal operators, although they wore national guard uniforms, it was openly charged here Wednesday. Peter and Arthur Swatzel, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company mine guards, are said to have boasted to Trinidad merchants Tuesday that they have joined the militia and that they are now receiving $3.50 a day from the company in addition to the money paid by the State. All other guards who have succeeded in enlisting also are drawing two wages, they are alleged to have said.

Forty Mexican strike breakers, taken to Gray Creek Tuesday by a military guard, are reported to have rebelled against going to work in the mines. Several of the Mexicans came back to Trinidad Wednesday and told union men that all their companions are anxious to get away from Gray Creek.

MARRIAGE

A quiet wedding was solemnized on Christmas eve by the Rev. D. M. Perley, pastor of Methodist Church, the contracting parties being Mr. Walter Hill and Miss Emily Atkinson.

The Dangers of Indigestion

You simply can't be well—that is, really well—if your digestion is bad, for your very food may poison you unless it is digested. That is why indigestion (imperfect digestion) is the root cause of nearly all our minor ailments and of many serious ones too. Food should nourish your body, and make good the daily waste which never stops, but it can't do that unless your stomach digests it. No wonder dyspeptic men and women are always weak and ailing—they're starved and often poisoned too. Starved, mind you, not for lack of food, but because they don't digest the food they eat. Poisoned, not by eating bad food, but because their stomachs are weak and their bowels inactive, and so the food they eat ferments and gives off poisonous gases which are carried by the blood stream to every part of the body. It is because Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup possesses in a remarkable degree the power to tone, strengthen and regulate the action of the digestive organs—the stomach, liver and bowels—that it is still, after forty years' testing, the best known and most successful remedy for indigestion, constipation, biliousness and the many distressing ailments which are traceable to a weak or disordered condition of these important organs. Success breeds imitators, and there are many so-called substitutes for Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, but none of them contain the combination of more than ten herbal extracts upon which the restorative and curative value of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup depends. If you suffer from indigestion, and wish to give Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup a trial, be sure you get the genuine article.

Price $1.00. Trial size 50c.

For sale by

McLEAN DRUG AND BOOK CO.
FERNIE, B. C.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE GIRL WITH UGLY HAIR

Don't mourn over it! Don't envy others because they have beautiful hair. Begin right now to give proper, intelligent care and attention to your hair—and then let others envy you. Use Harmony Hair Beautifier, a delightful liquid hair dressing that is just what it is named—a hair beautifier.

To make the hair glossy, soft and silky—to make it easier to put up in smooth, wavy folds, and "stay put"—to restore to your hair the well-groomed appearance you want it to have—to overcome the unpleasant, oily odor of the hair and leave instead a delightfully dainty, fresh rose fragrance—Harmony Hair Beautifier will please you, or your money back. Very easy to apply—simply sprinkle a little on your hair each time before brushing it. Contains no oil; will not change the color of the hair, nor darken gray hair.

To keep hair and scalp dandruff-free and clean, use Harmony Shampoo. This pure liquid shampoo gives a rich lather that immediately penetrates to every part of the hair and scalp, insuring a quick, thorough cleansing. Washed off as quickly, the entire operation takes only a few moments. Can't harm the hair; leaves no harshness or stickiness—just a sweet cleanliness.

Both preparations come in odd-shaped, very ornamental bottles, with sprinkler tops. Harmony Hair Beautifier, $1.00. Harmony Shampoo, 50c. Both guaranteed to satisfy you in every way, or your money back. Sold in this community only at our store—The Rexall Store—one of more than 7,000 leading drug stores of the United States, Canada and Great Britain, which own the big Harmony laboratories, Toronto, where the celebrated Harmony Perfumes and Toilet Preparations are made.—N. E. Suddaby, Victoria Avenue, Fernie, B. C.

Ladies' Handbags and Purses

Our stock of Leather Novelties is one of the finest and most up-to-date in the West.

LEATHER HANDBAGS
LEATHER COLLAR BOXES
LEATHER TRAVELLING SETS
LEATHER CUSHION COVERS

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The best assortment we ever stocked, Dolls, Cradles, Teasets, Buggies for the girls, Mechanical Toys of every description for the boys.

Fiction

The latest and best authors in cloth and edition de lux

McLean's Drug & Book Store
THE FERNIE PRESCRIPTION CHEMIST

Farrington Scores Price's Report

(Continued from Page One)

and July, and up to August 14, the date of his report, the ratio would be greater than that. Yet the Commissioner says:

"Statements made as to the wholesale granting of miners' certificates to Orientals, who are said not to be properly qualified, are also, I find upon careful inquiry, not correct. According to figures obtained from the Department of Mines, only thirty-six new miners' certificates were granted to Orientals from the commencement of the trouble down to the time of the inquiry, and the examination for these was conducted in the usual way according to the requirements of the law, and the certificates were only granted after the examiners, including the Chief Inspector of Miners, were satisfied that the Orientals were qualified and entitled to receive them."

It is a matter of common knowledge among the strikers that the men employed as strike breakers in the Cumberland mines of the Canadian Collieries Company are being wantonly maimed and killed because of their inexperience and a lack of knowledge as to how to protect themselves against the dangers of mining. In this connection the Commissioner says:

"The allegations made as to unsafety of some of the mines are at least grossly exaggerated. The statement that the percentage of fatal accidents at the mines of the Canadian Collieries Company had increased over 200 per cent from 1911 to 1912, while correct, arises from the fact that in 1911 these mines had an abnormally low percentage of fatal accidents, only .94 per 1,000, while that of the Province was 2.32 per 1,000. In 1912 this company, though showing, as alleged, a great increase over 1911, was still very low, and little over half that for the Province, the exact figures being 2.12 per 1,000, while that for the Province as a whole was 3.92. The official returns show that at the Extension collieries there had been no fatal accidents either in 1911 or 1912."

While admitting an increase of 200 per cent in fatalities during 1912, in the mines mentioned, he attempts to justify this sacrifice of human life by saying other companies have killed more, and points out that no fatalities occurred in the Extension mines of the same company either in 1911 or 1912; but he neglects to explain why none occurred in these mines. The explanation is a simple one. During 1911 and up to the middle of September, 1912, the Extension mines were operated by experienced men, and from the middle of September to the end of 1912 they were idle, because the company could not recruit enough Chinamen and other inexperienced vagabonds to operate the mines at both Cumberland and Extension, so they herded them all into the Cumberland mines and slaughtered them there; which fact also accounts for the 200 per cent increase in the fatalities occurring in the Cumberland mines during 1912. But what of the fatalities occurring in the same mines of this company during 1913? Almost eight months of this year had passed when the Commissioner's report was rendered, yet though dealing with fatalities, he ignored completely those occurring in that period. Why?

At the end of 1912 the Cumberland mines had been closed to their former skilled employes only three and one-half months, and the list of fatalities augmented 200 per cent. When the Commissioner's report was rendered the former employes had been excluded for eleven months. The number of inexperienced men employed had been increased, discipline demoralized by the constant coming and going of strange men, and the safety of the mines impaired because of a lack of experienced attention. Now, don't forget that for the first eight and one-half months of 1912 these mines had the advantage of being worked with practical men; every men employed was an experienced man, and when they ceased work the mines were as safe as human hands could make them. So when the inexperienced men were first employed they had the benefit of the safety provided by the experienced men to begin with. Still within a lapse of three and one-half months the fatalities among them had increased 200 per cent.

With this as a basis to work from you may be able to judge the magnitude of the fatalities occurring under the less favorable conditions of the succeeding months not mentioned in the report. Certainly they must have been appalling, yet the Commissioner leaves us to speculate as to their number and goes around the corner to applaud the company. You will notice the Commissioner declares: "The allegations made as to the unsafety of some of the mines are at least grossly exaggerated." The above declaration is an evasion of the truth; the strikers have made no such allegations. On the contrary, we acknowledge that when experienced men are employed the mines are as safe as ever. What we do allege is that the mines are veritable death traps for the type of men now employed; and that these unfortunate wretches are being mercilessly murdered in order to defeat the ends of justice and to satisfy the inhuman greed of the mine owners.

In dealing with the wage question the Commissioner says:

"The miners who perform what may be described as the more skilled part of the work ordinarily earn good wages, getting from $3.30 up to $5 and $6 and even as high as $7 and $7.50 per day, according to the amount of coal they produce. No exact figures as to the average are available for all the mines, but the managers of the Canadian Collieries Company give the average for all men working at the face, during the five months preceding the trouble, as $3.99½. The Western Fuel Company give the average they were paying miners as $4.86, and the company miners got $3.30. The manager of the Jingle Pot gives the average pay for his miners, during the month preceding the strike, as $5.05½ per man. The helpers, drivers and pushers and other laborers get much less, running from $2.86 or less up to $3.00 or $3.50."

The above, along with the other features of the report, force one to believe that when handled by the mine owners the Royal Commissioner was as docile and confiding as a well behaved family cow. He states: "No exact figures as to the average rate are available for all the mines, but the manages told him so and so." Would he have us believe those companies keep no books? If they do not would the managers be in a position to furnish the averages quoted? And if they do, why did he not go to the books instead of to the managers to learn the facts before assuming to speak intelligently and authoritatively on the question?

This phase of the report is given added absurdity by the fact that instead of going to the miners for their views as to the wages they earn he quotes the Mayor of Nanaimo to strengthen the claims of the mine managers. A quotation follows:

"Outside opinions generally seem to regard the action of the union, especially at Nanaimo, as being unwarranted. The mayor of the city, in giving evidence before the Labor Commission before any trouble had taken place in Nanaimo, described the conditions there in respect to the earnings of the miners as being exceedngly good, and said he thought the relationship between the employers and the men was very satisfactory."

A number of Nanaimo miners, as well as the Mayor, testified before the Labor Commission referred to in the quotation. They told of low wages, blacklists, discrimination, disobedience of laws, robbery and other injustices suffered by the men, but their testimony failed to supply the Commissioner's wants. What was needed was something to indicate the men were earning substantial wages, so the testimony of the men was ignored and that of the Mayor was incorporated in the Commissioner's report. The fact that the Mayor had never worked in the mines a single day in all his life and was not in a position to furnish first hand, reliable information as to the conditions under which the men worked or the wages they earned does not seem to have made any difference. The Mayor had something that had a tendency to verify the managers' assertions that the men were receiving good wages, and that was sufficient to make his testimony worthy of mention in the report.

And, as if to overwhelm the skeptical with the abundance of his proof, the Commissioner again quotes the managers, as follows:

"The managers also say that the wages they are paying are high and, with one or two small exceptions, as good as those in other camps, and that the conditions in Vancouver Island in other respects are better than in other places, and especially that, as compared with the United States, the hours of labor are very considerably shorter."

Thus is this important question disposed of to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, with the introduction only of the biased oral declarations of the lieutenants of the mine owners and the incompetent testimony of the Mayor of Nanaimo. This injustice to the men could be excused by attributing it to the Commissioner's gullibility and incapability, were it not that his lack of big calibre, dignity and decency, his animosity for the strikers and his obvious desire to create public antagonism against their union are displayed by his having given space in his report to the following:

"Some persons express the opinion that the officials of the United Mine Workers' organization are in the pay of the mine owners of Washington State, or are, at all events, acting in the interest of the people and men there who are profiting by the tie-up in Vancouver Island."

The above canard was manufactured and circulated by the mine owners at the beginning of the strike for the purpose of stampeding the men; but it was so convincingly exposed at the outset that no one of intelligence gave it credence. Even the mine owners found it to be a useless expedient and abandoned its use long ago. And had the Commissioner been actuated by honest motives "some persons' opinion" would not have sufficed, he would have demanded sufficient proof before giving space to such malicious twaddle. Although abounding with untruths, prejudice and deception, and devoid of virility and virtue, the most contemptible feature of it all is that the Commissioner allowed his report to be used by the mine owners as a medium to malign the miners and their union, and without endeavoring to learn the truth gave circulation to the following:

"Coming to what I am satisfied has always from the commencement of the trouble been the crucial point at issue, the managers say their companies are determined not to recognize or deal with the United Mine Workers' Union or its officials. Various reasons are given for this determination, among them that it is controlled by foreign Socialists and agitators who care nothing for the interests of the people of this country. They claim that the United Mine Workers have been trouble makers in other places, and some go so far as to assert that the leaders are merely in it for the money they make and that they have to be bribed in order to get along with the union at all."

As for our being trouble makers, if to slacken the fetters of oppression, raise wages, improve working conditions, shorten the hours of toil, elevate the standard of living, protect the weak against the injustice of the strong, defend right against wrong, educate the young and relieve the distress of the old, teach sobriety and clean living and to bring a greater measure of hope, happiness and comfort to the homes of our people means we are trouble makers, then we plead guilty to the count. As for our being agitators, we plead guilty to that; the person who is not is a dead weight on the rest of humanity.

As for the organization being controlled by Socialists, we deny the allegation. Though we have some enthusiasts—and they are not all foreign to Vancouver Island—who force the trade union movement to suffer because of their political zeal, a sifting or our official personnel will demonstrate that we are not controlled by Socialists; and an examination of our laws, policies and practices would have revealed to the Commissioner that the United Mine Workers of America is nonpolitical in every respect. But in this, like everything else, he chose to quote biased opinions rather than search for the truth. So far as the leaders are concerned, their integrity and sincerity will compare favorably with that of the Commissioner or his informants, and he or they are challenged to prove the contrary. As to the general statement, it has no value because it has no proof. Yes, it has a value, too. It proves the Commissioner's disposition to discredit our union, and that he has stultified his dignity and degraded himself to the level of a vicious traducer by giving circulation to a lot of rant which he cannot show has any foundation in fact.

By the way, I observe the Commissioner omitted mentioning the fact that the Western Fuel Company are now defendants in court down San Francisco way, charged with swindling the United States government out of a hilf million dollars! However, that is a matter of fact, and facts are not important to the Commissioner! This does not reflect any discredit on the United Mine Workers of America, so I suppose the Commissioner did not think it worth while!

Now I am going to conclude by saying that the Vancouver Island miners have been the victims of many indignities and much abuse. The conditions there have been grossly misrepresented, and to their detriment. They have suffered from governmental tyranny to an extent that would not be tolerated in the United States, Great Britain or any of the European countries; and there is a steadily growing suspicion among the workers that the Provincial government has determined to defend the employers of the Province, no matter what their international alignments are, and regardless of what their treatment of their workmen may be, and at the same time use all the powers of government to prevent the growth of international unionism.

My observations have convinced me that there are strong reasons for this suspicion, and there is a likelihood that the Royal Commissioner's report will bring your Department within the pale of that suspicion. Now, let me add that the miners of Vancouver Island are of a high standard of intelligence. They appreciate the value of international unionism and are not deceived by all this bigoted twaddle about "outside interference by foreign agitators," and will not give up their right to affiliate with the United Mine Workers of America, and the sooner the employers and the government understand this and honestly meet the inevitable the sooner the strike will be settled.

Yours very truly,
FRANK FARRINGTON.

NEW ZEALAND'S LABOR MOVEMENT

By P. H. Hickey

Secretary-Treasurer of the New Zealand Federation of Labor

It is now many years since New Zealand first attracted the attention of the social student and reformer through her experimental legislation. Time, the great teacher, has demonstrated that despite the expectations to the contrary, the condition of the New Zealand proletariat is not a whit better economically than that of the workers elsewhere.

The trust is everywhere; its tentacles grasp everything worth taking. Land monopoly flourishes, with its natural corollary of slum areas and all that that connotes. Unprejudiced observers must admit that so far as the New Zealand proletarian is concerned, he is confronted by the same forces as are in operation the world over. It may be that this fact has been responsible for his remarkable awakening. He has been fed on Arbitration Courts, which legalize scabbery; lulled to sleep by Land for Settlement Acts, which didn't settle the land; fascinated by pictures of Workmen's Dwelling Acts, which have not interfered in the slightest with the slum landlord or reduced rents one cent. In short, every conceivable variety of legislation likely to check temporarily the growing desire for the fullest economic freedom has been dazzlingly displayed, and still he is unsatisfied.

Of all the acts passed, probably the only ones granting any measure of relief to the working class are the Factory Acts, Mines Act, the Workers' Compensation Act, the Old Age Pension Act and the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Act. Although the amounts granted under the latter two Acts are ridiculously small, nevertheless, to some extent, they ameliorate those conditions of abject poverty found in countries where no such provision is made.

Although the Liberal party has been responsible for this legislation, the workers, for a good many years past, have been inclining toward a breakaway and the establishment of independent political parties of the workers. This feeling found expression in the launching of "Labor Parties" under various names and of a Socialist party. None of these parties, however, could claim to be at all representative, though they did wage unceasing war on each other, each claiming the right to represent Labor.

Out of all this internecine strife came a Unity Congress, remarkable alike for its size, the scope of its representation and its decisions. The Congress opened in Wellington, the capital city, on July 1 last. It was attended by no less than 380 delegates representing 60,000 of New Zealand's 70,000 organized workers. After ten days of debate there was inaugurated, industrially, a United Federation of Labor, the first of its objects being: "To organize systematically and scientifically upon an industrial union basis, in order to assist the overthrow of the capitalist system and thus bring about a co-operative commonwealth based upon industrial democracy." Politically there was established an organization to be called the Social Democratic Party. Its objective is: "The socialization of the means of production, distribution and exchange."

Despite the efforts of a small group of disrupters, backed by the combined voice of the kept press, both movements are being enthusiastically acclaimed by the workers and will be the means of establishing a united industrial and political movement superior to anything yet existing. New Zealand led the world in the realms of political reform. Let a strict watch be kept on these far away isles, fellow toilers, for here surely will be born one of the very first children of the Social Revolution.—The New Review.

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At a Loose End

By Robert Blatchford

Miss Rebecca West, having asked me to lend her the bishops to play with this week, and Mr. James Larkin not being in my department, I am at a loose end. So I think I will take a day off and tell you some more of the annals of a Norfolk Garden.

The last time I talked garden I described the building of a nest under our eaves by a couple of house martins. Here is the sequel of that domestic idyll.

Perhaps some of my readers may remember that I was called away to Blackburn to open a clubhouse just before the nest was completed. When I got home again I got into my hammock and watched for the martins; but the martins never came. The nest was finished, but the martins were gone.

It was three days before I got the clew to the mystery; the clew was a wisp of straw leaning out of the nest. I watched that straw for I had deduced sparrows.

My deduction was correct. The impudent, immoral sparrows had watched until the martins had finished the nest, and then had taken possession of it.

Of course, nothing could be done. I was vexed. I told Mr. Sparrow that he was worse than a usurer or a duke; but the sparrow has no conscience, and my indignation was wasted.

The fact is, the sparrows, though amusing, are something of a trial. All the year round I feed the little rascals, and in the winter I give them three meals a day. In fact, at this moment of writing, they are hopping about the apple tree calling for their supper as though I kept a hotel. Instead of which they pulled every flower out of my crocuses in the spring, they stole my cherries and pears in the summer, and in the autumn they picked every red berry off my Judas tree. What am I to do with the little besoms?

Then there was my little gray brother, Mr. Johnny Rat. Mr. J. R. had made a home under the floor of the summer house. I met him one afternoon coming home across the raspberry patch with a tulip bulb in his mouth; and I don't know which of us was most surprised.

After a brief meditation I decided not to mention my little gray brother to the family. I consulted Bellerby. The squire said a rat was a public danger, and that J. R. must die. He said I had better borrow Gordon's gun and shoot him (not Gordon, but J. R.), and I said I supposed I must.

But the next morning, as I was walking around the garden, I saw J. R. looking out of his hole at me, and I wilted. "Hang it all," I said to myself, "how would you like to be a rat, and be hated and hunted and shot at on sight?"

I decided to give my little gray brother notice to quit. I stopped up his hole when he went out.

And he made another.

And then Violet, going to get oil to fill the lamps, met J. R. with a chicken bone in his mouth right outside the kitchen door.

Whereupon the downtrodden voteless slave, who plays the double part of wife and doormat in my humble home, ordered me to catch that rat and be quick about it.

So I stopped up his hole again.

And he made another. And so on, da capo.

But, at last, J. R. ceased to make new holes, and I told my slave I thought it was gone. At which I was greeted with a sniff of scorn.

J. R. was not gone. So I called the dog and explained the difficulty to him. I said: "It's like this, Pro, the rat gets into his house, and gets out again, and he has no door. Kindly explain."

Pro laughed. "Why," he said, "don't you see? Look up there," and he pointed with his nose to the wall plum. And he was right. If I had a nose like Procyon I should have found it out myself. J. R. walked up the back of the summer house and came down the plum tree.

So I fetched Comrade Pike; and Comrade Pike said, "Dig him out." And it was so. John dug and I dug, and Pro howled and barked and danced the tango, and there was great excitement. And directly we got below the foundation Pro crawled in and we listened for news of the battle.

The rat was gone.

Pro sniffed, and squealed, and clawed, and threw straw and shavings out of the hole, and came out of it with his nostrils full of earth, and raced along the wall. But J. R. was gone. So we took a couple of floor boards and burnt our gray brother's bed, and then we left the place open for a few weeks, and J. R. took the hint and went to New Zealand or Canada.

But I did not shoot him; and I should have been happy had it not been for the advent of a one-legged thrush.

He came on the lawn one afternoon, and I noticed at once that he did not run like the other thrushes. So I got the field glasses and very soon found that the poor bird had only one leg. He had been caught in a trap.

Instead of running like the other thrushes (from whom he kept away) he hopped about the lawn. When he stopped he steadied himself by drooping one wing. When he had to dig for brother worm he got a fulcrum with his tail. I was sorry for him, but could not help him. And worse was to come.

Yes; for a few days later I saw the poor speckled beauty trying to get his food. And he kept failing. And I found that the poor thing had broken off his tail feathers and the long feathers of his wing.

Alas! The Fates are relentless. And I could do nothing. Could I have caught him and put him in a cage the wild creature would have broken his heart.

I saw him no more. But a few days later, as I was standing by the window in the school library, I saw a weasel in Bellerby's orchard; and I knew that my thrush was doomed, and that Mr. Johnny Rat would visit us no more.

We are told in Holy Writ that without God's will not even a sparrow falleth to the ground. Will any Clarion reader believe that God had willed the miserable end of that pretty song bird? What had the poor thrush done that he should lose his leg in a trap and break his wing and tail? If I could have saved him I would, though perhaps he had stolen my plums and my cherries. "And how much more your Father which is in heaven?"

By the way, that reminds me. A few months ago a reader took me to task for my lack of faith. He said: "How can you walk in your garden and not see God's hand in the beauty of the rose?" Why, marry come up, good gossip, thou errest most parlously. Dost think God made the Frau Karl Druschski, or the Lyon rose, or La France? All the lovely roses in the gardens were made by men; by gardeners. Man has made all the glorious and many colored garden roses out of the wild brier and the dog rose, just as he had made the apple from the crab.

And don't you see that, to a very great extent, by means of natural sex selection, man has made woman, and woman has made man?

And I see, when I walk in the garden, the cruel spider, the voracious caterpillar, the deadly black blight, and the harmful aphides, and the fungoid plague called mildew. Why did God make these? And why did he make the horrible tetanus, the germ of lockjaw, which hides in the soil among the roses?

In July last I showed a friend the larvae of the brown gnat. We watched them crawl out of their worm-like sheaths and fly away into the rosy light of sunset, and we saw the swallows devour them on the wing.

You must try again, my Christian reader. Your theory does not fit the facts.

There is a little book called "The Enemies of the Rose." Get it, and read of the deadly blights, and fungi, and worms, and moths, and bees. Who made the enemies of the rose? I don't know. But I know who made the rose; the rose was made by man.

Why, quite recently Pa Chilvers has made a new apple. He has honored me by calling it the "Robert Blatchford" apple; it bears apples of a pound in weight, and will be a great success, we hope. And it is a descendant of the wild crab.

Yes, and man made the wheat and the barley and the oats, and made the dearest and truest friend of man, the dog.

We live on a planet, spinning like a rifle bullet, lashing at ten times the speed of an aeroplane round a star. We live in the milky way, and amid women that men did not dream of in the dark ages. . . . .

But, enough. I have lent the bishops to Miss West, and today I have nothing to write about but the great little mysteries of a Norfolk garden.

And so to bed.—The Clarion.

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"IRRESPONSIBLE"

"Words are the daughters of earth, but deeds the sons of heaven."

Not unfrequently we are inclined to attach too much importance to the utterances of those who are inclined to give too vehement and candid expression to their feelings. Invariably such utterances come from men who are not in a position to carry out their threats or designs, and who, having nothing to lose or risk themselves, are prepared to go the whole length and persuade others to follow. The labor leader who is irresponsible will soon cease to be a leader. When you attempt to use extreme measures you must be prepared to accept extreme reprisal, and if you go out to kill you must be prepared to meet a similar fate if unsuccessful.

When, however, we remember how harmless and supine these utterances are, we can afford to treat them generously. Beyond a little pleasant flutter of excitement they create no lasting impression, and any real damage they may occur is invariably the result of attaching too much importance or undue publicity.

In Western parlance, this line of talk is expressed as "peddling heated atmosphere," and such men, though possessed of considerable bark, are rarely inclined to bite.

The Ulster situation is a very good example of scientific political barking and bluff, and, to a certain extent, the Ulstermen have succeeded in creating an unholy scare in the Liberal Government ranks. No one has been arrested for sedition, and no one will be—if the Government does not think that they have the power at their back.

The labor movement in B. C. is at present engaged in a great fight against the McBride and Bowser "clique" (we refrain from saying "government"), and the great objective is to secure possession of the means to suppress. At present this is possessed by "Dick" and his colleagues.

The first duty of the workers is to unite in one solid party to test the political strength of this oligarchy, and until we have reason to believe that the bulk of the working class of this province is with us in our fight, it would be lunacy to attempt coercive or anarchistic methods. The leaders of the Labor and Socialist movements in B. C. and the world over are realizing that the fight of the proletariat, whether conducted along commodity or class struggle lines, calls for solid representation at the ballot. The rebellion of the working classes must be successful, and we cannot afford at the present stage, to take hazardous chances on guerrilla methods.

It is time enough to take notice of irresponsible utterances when uttered by responsible individuals, and we would recommend to those readers who are tempted sometimes to weigh too heavily the remarks that are made in the heat of a rhetorical outburst, to regard the effect of such effusions as harmless and as permanent as the proverbial snowball would be in the lower regions, or a mosquito upon a rhinocerous' hide.

The strikers on the Island have a hard fight, but they will be successful if their struggle is conducted along practicable lines. What is wanted is the confidence of the support of the entire working class, but if a general strike were precipitated and, owing to the present condition of the labor market, were to prove unsuccessful, their cause would be injured irreparably.

The U. M. W. A. has spent thousands of dollars, and no doubt is willing to spend thousands more, in conducting a strike in this territory, therefore we think that the workers of District 18 may rest assured that nothing calculated to injure either the strikers or themselves will be attempted or countenance by the organization unless some very cogent reasons be shown.

GENEROUS WORKERS!

LEEDS, England, Dec. 23.—Sixty prominent professional and business men, comprising doctors, lawyers, clergymen and merchants, acted as street sweepers here today and gave a practical demonstration of the determination of the citizens of Leeds not to yield to the employees of the municipal service, who are on strike because the city would not grant what it considered the men's inordinate demands.

We wonder what "inordinate demands" these men are making. Is it that their bank roll is not increasing fast enough or do they find themselves pinched over their car accessories bill? Possibly they are experiencing a little difficulty in meeting their domestics' salaries? This is not generally the case with scavengers, for the simple reason that neither of the "necessities" to the "professional" gentry find any place in their lives. In this prosperous and much-boosted Dominion we find the worker striking for a bare existence or a little more of what he produces.

What are these "inordinate demands"? Does he demand more than $6.00 per week? If so, how extraordinary! How dare he demand more? His task so menial, so lowly; requiring no brains (?), fine executive ability, scientific education or rhetorical powers!

Another side, Mr. Reader: Imagine the devotion and self sacrifice of those "professional men, business men and clergy." Just think of the sacrifice of time, the calloused palms, the aching backs. Was ever such generous devotion recorded? Surely this noble self sacrifice should find a reward in the freedom of the city or some mosaic memorial. A suitable epitaph would be: "To the everlasting memory of the noble band of professional, business men and clergy, who helped defeat the striking scavengers and their inordinate demand—**to live!**" Possibly the strikers will realize very shortly that their bank roll is large enough and that economics can best be effected by dismissing their domestic help and doing a little housework in their spare time.

And they tell us we are civilized! That conditions are better!

Verily this is a time of peace on earth to men of good will!

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINES PAID $2,506,219 IN DIVIDENDS

Having read the above joyous news it is safe to predict that this great prosperous (and "White," of course) B. C. is in for a period of prosperity. Why worry about 15,000 or20,000 men being idle at the coast? Absurd! The wave has struck us. We advance on the crest and prepare for the rich harvest! Why, even the International Coal & Coke Co. (Alberta) made $120,000. (Wonder what would happen to this if we had an investigation board next week?) Now, surely there will be work for all! Eh! What?

"Two thousand men from the various different trades are out of employment and walking the streets in Calgary according to a statement made to The Herald today by Secretary Young, of the local Trades and Labor Council.

"The majority of these unemployed are from the building trades. There is very little building going on in Calgary now. . . . .

"Calgary is no worse in this respect than any other city in Western Canada.

"A great number of men in the building trades and day laborers are said to have not made much more than enough during the past year to tide them over the winter.

"It is not expected that there will be very great suffering or privation on account of the slackness of work. The mild fall has greatly lessened the seriousness of the situation."—Exchange.

Calgary, we hasten to add (for we fear the wrath of the board of trade there), is no worse than other cities, and it is claimed to be better off than the Pacific Coast towns. All of which, however, fails to console the out-of-work or feed his family.

The fact that many of those employed in the building trade have not made much more than enough during the past year to tide them over the winter is remarkable—we question whether they have made enough to stem them over a week of idleness.

Evidently the elements are more generous than our advanced civilization, for the Calgary scribe notes that the "mild fall has greatly lessened the seriousness of the situation." Strange, with all our comforts and education, we, like our cave-dwelling ancestors, must gather a modicum of relief from a temperate nature. Thus have we advanced! And they tell us Socialism is retrogressive! But, of course, the "prosperity" has struck B. C. where we have a united and solid Conservative Government, sir, while Calgary is in "Sunny Alberta!"

MINE OWNERS SHOULD BE JAILED

Rev. Dr. Fraser Declares Government and Colliery Operators Are Responsible for Trouble—Strike Breakers Introduced Deliberately to Start Riots So Militia Might Be Used—Congregation Interrupts Denunciation With Applause.

"I think that Sir Richard McBride has been negligent in his conduct with regard to the Vancouver Island strike troubles. I think that the Dominion government has been negligent. I am not so proud of Canada as I was before I learned the true inside of the Vancouver Island affair."

So stated Dr. H. W. Fraser, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, before a congregation which packed every available chair in the building last night. Even the Sunday school area which adjoins the church, was thrown open to the auditorium of the church, and it, too, was filled to capacity. Twice during the strong denunciation of the government's handling of the affair and also a scathing arraignment of the mine owners, the congregation interrupted Dr. Fraser to clap its hands, stamp its feet and the beginning of a healthy cheer swept tentatively across the mass of packed heads before the realization of the sacred nature of the occasion checked its rising flood.

Commercialized Civilization

The subject of Dr. Fraser's address was "Commercialized Civilization," and at the very start he stated that the subject was too large to discuss as a whole and that only its local aspect as applied to the Vancouver Island mine troubles would be dealt with. Immediately there was a deep-toned *murmuring of the silence and the large assembly* bent forward attentively.

Dr. Fraser commenced his address with a brief history of the growth of the troubles between the miners and their employers. He told how the *men had complained of the presence* of gas in the mines and how, when a commission composed of miners was appointed to inspect the mines, returning a report that there was gas and that it was dangerous for the men to work there, they were discharged and found themselves blacklisted all over the island, simply because they had the courage to report unfavorably to the mine owners.

"I have heard the statement that the owners are as much interested as the men in keeping the mines clear of gas in order to protect themselves from the loss consequent on an explosion. It is a fact, however, that in the last twenty-three years there have been 300 men killed from gas in these mines. I have come to the conclusion that the lives of a few men do not count with the owners when their protection entails the cutting down of dividends.

Owners Responsible

"The progress we have made in a commercial way during the past twenty-three years has been made because men have been found like the poor fellows now in jail in New Westminster, who are willing to suffer as they are.

"I do not believe in strikes. I think that the men who are responsible for strikes should be sent to jail because strikes cause untold misery in the land. In this case the facts are such that either the government and the mine owners must successfully refute them or else remain as the real originators of the present strike.

"One of the statements made recently was that we must have British law and order enforced. I believe in that. I remember when the papers were full of the reports of how 300 brave, valorous troops were taken to Nanaimo and landed gallantly three miles from the city, that they advanced boldly, under cover to the scene of the trouble. I suppose the cover was gooseberry bushes. And I remember how glad we felt here in Vancouver that not one of these brave men was shot or hurt in any way except in the feet, which were tired from walking so far on a hot day. I tell you, friends, I would rather be shot than be a soldier in a strike riot." (Applause.)

Deliberately Planned

"It is a fact that all the damage done in Nanaimo was the breaking of eight windows and the striking of several men by stones. Compared with the Nanaimo riots, so-called, the Japanese riots in Vancouver were a regular Balaclava. We are told by the mayor of Nanaimo that up to the introduction of the strike breakers, the miners had behaved themselves like law-abiding citizens. I am convinced that when the mine owners introduced the strike breakers into the affair they were certain of what the results would be and that they did it for the purpose of creating the climax which

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MUST GET TOGETHER

The strike of the coal miners of Colorado has attracted national attention, and people who read are realizing that giant corporations have but little respect for human rights when dividends are at stake. It matters but little to a master class that men, women and children become the victims of suffering and endure agonies that are as cruel and as pitiless as death. The coal miners of Colorado have borne the brunt of industrial oppression for almost a quarter of a century. Any attempt upon their part to launch a movement to better their condition has been met by the most brutal opposition on the part of a master class. No outrage was too infamous to be perpetrated upon the man who raised his voice in supplication to his fellow men to come together in an organization to resist the tyranny of coal barons, who sneered at law and mocked the most sacred principles of constitutional liberty. The man who was permeated with the spirit of unionism and voiced his protest against the wrongs imposed by armed thugs hired to kill, was either assassinated or driven from the coal fields, bearing the scars inflicted by the paid degenerates of the coal corporations.

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, the Victor Fuel Company and the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company have governed their slaves with an iron hand, and mute submission and obedience were demanded by those economic masters who have never known any justice that conflicted with the usual toll demanded from the bone and muscle of labor.

The Southern coal fields of Colorado have been a Siberia, where liberty has been dead and where citizenship has been but an empty word. The man dependent on a job, whose poverty forced him to accept employment in the mines of these absolute czars, forfeited every right to speak for human liberty, and when he dared to raise his voice against the anarchy of heartless and soulless exploiters, he placed his life in jeopardy.

There was a time when the coal miners in southern Colorado were filled with men who were born on American soil. They suffered wrong and imposition until patience ceased to be a virtue and were forced to leave the prisons of peonage that cursed the Centennial State.

Their places were filled by men of foreign birth who believed that they were coming to a land where freedom was the heritage of man, and where they could build a home that would be blessed with a little of the sunshine of prosperity. Their dream of liberty in a new world has been rudely shattered. The freedom that they expected beneath the dome of a republic was but a delusion, for they have realized that capitalism beneath the starry banner of Young Columbia is as merciless as under the banners of the monarchies of the Old World.

They have discovered that in a land where we boast of our democracy, capital sits upon the throne of power and rules with the mailed hand of brutal might. They have learned that all the functions of government are arrayed against labor and that capital owns and controls the armed power of state and nation to hold in subjection the struggling millions of a continent. They have learned that governors, legislators, and judges upon the bench, are but the official agents of industrial oppressors to legalize the infamies that are committed against labor.

The labor history of Colorado is wet with tears and reddened with blood, and the time is at hand when every worker within the borders of the state must get together and stand as an army, to fight the hellish greed of a master class.—Miners' Magazine.

Shiloh's Cure
QUICKLY STOPS COUGHS, CURES COLDS, HEALS THE THROAT AND LUNGS. 25 CENTS

STATEMENT OF VICE-PRES HAYES

The action of the Federal grand jury is no surprise to us and it will have no effect on the present strike. They may induct us but they cannot indict the principles for which we stand—they will prevail until human slavery ceases to exist.

We are accused of violating the Sherman anti-trust law and of organizing a conspiracy in restraint of trade. If they mean by the term "restraint of trade" that we have restrained John D. Rockefeller and a few other Eastern millionaires from plundering the coal miners of Colorado, then we plead guilty to the indictment and are proud of the achievement.

It is rather strange that no grand jury ever indicted the officials of the coal companies who have been violating the laws of Colorado for a number of years. It is a well-known fact that five of the seven demands of the Colorado miners are based upon the laws of this State. The operators now offer as a basis of settlement of the present strike these five laws, and insist that the miners take a referendum vote as to whether or not they will accept these laws, frankly admitting by this proposition that the miners have not heretofore enjoyed the benefit of the laws and that now, in a moment of generosity, they are going to concede that they will give the miners the benefit of the law, and yet these distinguished gentlemen have never been indicted by any grand jury. It is evident that these coal companies are greater than the State government, and that they can do as they please, so far as the law is concerned.

The Pueblo grand jury, after a laborious and lengthy investigation, has seen fit to indict us for an alleged violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. In view of this fact, and having great respect for the impartiality of grand juries, it might not be asking too much if we would ask some grand jury to institute a probe to cover the admissions made by the coal operators in the proposition they offer the miners. Their generosity overwhelms us and, no doubt, it ought to appeal to some grand jury, because when any corporation will voluntarily agree to live up to the laws of the State, implying that they never did so before and then ask the miners to return to work on that basis, it is evident that a grand jury would be able to make a very nice report and one that would especially appeal to John D. Rockefeller and other Eastern trust magnates at whom the Sherman anti-trust law was aimed. It is a well-known fact that this Federal statute did not contemplate the prosecution of the officials of labor unions for carrying on the legitimate work of the labor movement. It was enacted for the sole purpose of curbing the greed of gigantic corporations or trusts that have been plundering the people for many years. This indictment is similar to the one returned against us in West Virginia, and it is a well-known fact that the United States Department of Justice did not consider it very seriously, and predicating our opinion on this high authority, we may be pardoned if we view this indictment in the same light.

The so-called "restraining of trade," which means the restraining of traffic in human life, is no doubt repugnant to all those who live off the sweat and blood of labor. The properties of the Colorado coal companies would amount to nothing and would represent nothing of value if the men in the mines refused to work. It is the hand of toil that produces millions for these coal corporations, and yet when the miners dare organize and try to secure their rights under the law, a living wage and fair conditions, and they call upon their international union for assistance, they are branded as outlaws and dangerous characters and enemies to the peace and dignity of the State of Colorado, yet nothing is said about the continued violation of law on the part of the coal companies, and nothing is done to prevent them from continuing in the same old way. It is about time the people of Colorado were awakening to the fact that a few millionaires are making a farce out of the laws of this State and are insulting the miners by offering them laws if they will only return to work. Why didn't they enforce them before? No wonder the coal operators do not want the union in Colorado.

The strike is in splendid shape and will be prosecuted to a successful conclusion, regardless of the action of the Federal grand jury and all the

(Continued on Page Seven)

ISIS THEATRE

The program for Saturday, afternoon and evening, is an exceptionally good one, the star feature—"The Better Father"—being a very strong drama, in two reels, portraying the evils incurred through jealousy. It is quite an object lesson and one that should not be missed. "The Flower Girl and the Counterfeiter," another drama by the popular Imp Co. For the lighter vein, "Two Hearts and a Thief," and "Cupid's Bad Aim," Nestor films, will furnish as hearty a laugh as one could wish for.

On Monday, "The Triumph of Strength," a two-reel Ambrisio Lion feature, will be shown, while on Tuesday the famous Maurice Maeterlinck's masterpiece, "Pelleas and Melisande," with Constance Crawley and Arthur Maude—two of England's most gifted actors—in the stellar roles. This story has become almost proverbial as a comparison for love and lovers, and one must indeed be blase to derive no pleasure or benefit from it.

STRIKE SITUATION ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

Men Withstand Many Temptations to Violate the Law—The Struggle a Fight to a Finish—And Win They Will.

With the outspoken utterances of Dr. Fraser last Sunday evening, with the resolution passed by the Ministerial Association, published elsewhere in this issue, with the trials now going on in New Westminster, with the apologies being profusely offered by Mr. Bowser, with the militia remaining on Vancouver Island under protest, and with the general dissemination of the truth concerning the strike situation on Vancouver Island, the prospects for a settlement for the Union miners are daily growing stronger and brighter.

For sixteen months past the Canadian Collieries company have been scouring the American continent and all Europe for strike breakers, to be employed at their Extension properties, without success.

At South Wellington over 300 union miners have remained loyal to their organization without a solitary desertion, and though there has been plenty of provocation and many violations of the law by company thugs, the men have withstood the temptation and remained a unit in fighting for their right to organize. In the evidence at New Westminster during the past week it was admitted under oath by crown witnesses that many men had been imported from Missouri as strike breakers and their fares paid by the Pacific Coast Coal Company, in gross violation of the law.

At Nanaimo, out of the 1,600 men on strike, there have only been 20 desertions, and a stronger determination to win prevails today than at any period since the strike commenced.

At Cumberland only four men deserted the union ranks, while, with the assistance of Bowser's special policemen in the early stages of the strike, some 200 white strike breakers were secured by the company, in addition to which there are at least 1,000 Asiatics employed in and about the mines, 500 of whom, if they had to submit to an examination under the Coal Mines' Regulation Act, would be deemed incompetent to mine coal.

Flagrant violations of the law are being daily enacted by the coal companies; inspectors do not inspect, and absolutely no effort is being made by the cabinet ministers of the government to intervene in any manner, shape or form. The coal companies obey no law except their own. They do as they like, with the evident approval and sanction, of the provincial government authorities. The strikers, on the contrary, are being prosecuted and persecuted, driven hither and thither by special policemen, and hounded like criminals, but even with all the powers of government on the side of the coal companies the strikers are determined to win, and they will win—be the price what it may. There is evidence even now that the strike will wreck the McBride government before it is over, but that is merely incidental to the workers on Vancouver Island securing the right to organize in that locality.

The workers of Western Canada, and in British Columbia in particular, have been aroused as never before to the necessity of making this struggle a fight to a finish. Win they must, and win they will. "Yan on Macduff!"—B. C. Federationist.

Classified Ads.--Cent a Word

MINERS LOOK—Every man who has a wife should also have a home on a fruit farm in Creston. You can buy as good land as there is in B. C. from R. Lamont, Creston, B. C. Only small payments required. 82

WANTED—Second hand Empire Typewriter. Apply Box 380. 122

ANCONAS FOR SALE—Cockerels and pullets (May hatched, pullets laying), bred from stock imported direct from Sheppard, of Ohio. Apply Robt. Jones, West Fernie. 124

WANTED—Two or three furnished rooms for light housekeeping by E. B. Shoemake. 126

SNAP—160 Acres Farm in famous Pincher Creek district with good cash market for everything. New house, barn, granary, all fenced and cross-fenced; 60 acres under cultivation; splendid water spring; soil, black clay loam; school same section; post office 2½ miles; 8 miles from town. Cheap, all cash or $800 chaser. Would like to go East. Owner, A. E. Pennington, Queen's Hotel, Fernie, B. C. 130

WANTED IMMEDIATELY—Good plain cook. Apply Mrs. Corsan, City. 131

WANTED—Position by Mine Clerk; understands mine and coke oven supplies, payrolls and office work; bookkeeper-stenographer. Address R., care Ledger. 129

DR. JOHN BARBER, DENTIST
Office: Above Bleasdell's Drug Store
Phone 121
Residence: 21 Victoria Avenue
FERNIE - - - - B. C.

ALEXANDER MACNEIL
Barrister, Solicitor, Notary, etc.
Offices: Eckstein Building,
Fernie, B.C.

F. C. Lawe Alex. I. Fisher
LAWE & FISHER
ATTORNEYS
Fernie, B. C.

THE Bellevue Hotel
COMMERCIAL HOUSE
Best Accommodation in the Pass.—
Up-to-Date — Every Convenience.—
Excellent Cuisine.
SUITABLE FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
J. A. CALLAN, Prop. BELLEVUE, Alta.

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For Skates, Hockey Sticks, Heaters Ranges, Furniture, Stationery etc
BELLEVUE - - Alberta

H. G. GOODEVE CO. Ltd.
The Complete House Furnishers of the Pass
Hardware Furniture
We will furnish your house from cellar to garret and at bottom prices. Call, write, phone or wire. All orders given prompt attention.
If you are satisfied, tell others. If not satisfied, tell us.
Coleman - Alberta

Grand Theatre
JAN. 1st 1914
Mr. Geo. B. Howard
Supported by a Metropolitan Company will present
DAVID HARUM
The Greatest Comedy Success of the Year
Admission: 75c, $1.00, $1.50 Show starts at 8.00
SPECIAL LATE TRAIN FOR COAL CREEK.

News of The District Camps

BELLEVUE NOTES

The union men of this camp will now have the privilege of patronizing a union barber, the barber at Cole's pool room holding a paid up card in the International Barbers' Union.

A Slavonian miner was hurt on Wednesday while at work as spragger in No. 1 mine. He was caught between two cars and had his leg badly crushed. The hospital authorities report he is doing as well as can be expected.

The local erle of the Fraternal Order of Eagles intend holding a social and smoker after the regular meeting on Dec. 27.

The Bellevue Wholesale Wine and Liquor Co. opened for business in their new store under the management of Mr. Tom Beeson.

James Naylor leaves camp on Wednesday to spend Xmas with his family, who have been in Calgary for some time.

Mr. J. N. Brown, of Grand Rapids, Min., is in camp at the Lyric Theatre painting the new screen.

The Bellevue hockey team went to Hillcrest for a practice game on Saturday.

The Bellevue Band went to Hillcrest to the funeral of the late Mr. Rose, who was buried at Hillcrest on Sunday.

At the last meeting of the Turtle Mountain Nest, Order of Owls, No. 1155, Bellevue, held on Dec. 17, the following brothers were nominated for office: President, Bro. E. W. Christie; vice president, Bro. Fred Chappell; past president, Bro. John Brooks and J. Marsland; invocator, Bro. Albert Padgett; secretary, Bro. Fred Padgett; treasurer, Bro. R. D. Evans and R. Cummins; warden, Bro. George Christie; sentinel, Bro. A. Varley; picket, Bro. Emile Belgin. The election and installation of officers will take place next meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 7.30, in the Eagles' Hall, Bellevue. A social will be held afterwards.

A Christmas tree and concert was held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday under the auspices of the Sunday School. Amid much glee on the part of the kiddies Santa Claus made his usual appearance and distributed generously his presents.

Tuesday night was District Ledger night at the Lyric Theatre. The editor, after a few well chosen remarks, presented the prize winners with their prizes.

PASSBURG NOTES

Passburg, Alta., 13th December, 1913.
J. T. Sterling, Esq.,
Chief Inspector of Mines,
Edmonton, Alta.

Dear Sir,—In connection with the Coal Mines Regulation Act, would you kindly interpret Section 40 with reference to the appointment of checkers, and whether I am violating the above section in entering the mines in order to measure the working places of those whom I represent. I am employed as a permanent secretary of three local unions, namely, Passburg, Burmis and Maple Leaf.

An immediate reply will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,
THOS. G. HARRIES,
Secretary.

(Reply)

Edmonton, Dec. 16th, 1913.

Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, and in reply have to inform you that only persons who are practical working miners of at least three years' experience and resident in the Province has authority to enter any mine to act as checkers.

Yours truly,
JOHN T. STERLING,
Chief Inspector of Mines.

Thos. G. Harries, Esq.,
Secretary U. M. W. of A.,
Passburg, Alta.

It seems that the ruling handed down by the Chief Inspector of Mines has not given very much satisfaction to our secretary, because Mr. Sterling has not interpreted or defined anything with the exception of quoting Section 40 as published in the **Act**. He has not even stated that our secretary is acting in contravention to the above section or not, and Secretary Harries is just as wise now as he was before receiving this authority's ruling. In the Observer's opinion the District officers should see into this matter and interview Premier Sifton in order to amend the Act to work the same as it reads, and such a vital question as this should be settled as soon as possible.

A large number of mines were laid off Saturday by the Davenport Coal Company, Burmis, through lack of orders. We consider, however, that the management is fair under the circumstances in permitting the married miners to have preference over the single, and the last named are perfectly satisfied with the proposition as outlined by the general manager.

Christmas presents will be given to the children of Burmis on Tuesday in the school house. The number is not very high, but nevertheless the tree will be given a great reception by the few.

Although the workers have good reasons for kicking at the high cost of living, house rent, etc., yet it becomes painful to see cases where people will rent a house, say for $15.00 a month, and another individual will step in and offer $17.00 for the same. In the opinion of the Observer, if the workers were to refrain from such tactics, there would be more harmony among their ranks, which would surely lead to better things.

The Christmas tree which was arranged at the school room by Miss Bell, Mrs. Duncan and others, for the benefit of the school kiddies, was a decided success, and the promoters are to be complimented for their achievement in so short a time.

Quite a number of the Passburg boys visited the Lyric Theatre District Ledger night.

It seems that the coal company here at Passburg is still having some difficulty in getting the pay and statements. The miners were not given their statements until Saturday. However, the pay landed in good time, but in order that the workers may get a mistake corrected, it is to be hoped that the statements will be given out according to agreement henceforth.

Fred Doubt, of Blairmore, and friends were visitors here at Passburg on Sunday last, and owing to a bad puncture in one of the tubes of their auto they were compelled to stay with us until about eight o'clock that night.

Quite a number of the Passburg miners were laid off here on Monday last, but it is expected that they will be restarted in the new year.

Dick Beard and Bill Picton were away at Frank on Saturday last and had it not been for the fact that their buggy was heated up it would have been a cold trip.

FRANK NOTES

Mr. J. E. Wilcox, who has been working in Canmore for a number of months, is spending Christmas with his family here.

Mr. Gerald Gardiner was visiting in town during the week.

Mr. Comfort, of North Fork, was able to leave the hospital today to spend the holiday season at his home. He was accompanied by his son, W. Comfort, of Blairmore.

The Public School closed on Friday and will re-open on Jan. 5 with two new teachers, E. Blais taking the position of a third teacher. The school will be under the control of the Government altogether, who have appointed an official trustee from outside the district to handle all business. The local trustees will relinquish their offices for the time being.

M. J. J. Thomas is expected home from Pocahontas for Christmas holidays.

Miss Janet Steene, who has been visiting here for a few months, left for her home in Pocahontas on Saturday.

A load of the local members of the Masonic Lodge journeyed to Hillcrest on Sunday to attend the funeral of Mr. Frank Rose.

Mr. Patera's horses ran away coming down the hill back of the hospital one day this week. They were scared by a piece of cordwood falling from the load. No harm was done beyond a scattered load of wood.

Every prominent rock through the slide is again covered with large sale bills. At best the slide is a death trap, and all should join in making it as safe as possible, but when a horse goes round a corner suddenly and sees one of those red bills it is to be expected that he will get scared. Those who have authority to do so should forbid any decorating of the road through the slide.

The event of the week was the appearance of Santa Claus on Tuesday night. The old Miners' Hall was the place, a tree well laden was prepared, and several hundred children of all ages gathered at an early hour for all were welcome. The committee planned to give the whole town a treat or every child between 13 and 1 years old. At 8 o'clock Mr. Pattinson took the chair and presided over a program of thirty items giving almost entirely by the school children. An interesting item was that two school boys, Bohemian, played excellently on the violin. The boys welcomed Santa in a genuine way and he in turn handed each a stocking well filled with dainties. About two hundred and fifty children were thus treated. At the close of the evening's enjoyment the children of the school came forward and presented their past teacher, W. T. Young, with a handsome and elaborate gift. The committee wish to thank all who in any way contributed toward the success of the event.

The hockey boys have received their new suits. Purple and white are the colors this year.

BLAIRMORE NOTES

A prosperous New Year to all.

Dr. D. Warnock, M. P., of Pincher Creek, was a visitor to Blairmore on Friday last.

J. A. McDonald, of the South Fork, spent a few days in town last week returning on Saturday.

An exhibition hockey game was played on the rink on Monday night between Blairmore and Coleman, which was witnessed by an enthusiastic crowd. After a most exciting game the Coleman boys returned home winners by 3 to 1.

Blairmore plays its first league game at Frank on Christmas Day.

The Opera House was crowded on Saturday night when the Blairmore Brass Band gave their concert.

Coroner Pinkney was summoned to Hillcrest on Wednesday last to hold an inquest to enquire into the death of Mrs. Mary Stack, who was found dead in her home. A great deal of mystery seemed to surround the sad occurrence, but after a post mortem examination held by Dr. Ross, it was found that she had died from collapse. Interment took place at the Hillcrest cemetery on Thursday afternoon.

Several Chinamen were brought up before J. W. Gresham at the R. N. W. M. P. barracks on Wednesday last charged with causing a disturbance on Victoria street, and after paying a small fine as a guarantee to keep the peace they were dismissed.

The David Harum Company were well received at the Opera House on Tuesday night by an exceptionally large audience.

The Christmas cantata held in the Baptist Church on Monday night was a decided success, the Church being packed to the doors.

A dance will be given by the Blairmore Hockey Club on New Year's night.

The local Order of Owls held a smoker in the Miners' Hall on Thursday night, which proved a great success.

Mrs. McNeil, the local telephone agent, left on Wednesday night for Pincher Creek, where she will spend the Christmas holidays.

W. E. Gilbert, of the Alberta Hotel, motored to Coleman on Saturday.

T. B. George, the local manager of the Union Bank of Canada, left for a visit to Ontario last week end.

Jack McDonald, while driving west along the Frank road on Monday night collided with a buggy that J. Pozzi, of Frank, was driving, and was thrown out. Jack is on the sick list with a swollen eye, while Joe escaped injury except for a shaking up.

Rev. D. Ross, who spent a month or so here this fall, preaching revival services at the Central Baptist Church, is again in town and will spend a few days with Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Pinkney.

BEAVER MINES NOTES

Since the mine here restarted three weeks ago, she has worked regular so far, but as the management were anxious to employ as many of their old hands as possible, apparently they got somewhat ahead of present orders, and will have to shut down for a few days. Of course this will enable the boys who indulge in Christmas cheer, not wisely but well, to recoup their wasted energy before getting into harness again next Saturday morning.

After having to wait for over a fortnight for lumber, the carpenters commenced building operations last week on the new Beaver Hotel. Owing to the weather being so open great headway was made with the building, which is now ready for roofing, and had it not been for the delay mentioned, that much needed institution would have been completed before the end of the present year.

Owing to the mail stage, which is practically the only means of communication with the outside world, refusing to carry parcels in the form of bottles of liquor or kegs of beer, some inconvenience has been experienced in getting in the usual Christmas cheer.

Victor Lord, hoist engineer, returned to work last week end after spending a week's holiday in Calgary.

For the past few months our Local meetings have been held on the first and third Sundays in each month. Last Sunday, however, the chairman had to adjourn the meeting, as we had not a quorum and therefore could not transact business.

Mr. Harry, Graham, of the livery barn, Beaver, left here over a week ago. From what we can learn the business with which he was connected has been taken over by W. O. Sherwood, of the saw mills, and E. Beaver, of Lebel's store.

Dominic Cyr has taken over the contract for supplying the cottages with water and apparently is giving good satisfaction.

M. Torpy is putting a new heating furnace in the basement of the Pioneer Hall in order to heat the pool room and Pioneer Hall more efficiently. It was much needed, Mike.

About 10 o'clock forenoon, Tuesday, the 23rd, Joe Kubasik, who was then at work in the mine, got a message to say that his baby boy was dying in Pincher Creek hospital. Unfortunately the news proved true, as the child died that same afternoon. A few weeks ago little Joseph, who was apparently a very healthy baby, fell from his little hammock and was badly shaken. Since then he has been ailing and a few days ago was taken to the above named institution, where he succumbed. Much sympathy is felt for the parents, as he was their frst baby.

Mr. Sam McVicar left for the coast on Christmas eve, where he intends spending a short holiday.

Jack Prentice, fire boss, of prize poultry fame, was the proud possessor of 40 fat turkeys which he raised on his homestead about a mile south of the mine. Jack found a ready sale for the birds in the camp, and they were voted to be the finest specimens of their kind and also in the best condition for table purposes yet seen in this district.

POCAHONTAS NOTES

Dull times have again visited this camp, the mine only working about three days per week. Hope the coming New Year will see a change for the better.

Great preparations are being made for the Xmas tree, concert and dance on Xmas eve. Quite a troupe of local talent has been secured to participate in the concert and a good time is assured to all attending.

There will be a dance given in the school rooms on New Year's eve. Everybody invited to attend.

Mr. Sam Chesney left last week for a visit to Edmonton to undergo a dental operation. Mr. Chesney will be back to spend his Xmas holidays in camp.

The boys are all busy these days securing their Xmas hampers. Already the camp presents an animated appearance and some who have been a little premature in securing their liquid refreshments have many regrets to offer.

Mr. David Steve went to Edmonton last week to meet his sister, Miss Jenny, who is returning from a visit to the Crow's Nest Pass.

Mr. Campbell McPherson paid a flying visit to Edson last week.

The returns of the checkweighers' ballot resulted in the re-election of Mr. Ben Chase by a big majority over his only opponent, Mr. Joseph Twist. Glad to see you at the helm again, Benny.

Preparations are being speedily made for the installation of air motors in the mine here. It is likely that one will be running in the main tunnel before the end of January.

Mr. Thos. Morris, accompanied by Mr. Geo. Bowyer, left to spend their Xmas holidays with friends in the Old Country.

Mrs. Thos. Morris left for Edmonton last week to visit her sister, Mrs. David Gwilliam, who had been painfully injured by falling out of a carriage while in the act of driving from town to her residence.

Who was the person or persons that amputated part of the tail and mane of the policeman's horse? Must have been some old brander out for a lark.

Too bad to have the hen coops on the townsite raided when there are so many choice varieties of fowl for sale in the company's store.

There will be a series of tournaments conducted in the local club rooms in the near future, consisting of whist, checkers, crib and domino games. A number of valuable prizes will be given to the successful competitors. All those wishing to compete will submit their names, together with the sum of fiftey cents for enrolment fee.

Mr. Joseph Twist paid a recent visit to Edmonton, arriving back in the best of cheer.

A happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

COAL CREEK NOTES

The Methodist Sunday School entertainment and Christmas tree on Tuesday evening was a great success. The drills, carols and recitations given by the scholars under the leadership of Mr. Chas. Tonks were much enjoyed by the full house. The chair was ably occupied by the pastor in his usual happy manner. About forty-five dollars worth of Christmas presents were distributed among the scholars of the school. Thos. Reid, the Sunday School superintendent, and Thos. Hutchinson (who was the Santa Claus of the evening) took charge of the tree and gave out the gifts. The Sunday School is growing continually and now numbers over one hundred. The greatest lack of the school is in the supply of teachers, but some very excellent workers have come in of late.

The services in the Methodist Church next Sunday will be in the charge of Rev. C. G. Hannon, now of Columbia Falls, Montana, formerly in charge at Coal Creek. Mr. Hannon having found his other half will give good discourses on Sunday—better than ever.

After the big supper has been served in the Methodist Church on Tuesday night, a program will be rendered consisting of music by the choir and a short graphic lecture by the Rev. Mr. Philp on the "Battle of Waterloo." Mr. Philp has made a special study of this great battle. He has read everything available, gives a place of the field, the disposition of the forces and the leading events hour after hour in proper succession. The speaker thinks that this is one of the best things that he has ever prepared and given.

COLEMAN NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. William White, of West Coleman, had the misfortune to lose one of their children last week, a bright little fellow of four or five summers. It appears that the boy had eaten something unknown to his mother and the result was ptomaine poisoning set in from which he died after a short illness. The interment took place on Saturday the 20th.

The children attending the Sunday School of the Institutional Church had their Xmas gifts presented to them in the school room adjoining the Church on Friday night, the 19th.

Mrs. William Thompson, who has been confined to hospital for some time, left that institution on Monday for her own home. Mrs. Thompson is loud in her praise at the treatment given her while in the hands of Nurse Struthers and McCormack in the Miners' Hospital.

Miss E. G. Welsh, book keeper in the 41 Meat Market, Coleman, leaves on Wednesday night's passenger to spend Xmas with her parents at their home, in Lundbreck.

William Graham, Vice President of District 18, left on Tuesday morning's passenger to spend Xmas and New Year's day with his wife and family at Arrow Lake.

The Coleman Hockey Club journeyed to Blairmore on Monday night, Dec. 22, and engaged the locals in a very fast exhibition game of hockey, the first game of the season. The following is the Coleman team: Harry Holmes, goal; Jack Williams, point; C. H. Stitt, cover point; Alex. Gresack, rover; Charlie Graham, centre; Sam Hatfield, left wing; William Hoggan, right wing. With very little time to go and after some give and take play had taken place, Will Hoggan manoeuvred round the Blairmore team and registered. Coleman ran out winners of a good game by three goals to one. With a little more practice and confidence Coleman ought to have no trouble in heading the league for another season.

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quickly stops coughs, cures colds, and heals the throat and lungs. 25 cents.

Don't forget the Old Country dance in the Eagles' Hall on Hogmanay night, Dec. 31.

The Sunday School children of St. Alban's Anglican Church gave an operetta in the Coleman Opera House on Tuesday, Dec. 23, entitled "Round the World with Santa Claus." The children, who had been under the tuition of Mrs. Disney, Mr. M. E. Graham, Mrs. Davis and the Rev. Watkins Jones, went through a varied and entertaining program and every number was a credit to pupils and teachers.

David Davis, who was injured in a cross cut while on a tour of inspection with the investigation committee some time ago, has resumed work again as pitt boss in the International Coal Company's mine.

On Xmas eve, the Order of Owls, No. 1845, held a social and dance in the Eagles' Hall, when about fifty couples assembled to celebrate the first of many such gatherings. The officials of the Order left no stone unturned to make this a success. After the children had been provided with fruits and candies, the chairman, Mr. Jack Johnston, gave a very good account of the Order. After the chairman finished his speech, dancing was indulged in until the wee sma' 'oors of the morning.

There were united in the holy bonds of matrimony at the Catholic Church Mr. William Cowan and Miss Katie Tracey, on Xmas eve. After the wedding a reception was held in the Coleman Opera House, Mr. and Mrs. David Gillespie receiving the guests.

Bellevue Hockey Club were visitors in Coleman on Xmas day and engaged the local team in a fast game of hockey, Coleman winning hands down to the tune of 5 to 2. Gresack was the star of the teams.

Coleman Local Union Notes

The regular meeting was held on Sunday, Dec. 21, and I have to report that the meetings are getting somewhat better attended. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

The correspondence was passed and was brought up for discussion.

After the regular business of the Local was gone through, Vice President Graham addressed the meeting dealing with several knotty problems in the District. Since Vice President Graham was elected to this position he seems to be gathering confidence in himself. The way in which he addressed the meeting on Sunday afternoon surprised everyone present, even himself.

Some cases of compensation which have been under consideration for some time were brought up and received attention.

The members of Local 2633 U. M. W. of A. voted a holiday on Friday the 26th, when a special meeting will be held at 2 p.m. to discuss some important questions.

W. A. Nicholson, a quartz miner, who had the misfortune to loose the sight of both eyes in an explosion some six or seven years ago, was present at our meeting. Mr. Nicholson addressed the meeting dealing with his misfortune and helplessness in not being able to fight the battle for existence. After Mr. Nicholson had concluded his speech, the Local granted him the sum of $25, for which he thanked them very kindly.

The Sick and Accident Benefit was again up for discussion and according to the resolution of the ballot on Dec. 9 a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution and rules for the approval of the Local. The following brothers were then appointed by the President J. R. Moore: Brothers Hayson, Morgan, Fraser, McCulloch, Brennen and Smith.

A collection was taken up on behalf of Mrs. James Kilgannon on pay day. It is expected that about $190 will be handed over to her as a Xmas gift for herself and children. Mr. Kilgannon has been out of work for about two years now.

Michel Local Union Notes

The meeting last Sunday was well attended, although room for more. A lengthy discussion took place with the miners working in the seam called No. 8 North, by the coal company. The men claim that it is No. 7 seam which, if proved to be so, means 5 cents per ton more to the contract minor as per agreement. A motion was put and unanimously carried that the matter be placed in the hands of the District president.

The audit of the Sick Benefit Club was given by R. Oakes and John Cochrane, and accepted by the Local.

A notice of motion was put to reconsider Clause 3 in the Sick Benefit by-laws to be dealt with next Sunday.

The collection that was taken up at the pay office by John Newman and the secretary on behalf of Nickolson, one of the Western Federation miners who had the misfortune to loose both eyes by a misshot at Greenwood, amounted to $58.10. They wish to thank all who contributed, this being a very needy cause.

I remarked in last week's issue about the heating of the hall for the Local meetings. A man was appointed last Sunday for that purpose. No more cold feet, boys.

The election for two checkweighmen took place on Monday last, the result being as follows: John Marsh, 134; Richard Jones, 112; Pete Baldassi, 65; John Newman, 44; Harry Gregory, 41; Ben Ball, 34; spoiled votes, 12.

MICHEL NOTES

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. William Talbot, which took place in Vancouver. She left Michel about four months ago to join her husband. We wish to convey our deepest sympathy to him in his sad bereavement.

George Gregory and Miss Dreda Newman left on Wednesday morning's local for Corbin to join Francis Newman to play for a dance.

The dance in Crahan's Hall Christmas eve on the new floor was appreciated muchly, everybody enjoying it, but oh! the home sweet home waltz so soon.

Mr. Tom Jenkinson, Mrs. T. Spruston and Tom junior arrived in town from the coast to spend their Christmas at home.

The notices were put out for the attended to. They were give out by Superintendent Caufield, J. Dawe, Mark Gaskell, Wm. Bunker. The children were all smiles. We wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Wilson, general manager, for their esteemed kindness, wishing them the compliments of the season and a joyful New Year.

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With new scenery being painted, watch for the first announcement of our coming vaudeville show.

We show pictures that make you want to come again.

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Nothing is more appreciated than a sensible present, something of some use. Our stock is complete in

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and many other articles that make good Xmas gifts, and Remember our goods are still under the hammer and prices and many other articles that make good Xmas gifts.

Open every night also, Wednesday afternoon, until Christmas.

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Known this month as the Bargain Store
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We have just received a shipment of
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For your Xmas table we can supply you with Jap and Navel Oranges, Bananas, choice Ontario or Okanagan Valley Apples

Next week we will have Chestnuts. Ripe Tomatoes, Lettuce, Celery, Cucumber and Parsley.

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We have in our possession a prescription for nervous debility, lack of vigor, weakened manhood, failing memory and lame back, brought on by excesses, unnatural drains, or the follies of youth, that has cured so many worn and nervous men right in their own homes—without any additional help or medicine—that we think every man who wishes to regain his manly power and virility, quickly and quietly, should have a copy. So we have determined to send a copy of the prescription free of charge, in a plain, ordinary sealed envelope to any man who will write us for it.

This prescription comes from a physician who has made a special study of men, and we are convinced it is the surest-acting combination for the cure of deficient manhood and vigor failure we ever put together.

We think we owe it to our fellow man to send them a copy in confidence so that any man anywhere who is weak and discouraged with repeated failures may stop drugging himself with harmful patent medicines, secure what we believe is the quickest-acting restorative, upbuilding, SPOT-TOUCHING remedy ever devised, and so cure himself at home quietly and quickly. Just drop us a line like this: Interstate Remedy Co., 4567 Luck Building, Detroit, Mich., and we will send you a copy of this splendid recipe in a plain ordinary envelope free of charge. A great many doctors would charge $3.00 to $5.00 for merely writing out a prescription like this—but we send it entirely free.

A LEDGER AD IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

SCIENCE AND SOCIALISM

By Marx Lewis

Read before the Marx-Dietzgen Class, November 1, 1913

(Continued from last week.)

Although Marx had prudently refrained from formulating any detailed scheme of the coming social order, his materialistic theory of history, as well as the theory he later developed on surplus value, leads up to the conception of the succeeding social form of organization. For having pointed out that the tendency of the instruments of production and distribution is toward complexity and concentration, and that the growth from individual production to our present form of collective production is accompanied by a concomitant growth from individuality to collectivity and co-operation in our activities, we can deduce from it and prophesy, with a reasonable degree of certainty, that the economic system, socialized, as is its inevitable tendency, the social life and activities will attain to a higher degree, resulting in social equality.

Another feature of the materialistic conception of history is the theory of class struggles, which has always formed the history of society, and exists under a different form in the present economic system. It has its roots in the surplus-value theory in our present system of production. In substance it is this: Marx demonstrates conclusively that the value of a commodity is determined by the labor spent in its production. This being his thesis, he further argues that the value being only the labor contained in its production, or the commodity being nothing more nor less than materialized labor, it follows that the commodity should be owned exclusively by the laborer, who expended a certain amount of brain muscle and energy, i.e., labor power in producing it. Since, however, the capitalist, the owner of the means of production, does withhold a share of the commodity, therein consisting his profits, the laborer is forced to accept as wages only part of his labor. We see, therefore, that profits are crystallized labor, withheld from the laborer as a tax for the permission of operating the machinery obtained by him through a process of historical expropriation. The class struggle, in its present form, enters into the arena at this stage of the process. At one end of the pole we have the ceaseless appropriation and accumulation of surplus value, i.e., unpaid labor, rapidly increasing, as wealth, which carries with it all the powers of social forces; the state and its subordinate powers, practical religion, etc.; on the other end of this polar expression we have the laborer, who receives, or rather retains, a portion of his product, sufficient to keep him in working order and perpetuation of the species, growing evermore enslaved and degraded. The gulf between the two composing elements of society, capitalist and wage worker, becomes ever wider; the distinction between the two clearer. This can be best expressed by quoting from Chapter 32, Volume 1, of Marx's "Capital": "Along with the constantly diminishing number of the magnates of capital, who usurp and monopolize all advantages of this process of transformation, grows the mass of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation, exploitation; but with these, too, grows the revolt of the working class, a class always increasing in numbers and disciplined, united, organized by the very mechanism of the process of capitalistic production itself. The monopoly of capital becomes a fetter upon the mode of production, which has sprung up and flourished along with and under it. Centralization of the means of production and socialization of labor, at last reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist integument. The integument is burst asunder. The knell of capitalist private property sounds."

Let us now sum up the third part of the subject:

Scientific Socialism, through its first and ablest exponent, Marx, holds that change is the nucleus of human society. To quote Hegel again, "Nothing is; everything is becoming." Also that this constant changing tends toward heterogeneity, toward complexity, subordination of the individual to the collectivity and co-operation. The present is to be superseded by the future, with the tendencies just mentioned, striving toward Socialism. The change is the result of the advancement in the mode of production.

We have now arrived at the fourth and concluding part of our prearranged formula: The scientific objection to Socialism. There are some that are worthy of our most serious attention, for they touch vital problems. There are quite a few that deserve consideration, but due to the short time available, we will confine ourselves only to two, which we will subdivide into A and B: A—the law of apparent retrogression; B—natural selection vs. Socialism.

A. It has been argued frequently by those scientists who, when forced by the vast array of facts to acquiesce that Socialism does conform to the law of evolution, and, desirous of maintaining their anti-Socialistic position, endeavor to justify themselves behind the objection that, while Socialism in its general form is in accordance with evolution, the subordinate principle, or rather its practical form, i.e. collective ownership, is in absolute contradiction to the theory of evolution. These scientists base their contention on the principle that the substitution of collective for individual ownership would be evolving retrogressively, for, they contend, social evolution has progressed from the collective form of land ownership, existing in the primitive stages of society's development, and therefore to inaugurate collective ownership would be a reversion to barbarism.

It seems that Spencer's contention that there exists a grain of truth in all things erroneous comes in for a good share here; it really seems as if the substitution of collective for individual ownership would be a reversion toward primitive communism. But at this point enters a law of science, the low of apparent retrogression, which forms a basic principle in sociology. Ferri, the famous Italian Socialist and criminologist, enters deeply into a study of this law. A brief glimpse of it is only possible here.

It has been argued as far back as 1881, and has since been a potent factor in scientific study, that there is a reversion, apparently, to the primitive forms that is visible in many social manifestations. When we look into some of the manifested tendencies of our times this fact forms an essential tendency of development and an element of progress. Let me cite a few instances of this law of apparent retrogression.

In religion, we find an admirable instance of this tendency, for, while the essence of religion is the attainment of material and spiritual happiness, we find that the relationship of this happiness to mankind has undergone a change toward its primitive forms. We know that in primitive religion the object and aim was toward happiness on earth, during man's life here. The religious beliefs following therefrom substituted for the primitive type happiness after death. Gradually this conception of happiness gave way, until now the prevailing idea is the primitive idea of happiness on earth, though this conception does not reign absolutely.

Spencer brings an instance of apparent reversion. In his "Principles of Sociology" he points out that in the primitive stage of society's development the will of all was the sovereign and dominant element which gave way, passing through various phases to individuality. From this state of individuality the individuals passed into a small collectivity, such as tribes, and now we are tending toward collectivity, wherein the will of all will again be sovereign. This can be witnessed at present in the gradual enforcement of the initiative, referendum and popular election; product of social initiative.

In the marital relationships a similar reversion has taken place. Primitive ties of marriage were easily dissolved. With the growth of the theological conception grew the belief of an unbreakable bond. This latter idea is beginning to crumble, as it is speedily being recognized that the marriage should be dissolved upon desire of either party, as the steady facilitation in divorce proceedings is beginning to show.

Other instances from the literary domains, property rights, and criminal conditions or punishment could be brought to further prove this law of apparent retrogression, but they will only take up our time, since this law is quite evident throughout. Let us therefore draw our conclusions.

We can conclude best in the words of M. Loria: "The thought and life of primitive mankind are formed and directed through the natural environment along the simplest and most fundamental lines; but with the progress of intelligence and the complexity of life, brought on by evolution, gives up the development of the principle elements contained in the first genus of each institution; this analyitical development is often, when once finished, detrimental to each one of its elements; humanity itself arrived at a certain stage of evolution, reconstructs and combines in a final synthesis these different elements, and thus returns to its primitive starting point."

We see, therefore, that this reversion is only apparent; it does not occur as a simple repetition of the primary type. In its advanced form, the reversion is in reality a reconstruction of all the desirable and progressive elements that the thousands of years of experience have taught the human race the necessityof , and it preserved and embodied in the higher developed stages. The road of evolution does not move in a cycle, but, as Goethe says, rather like a spiral which seems to return upon itself, but which always advances and ascends.

Now to our final division, B, Natural selection versus Socialism:

Another contention behind which scientists, in their opposition to Socialism, conceal themselves is the Darwinian theory of natural selection. Unlike the previous contention dealt with above, this objection does not possess, upon examination, the grain of truth evidenced in the other.

The Darwinian theory asserts that the quantity of food available is insufficient toward the astenance of all organic beings born into this world. This inadequacy of food compels them, for thier preservation, to struggle between themselves for the securing of the food necessary to their nourishment and sustenance. In this struggle the weaker beings succumb while the stronger beings secure sufficient food and survive. In other words, "Many are called but few are chosen." The species, therefore, is composed only of the ablest and fittest individuals, growing ever abler toward perfection. Upon this premise of the animal world, the scientists hasten to the conclusion that the same law governs the human world; that is, men have for centuries been engaged in a struggle for the perpetuation of life, a struggle in which they are still engaged, as the present competitive era proves. In this struggle, contend the scientists, the victory, as in the animal world, falls to the stronger, while the weaker perish. From this it follows that the struggle now going on is designed by natural laws, and any intervention in its workings, whether by the state or man, toward aiding the weaker or subduing the stronger must necessarily work against nature. In short, the evils brought on by this struggle are inevitable; the resulting inequalities are natural, and should therefore be commended and not condemned, for they are the result of physical and mental debilities of the weaker, or the physical and mental capabilities of the stronger; in the economic struggle, one class, the capitalist class, always procures part of the opposing class, the working class, to help them in subduing the working class, thereby gaining the supremacy over the working class. But we can narrow down our point to a manifestation prevalent in both the organic and the inorganic worlds: Parasitism.

In the economic struggle for existence two classes participate—the working class and the capitalist class. We also know that the latter exists parasitically upon its host, the former. Moreover, we can conceive of the existence of the capitalist class, only then, when there is a working class, upon whom it preys. The same condition is latent in the animal struggle. One has pointed out that the fly exists upon the existence of the horse, without which the former would be impossible in life. In the same sense as it is impossible that the fly, or parasite, is stronger than the horse upon whom it preys, and who is its host, so in the economic struggle the capitalist, as a parasite, is not stronger than the worker upon whom he preys. A look at the material objects themselves abundantly substantiates it. Who would venture to say that the capitalists, who are victorious in the struggle, are primarily stronger than the defeated worker? Though eventually, due to the miserable conditions forced upon him, he may become degraded and weaker. The inequalities in the economic struggle are not due to the inate or natural capabilities or debilities of the participants, but rather to those who therefore offer no resistance, no attempt at mitigation.

Socialism, then, is in contradiction with the Darwinian theory, argue the scientists. Instead of realizing the inevitability of this struggle, the natural forces behind it, and commending it, scientific Socialism proposes to do away with the struggle, condemns it as unnecessary, and inconceivable in the coming social order; even at present Socialism attempts to mitigate it, in aiding the weaker in their struggle with the stronger.

This contradiction seems to be a verity. It would undoubtedly be a fact, the conclusion would be true, were we to grant its premise, the fundamental actuality. But the error lies in the contention that the organic world presents the same phases in its development as does the inorganic world. Therein lies the error. When we see the differences of the two phases, we see the falsity of the objection to Socialism.

A minor difference presents itself in the study of the organic and inorganic world in this form: In the organic world the struggle for life is confined between two different sects of the species; that is, between individuals of different component parts of the species. In the inorganic world, however, the struggles centre between individuals of the same order, between man and man. But this difference is of minor importance.

What is a more fundamental difference, characteristic of this conflict in each of the two different orders is the fact that in the animal struggle the individuals procure the weapons they use from among them, while they are stronger or weaker in an evil environment.

Another important factor which is deserving of consideration is the fact of the number of those born into this world, a greater proportion survives as the development is attaining any ever greater state. When we reason from the vegetable and animal worlds to the higher types, as man, we find the percentage of the perished decreased with the development. This factor, then, is destined, at the present rate of decrease in the perished, to disappear in a comparatively short time.

We are forced to the conclusion that the objection to Socialism in the name of science is false, built as it is upon an erroneous basis. We are forced to agree, by facts, that this struggle is not a natural struggle, and that the time is not far distant when this will be demonstrated, also that man is to play an important part in bringing about that change.

While, however, it is true that the theory of natural selection does not, in its brutal interpretations of the scientists, conform to the conditions in the inorganic world as it does in the organic, we can find an adumbration of the awl even in the organic world. A struggle, not for existence, but intellectual in its scope, is bound to remain with us, for it forms an inseparable and constituent part of the universe, its life and its activities. A look into the pages of history will explain and convince us of the truth of this assertion.

In the early stages of man's development the struggle for existence assumed its most savage form. The two essential requisites for the existence of the barbarians was, as in animals, the desire for food, and what was indispensable toward expending the physiological and physical forces accumulated in the consumption of food the female. This he secured by force and violence. This primordial manifestation gradually gave way to a phase in man's development where he struggled for political supremacy necessitating the use of his intellectual faculties, thereby diminishing the expenditure of his potentialities upon females. Then came the struggle for civil equality, or the abolition of slavery. Later on, in the medieval period, the struggle for religious equality occupied the foreground upon the securing of which the struggle for political equality engaged man's energies. Now we are struggling for economic equality, toward which we are rapidly steering. But what we should note in this development from struggle of one sort to the struggle of another sort is this: In each struggle violence, force and murderous weapons are steadily being relegated to history, while with each advance struggle intellectual force and mind is ever more and more becoming the predominating weapon. The means of combat are constantly undergoing attenuation; the appeal of progress is to the mind and not to the muscular power. There being no reason to doubt the steady march of progress now, as in the future, there is also no cause for doubt of the struggles that man and progress will encounter, for which we prophesy an intellectual, not physical struggle.

In the preceding lines I have presented but fragments of this subject. To do more than that in the time allotted is an impossibility. I hope, however, that it will suffice to enable a glimpse of the interrelations that science and Socialism manifest, and also to conceive that to study the former to its marvelous heights we are led into and through the domains of the latter. When we realize this interdependence of the two, we will renew, with greater vigor, the propaganda of Socialism, aware of its final and inevitable triumph.—The New York Call.

A PRESSING PROBLEM

For several months the presence of a nation-wide unemployed problem has been brought home to the labor organizations throughout the country. While every effort has been made by the press and the employing class to conceal the true condition of affairs, under the belief that good times and bad times are caused by confidence or a lack of confidence, affairs have reached a stage where concealment is no longer possible.

Samuel Untermeyer, the chief inquisitor of the money trust, whose activity in the congressional investigation indicated that the committee depended upon him to bring the evidence upon which the trust's indictment was to rest, now confesses that he is greatly concerned lest financial ruin shall follow in the wake of investigation and exposure of the methods by which the great capitalists have exploited the public. We are, he says, drifting into industrial depression, which will end disastrously unless checked by propitiating the exploiters and giving them a free hand.

In every industrial centre there is a vast and growing army of unemployed. Capitalism, which is based upon the exploitation of labor, strips the workers when industry is active and leaves them empty handed when markets are glutted or periodic panic disorganizes and interrupts the machinery of production.

Milwaukee has its unemployed problem. Detroit has its unemployed problem. Chicago and Pittsburg and Seattle and San Francisco and New York reveal identical conditions.

The situation with which, as a people, we are confronted, might as well be faced and seriously considered. The ostrich policy of evasion has availed nothing. This fact is conceded by such a recognized organ of banking and industrial interests as the Chicago Tribune, which says:

"We may talk all we please of the soundness of underlying conditions, meaning by this that the production of wealth is enormous, that business is fairly active, that enterprise is not overextended. But the fact remains that confidence is steadily weakening, capital is anxious and reluctant, uncertainty is slowly deepening rather than disappearing, and in some important directions it is not exaggeration to say that a critical point is at hand."

What do captains of finance and industry propose to do about it? They are the managers of the existing system as well as its principal beneficiaries.

One of the absolutely essential things to the perpetuation of the system itself is that under it the machinery of production and distribution shall not completely break down—that even when it shall have partially collapsed, the bulk of the workers shall not suffer for the necessaries of life, and the swollen army of unemployed be driven through starvation to desperation.

Every crisis brings home to the workers their dependent condition. They realize that their independence and freedom are empty phrases. They know that their unfortunate situation is not due in any way to the curse of heaven or the design of an all-wise Providence, as they were formerly led to believe. They know that it is the consequence of capitalistic exploitation carried on for profit rather than for use.

All of them, of course, do not know the cause of their situation. But that is not material. Enough of them know the truth to make it exceedingly doubtful if millions of workers can be turned out homeless and hungry to eke out a miserable existence as tramps without imperilling the shaking edifice of capitalistic exploitation.

The time is now here for the "directing genius" and the "executive ability" which have been capitalism's chief justification and the crowning glory of its unearned profits, to make good. The old way of "making good" has passed. Millions of workers can not safely be set adrift with no provision for their maintenance or the maintenance of their families, while the capitalist "retrenches" and "economizes" at their expense without surrendering any of the comforts or luxuries to which he is accustomed.

The workers have been using their heads as well as their hands. They are not taking their economics from those who profit from their labor. They are not going to starve submissively or under pressure of want submit to wage reductions that demand a surrender of all that they have gained through organized effort and years of sacrifice. A new factor has entered into the question. The worker has learned to think.—Milwaukee Leader.

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No.	Name	Sec. and P. O. Address
39	Bankhead	F. Wheatley, Bankhead, Alta.
481	Beaver Creek	J. Loughran, Beaver Creek, via Pincher, Alta.
431	Bellevue	James Burke, Box 36, Bellevue, Alta.
2163	Blairmore	W. L. Evans, Blairmore, Alta.
949	Burmis	T. G. Harries, Passburg, Alta.
2327	Carbondale	J. Mitchell, Carbondale, Coleman, Alta.
1387	Canmore	Michael Warren, Canmore, Alta.
2653	Coleman	J. Johnstone, Coleman, Alta.
2877	Corbin	J. Jones, Corbin, B. C.
1126	Chinook Mines	Jas. Horne, Chinook, via Diamond City, Alta.
2178	Diamond City	J. E. Thornhill, Diamond City, Lethbridge.
2314	Fernie	Thos. Uphill, Fernie, B. C.
1263	Frank	Evan Morgan, Frank, Alta.
2497	Hosmer	W. Balderstone, Hosmer, B. C.
1053	Hillcrest	Jas. Gorton, Hillcrest, Alta.
574	Lethbridge	L. Moore, 1731 Sixth Avenue, N. Lethbridge.
1189	Lethbridge Collieries	Frank Barringham, Coalhurst, Alta.
2839	Maple Leaf	T. G. Harries, Passburg, Alta.
2334	Michel	H. Elmer, Michel, B. C.
14	Monarch Mines	Wm. Hynd, Elcan P. O., Taber, Alta.
2352	Passburg	T. G. Harries, Passburg, Alta.
2589	Royal View	Geo. Jordan, Royal Collieries, Lethbridge, Alta.
102	Taber	A. Patterson, Taber, Alta.

Provocative Methods of Operators

(Continued from Page one)

Editor, District Ledger.

Dear Sir,—Allow one of the Vancouver Island criminals (?) the privilege of discussing conditions before and after the military occupation of Nanaimo and district. Now, we all know that the coal companies tried their hardest to agitate the strikers in various ways, such as circulating lying reports through the Bowser-owned press, and prompting the Judas Iscariots of the labor world in their letters to the daily press, in which the U. M. W. of A. and every official connected with it were abused, insulted and clandered. Notable among these caluminators was a man (?) who, in years gone by, was a labor leader, selling the men who trusted him every time he had a chance. Some of the companies shipped in scabs, of the lowest type of humanity (scabs generally are of that type); they also shipped in others by misrepresentation, breaking Dominion and Provincial laws in their attempts to fill their mines. The strikers' wives and children were, in many instances, insulted by these dregs of humanity, with, of course, the assistance of the special police. On one occasion two union men went from South Wellington to Extension with a man who had lately been scabbing there, but who had quit and come to South Wellington to find work. The union pickets persuaded him to leave the district and two men were sent to Extension with him to get his effects. Of course these men simply went with the erstwhile scab to his cabin. When nearly there they were accosted by a wage plug with an addled brain and told they were on private property; they then got off as quickly as possible. Whilst waiting outside the coal company the mine manager came running up accompanied by one of those objects called a special policeman and in a "get off the earth" voice said, "Take your hands off that gate," and pushed them away. One of the men told him he looked like a fighting man and after a few words this jumped-up manager told the cop to take the two men's names, and upon one of the men refusing to give his name the manager told the "bull" to arrest this man, which he tried to do but failed.

The manager and his pup the special then walked away and the two men went away and sat down waiting. The policeman shortly after came out and as he had worked with one of the men previous to the strike, came and told this man that he and his partner were fools for making trouble, as he had to do what the mine manager told him, and then the government will turn round and tell you that the police are employed in the interests of the people. Rats!

Some time after this Mr. Bull came along with reinforcements in the form of another constable, when the following dialogue or triologue took place:

Bull No. 2 (to desperate character): Come along with me; you are under my arrest.

D. C.: What for?

Bull No. 2 (to Bull No. 1): What's he under arrest for?

Bull No. 1 (to Bull No. 2): For resisting arrest.

D. C. (to both): What was I to be arrested for in the first place and where is your warrant?

Bull No. 2: Oh! never mind; we'll read the charge out to you later on.

Of course this man was taken before the capitalist-owned magistrate and given 30 days, but on his case being appealed it was thrown out.

This is the kind of treatment a striker had handed out to him. A scab in Ladysmith stabbed a union man and the police refused to arrest the scab, but were forced to arrest two. When the union man appeared against them he was arrested and spent some weeks in jail waiting trial. When the trials came off the two scabs got off, but the crown prosecutor wanted to give the union man some more, but the renowned Judge Howay considered he had been punished enough. Of course, by this time the brave (?) soldiers were here and men were being arrested wholesale because a scab threw dynamite and the strikers at Extension refused to stand up and let the scabs shoot them down and sundry other little stunts. Let us now take a dig at the military and see what good they have done for the public. Of course they are working in the interest of the people that advocate militarism, namely, the capitalists, and they are the people who are benefitting, as a certain class of animals are willing to work under the protection of a fixed bayonet. We know what side they are on. Two of them were talking to some strikers off the coal company's property when they were called back with the words "You men of the 6th, come over on your own side."

The Department of Labor at Ottawa says that "any action taken by Col. Hall was doubtless designed to preserve order at a time when, owing to the intense feeling, both life and property were imperilled." While a mass meeting was in progress in Nanaimo, the above Colonel Hall surrounded the hall with soldiers with fixed bayonets and loaded rifles and sent in a message to the effect that the hall was to be cleared, the men to come out in single file, and any attempt to break away would be met with bayonets and bullets. That was a method of preserving order—I don't think. The men were marched to the court house, their names taken, and subjected to the scrutiny of a bunch of scabs, every man being kept hanging around till nearly 3 a.m. I can assure you that the soldiers are treated with contempt by all class-conscious men and women. When in company with nine of my fellow workers, I have been escorted backwards and forwards between court and jail by about ten specials and forty soldiers. I could fully realize the purpose for which they are employed. For the good they have done, they might as well have stayed in their own homes, instead of being a factor in the attempt to break up the homes of the miners on Vancouver Island. They went to Extension after the armed scabs had been stopped in their murderous games and what did they do when they got there? Left it to the union men to explore the mine, round up the scabs, and bring in the women and children who had got out when the coal company's manager had armed his scabs.

Let us consider the law-abiding element we have at the mines at South Wellington. One special constable landed in hospital through his booze-fighting propensities, and two others had a scrap when one of them got a bat in the place where his brains used to be and "he died." The scabs have an occasional social time with knives, guns, etc., two of them being shot last week, and some time ago a scab got six months for selling booze.

I don't suppose this is all the fun they have, but we can't get near them, consequently we are not very familiar with their doings, they being guarded by the defenders of our country. We do know that the health authorities have condemned the deplorable conditions under which they live. Seeing the political forces that are arrayed against us, in the form of armed forces, police, government subsidized press, and capitalist-owned government—it is plainly to be seen that industrial unionism isn't our all in all, the necessity arises of fighting with the same weapons as our opponents, namely, our only political weapon, the ballot, and through that capturing the government and running things in a sane manner; instead of producing for profit, produce for use.

Let us get together once and for all, throwing aside all petty jealousies and personal prejudices and stand shoulder to shoulder to fight the tyrant capital. Whatever reforms are brought about are only palliations, they do not get to the root of the evil. We only get enough of the product of our labor to feed and clothe us sufficiently to enable us to perform our allotted tasks, and the other fellow will still ride in his private cars, while we walk; make a glutton of himself while we merely exist; and his wife and children will wear silks and satins, and ours will wear shoddy. Brothers, unite politically and put an end to this continual bickering. An instance can be given of the power of united action in the results obtained by the B. C. Miners' Liberation League. This league was formed about a month ago for the purpose of protesting against the brutal sentences meted out to our fellow workers and condemning the government of B. C. for refusing to take up the miners' side of the question in the present strike. We see the workers uniting on a common ground for a common cause, and the results are gratifying. The league had only been formed a short time when bail that had been repeatedly refused was granted wholesale, and cases that have come up lately have received their share of justice.

Just a few words in closing explaining the methods of the league. Mass meetings have been held and resolutions forwarded to the Minister of Justice protesting against the unjust sentences; about 15,000 buttons carrying the words "B. C. Miners' Liberation League," have been sold; store keepers are displaying cards in their windows calling for the release of the imprisoned miners and very shortly thousands of individual protests will be sent to the Minister of Justice.

Yours in the fight politically and industrially,

WALTER HEAD,

On behalf of Press Committee, Local No. 872, South Wellington, B. C.

Statement of Vice President Hayes

(Continued from Page Four)

would permit them to call out the militia. The mine owners were then the cause of the riots and they are the men who should be in jail. If we are to uphold British law and justice we must start by sending the men higher up to jail. I know of no cruder or more barbaric spectacle than that of a body of fine men being manacled and sent to jail, which scene I beheld recently. Let us have British law and order, but let us see that it is law and justice and not a farce.

"We hear a great amount of objection to the fact that the United Mine Workers of America is a foreign union and that it is supporting the miners on the Island. We never hear a word about the fact that nearly all Canada's industries are owned by foreigners. That is a different matter entirely.

Should Attack C. P. R.

"I wish that some method could be adopted to release those men from jail. I wish that we could bring the fact home to our government that we are in sympathy with them. If our government is to use the power of the law to uphold the rights of vested interests instead of the sacred rights of private individuals, then our civilization has retrogressed.

"I wish that our leaders would stop raving against the introduction of the Chinese and the Japanese and the Hindus who are coming into this land and would start a little raving against the C. P. R., which recently discharged all its white help on its Oriental ships with the exception of a few officers and so forth, and hired Chinese in their places. We should make it so difficult for these ships to land at our ports that they would have to revert to their old system. They try to make a Chinaman white on the outside, but they cant change his nature and you have only to get a look at the stuff they give you to eat in order to decide that a white man is better than a Chinaman any day." (Applause.)

Says Mine Owners Should Be Jailed

(Continued from Page Four)

other forces arrayed against us. A Federal investigation of this situation by a congressional committee is very probable, and this investigation will show to the nation at large, and particularly to Eastern millionaires owning stock in Colorado coal mines, how some of their wise subordinates have been ruining their business by the anarchistic policies they have been pursuing. We will prove in this congressional investigation that the violence in the present strike is due entirely to the policy of the coal operators. At the beginning of the strike they imported 700 gunmen, many of them, indicted for murder in other States, for the purpose of intimidating and murdering, if necessary, any miner who dared to assert his rights. We will prove that they have several machine guns, one of the most deadly weapons known to civilized warfare. These guns shoot 250 shots a minute and have a range of two miles. We will also prove that they have what is known as a steel battleship, which is an automobile encased in a high body of steel, completely concealing the assassins within and which they repeatedly paraded through the streets of Trinidad and the miners' camps in southern Colorado. We will prove that these armed guards saw to it that violence was committed, because their jobs depended upon turmoil and trouble. These guards reasoned that the operators would not have need of 700 gunmen unless there was some shooting going on. And they saw to it that the miners did not remain quiet. If it is a crime for the miners to defend their homes and their tent cities from the outrages of these imported assassins, then the miners of Colorado are to be blamed and censured, but in passing judgment it is well for the people to know both sides, and it seems to us that the grand jury at Pueblo ought to have inquired into this situation more fully, and if they had they would have found that the same people who have been violating the laws of Colorado for years are responsible for all the violence that has occurred in the southern Colorado coal fields. It is their policy to rule or ruin. It is their devotion to the principles of anarchy that is now coming home to them in all the horrors of industrial warfare.

Our one purpose in coming to Colorado was to endeavor to secure conditions here for the miners as favorable as those enjoyed by the miners in Wyoming and practically all the other coal-mining States of the nation. In this movement we ought to have the support of every good citizen, and we wish to say that this strike will continue until the rights guaranteed by the statutes of Colorado are fully recognized and until the miners here enjoy the same wage and the same working conditions that are enjoyed by mine workers in other organized States.

In brief there never will be industrial peace in Colorado until there is industrial justice.

There is nothing that capitalism can try when regulation has failed. It must then die, with a brief death struggle in the throes of state capitalism.

That regulation has already failed is evident to every one but those self-blinded ones who dare not see. A quarter of a century of the interstate commerce commission has climaxed in a coloccal valuation scheme, to employ more than 2,000 "experts" for a decade at an expense now estimated at $10,000,000, and which will probably reach double that sum before the valuation is completed.

And this very valuation is hailed by La Follette, the prince of regulators, as a triumph of regulation. It is heralded as being the real scientific foundation on which an exact system of regulation can be established.

Some mathematical puzzles naturally suggest themselves in contemplating this result. If it takes 36 years and so many millions of dollars to get started on a system of scientific regulation of one industry, how many years, dollars and men will it take to actually regulate several hundred lines of industry?—Milwaukee Leader.

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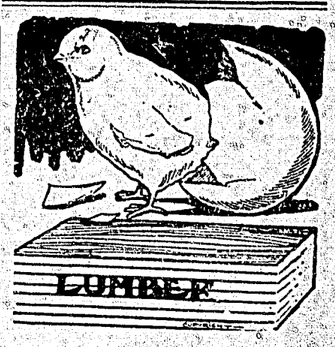

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Ladies' All Felt Top Shoes, with leather sole and heel, at $1.75

Ladies' Felt Top Laced Bal, with foxed vamp, felt sole, at $2.50

Ladies Dongola Blucher, with felt soles, at $2.75

Ladies' Elastic Side Felt Shoe, leather covered vamp and leather sole, at $1.75

Ladies' Felt Slippers, low and high cut, leather or felt soles, from ..... 75c to $2.50

Misses' and Children's Felt Shoes and Slippers, in all the different styles, laced and high button tops.

Men's All Felt Shoes and Slippers, which are warm and comfortable.

Men's Felt Boots, in all felt, felt foxed, leather covered, and felt tops with leather soles, ranging in prices from ..... $1.75 to $5.00

AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE OF HOLIDAY GOODS

Special prices on all broken lines of holiday goods.

All brass ware, 20 per cent off.

All bronze ware, 50 per cent off.

Special prices on Manicure Sets, Toilet Sets, Dresser Sets and Comb and Brush Sets.

15c STRIPED FLANNELETTE, 8 yards for $1.00

For Saturday and Monday we will sell our 15c quality Striped Flannelette, in all the good stripes and fast colors, full 31 inches wide, at 8 yards for $1.00. It is extra good weight, and the colors are particularly good.

Special, 8 yards for $1.00

Ladies' Overall Aprons, in light and dark color, some are self trimmed and others trimmed with contrasting colors. They are full size and fast colors.

Price 75c and 90c each

ANNOUNCEMENT

We will give our annual treat of Candies Nuts, Oranges, Apples etc. to the Children on New Year's Morning at 11 o'clock. We want every boy and girl in Fernie to be here.

A Man's Opportunity

Opportunity comes to every man, if you need a suit of clothes, here is your opportunity to save considerable money. We have 50 suits only made from best imported tweeds and Tailored (when we say Tailored we mean that they are hand made by expert tailors) and guaranteed to retain their shape. These suits are regular $25.00, $30.00 and up to $35.00 will be sold while they last at

$15.00

GROCERY SPECIALS

Mixed Nuts	5 lbs.	$1.00
Jap Oranges	per box	.75
Navel Oranges	per doz.	.35, 40, .50
Navel Oranges	per half case	2.00
Apples	5 lbs.	.25
Malaga Grapes	per lb.	.20
Wagstaff's Plum Pudding	1 lb.	.35
Wagstaff's Plum Pudding	2 lbs.	.65
Robertson Elline 6 Chocolates	per lb.	.35
Robertson Ruby Chocolates	1 box	.40
Special Mixed Candy	2 lbs.	.35
Grocery Candy	2 lbs.	.25
Mo asses Snaps	2 lbs.	.25
Canada First Hotel Cream	per half case	2.55
Robin Hood Porridge Oats	5 lb. packet	.20
Lombard Plums	2 tins	.20
Peaches	2 tins	.15
Apricots	3 lb. tins	.25
Seeded Raisins, 12 oz.	4 packages	.25
Golden Dates	2 lbs.	.25
Siam Rice	4 lbs.	.25
Pride of Canada Maple Syrup	quarts	.50
Special Blend and Bulk Tea	3 lbs.	1.00
Tilley's Brown Label Tea	3 lb. tin	.75
Early June Peas	2 tins	.25
Standard Peas	per tin	.10
Carrots	14 lbs.	.25
Turnips	16 lbs.	.25
Parsnips	10 lbs.	.25

LADIES' COATS AT SPECIAL PRICES

Our stock of Ladies' Coats has all been repriced; every Coat in the house has been reduced. They are all the newest models, made of the newest cloths and all hand finished and silk lined. Every Coat guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction.

Priced $5.00 to $30.00

CHILDREN'S WORSTED HOSE, 3 pairs for $1.00

A pure worsted yarn, 2-1 rib, spliced heel and toe, in all sizes from 5 to 10 inch. Priced specially at

3 pairs for $1.00

Money Saving Prices

TRITES-WOOD COMPANY, LTD.

The Store of Quality

BRANCHES AT FERNIE, MICHEL, NATAL AND COAL CREEK

Miss Annie Murray is spending Christmas and New Year with friends in Coleman and Barons.

Miss Ida Ross left on Monday for Lethbridge and Edmonton. After the holidays she is to be united in the bonds of matrimony with Mr. Alec Lowe, of Edmonton. Her large circle of friends all join in wishing her every happiness.

Grand Theatre

Wed. Dec. 31

COMING SOON

The Missouri Girl

The Big Fun Show

Norton & Rith

Present

Fred Raymond's

Most Successful Comedy

With

Zeke AND Daisy

A La "Mutt" & "Jeff"

A Broadway cast
Scenic Production
Big Scream

Prices

50c, 75c and $1.00

Plan can be seen and seats booked at N. E. Suddaby's Drug Store

"DAVID HARUM"

That the public are tiring of the race and problem plays, which have sprung up so recently, is being demonstrated by Geo. B. Howard, who comes to the Grand Theatre, Thursday, Jan. 1, in that masterpiece of wholesome comedy, "David Harum." Capacity houses is the rule with Mr. Howard, proving that this great character of American fiction has many admirers.

The story of "David Harum" is so well known that it needs no introduction. "David Harum" as a book was one of the popular sellers for over five years; as a play it is even wider in its appeal. The production that will be seen here is replete with "local color" and contains all the natural simplicity which made the book's story unusually interesting.

Among the capable cast supporting Mr. Howard, who is so favorably known here, will be seen Mr. Frederick Clarke, the popular Canadian actor, who has made such an impression on Canadian audiences, Miss Elsa Jonson, Gertrude Stone, Arthur Elton and others of equal prominence. All in all, "David Harum" should be sufficient in appeal to pack the Grand to the doors.

"I HATE WOMEN," CRIES MOTHER JONES TO MEN TO PRODUCE ALL WEALTH

"I hate women!" declared Mother Jones, greatest woman labor leader, at the closing session Thursday of the special meeting of the State Federation of Labor.

Then Mother Jones began an eloquent plea to the women of Colorado to aid in the great struggle between capital and labor, of which the Colorado coal strike is a major skirmish.

"When I was fifteen I was put to work as a nurse girl," she said, "and the hussy I worked for cut off my front hair because I would not get up at five in the morning to take care of her kids. Since then I can hardly bear the sight of a woman.

"I never see a woman wearing a diamond that I don't think she's a villain, for that glittering toy represents the life blood of workers—your brothers and mine.

"But, oh women! For the sake of suffering childhood; for the sake of the sorrowful ones, starved and shivering in the coal camps, stop reading novels and wasting your time. Learn something about this great revolution that is in progress, and give your help.

"Use your ballot. Coal operators have boasted that the vote of the women has protected them and their robberies for years. Don't be a disgrace to your nation.

"And don't fool away valuable time with the woman's club. Stay with your children. Be a real mother. No man ever had the divine spark of humanity in him unless he drew it from the breast of a good mother.

"It is your duty and your privilege to make happy homes and firesides, and to raise good men and women for the next generation. Remember if you give the nation a criminal—and you'll do it by neglecting the child—you'll surely pay the penalty."—Denver Express.

BRITISH RUSSIA DICTATORSHIP UNDER COL. HALL'S COSSACKS

Nanaimo, B. C., Dec. 16, 1913.

Dear Sir,—The enclosed correspondence explains itself. The Col. Hall whose name appears therein is the same officer who on the night of August 18th last surrounded the building in which a meeting of about 1100 miners was being held to consider an agreement with the Vancouver-Nanaimo Coal Co.—the company which recognized the union.

Col. Hall, after surrounding the building with his troops, every man with bayonet fixed and rifle loaded, and a gatling gun at the rear of the building, sent for the chairman and issued this Siberian order: "I'll give you two minutes to start the men out of that hall. Any man who runs or who does not keep single file will be either shot or bayonetted."

The whole meeting was placed under arrest, searched and held under arrest by military and special police until about 2.30 in the morning. Of arms, one tobacco knife over regulation size was all Col. Hall could find after a diligent search lasting many days to justify his brutal order.

Yours truly,
D. TODD, Junior.

(Copy)

Nanaimo, B. C., Dec. 6, 1913.

Lieut.-Colonel Hall,
Commanding the Militia,
Nanaimo.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of ratepayers of the City of Nanaimo held yesterday it was resolved to instruct the secretary to write a courteous letter to you advising you of the fact that some of the militiamen stationed here so far forget their good manners when walking on our sidewalks as to force civilians to step aside and even to get into the road to avoid collision with them. Complaints are general. Several speakers testified that not only were male citizens thus numiliated but women too. Even women wheeling baby-coaches have been forced off the sidewalk by the military.

It was the sense of the meeting that as soon as you became cognizant of these facts you would take prompt measures to prevent their recurrence.

I leave this matter in your hands feeling confident you will be only too anxious to remove this reflection on the behaviour of some of your troops, and to allay the bitterness aroused by their indiscretion.

I beg to remain,
Yours very truly,
DAVID TODD, Junior,
Secretary of the Meeting.

Headquarters Connaught Barracks,
Nanaimo, B. C., Dec. 10, 1913.

From the C. S. O., "Civil Aid Force,"
Nanaimo, B. C.

To Mr. Todd.

Sir,—I am instructed by the O. C. "Civil Aid Force" to acknowledge your letter of the 6th inst.

He does not propose to enter into any controversy on the matter.

He trusts that certain persons will not force him to rigidly enforce the provisions of the Militia Act, in reference to obstruction to Militia on the public roads.

Yours truly,
R. C. COOPER,
Capt. C. S. O.,
"Civil Aid Force."

TEACHING CONTEMPT OF LAW

It would appear that the owning class, the class which holds the deeds and mortgages that in them vests the possession of the great plants of production and distribution, could not afford, openly, to show that on them the "law" was not binding when it interfered with their plans.

By careful manipulation the propertied class have been able to guide the various legislatures until the laws of state and nation more carefully guard the rights of property than they guard human rights. We would naturally presume that the beneficiaries of such class laws would not, by their actions, demonstrate that the "law" could be openly defied whenever it interfered with their temporary convenience.

That the contrary is the case is amply demonstrated in Michigan, in Colorado, in Indianapolis, and everywhere the workers are forced by hard conditions to collectively demand more of the product of their toil; an opportunity to collectively bargain for the sale of their only commodity—"their power to labor."

The employment of the lawless gunmen by the owning class has become an institution. The open boast of the commercial bodies is, "We will teach these fellows a lesson"; "these fellows," meaning, of course, the workers who have dared to ask for the rights of freemen; the right to present their side of the question at issue through those among them best able to represent them, or even by the trained labor leaders in their particular calling, whomsoever they might elect should represent them.

Are they teaching us a lesson?

Ask any victim of their lawless methods; ask any of the workers, even though forced to submit for the time being to lawless force, aided by a government that is complacent, if not actively aiding in the anarchistic disregard of every law supposed to proregard of every law supposed to protect life and property, especially property.

They are teaching us that the law is the servant of those who can display sufficient force to disregard it. They are teaching us the lesson that "force" still reigns supreme as it did in the days of old. They are teaching to organize, for defense, yes and for offense, through force, if necessary, since the powers that show themselves able to attain their object by illegal force are held immune from censure or punishment.

That is the lesson we are learning. We question the wisdom of those who are the beneficiaries of the laws in forcing that lesson upon us.

But with nothing to lose, and the memories of all the bitter wrongs we have suffered it is possible that we may even improve on the lessons we have so bitterly learned.—The United Mine Workers' Journal.

GRAND THEATRE

"The Missouri Girl" Coming Here

With a rattling good story, full of honest fun, with singing and music that is a delight, scenery that is superb, an excellent company including Frank Farrell, the droll comedian, and Mildred Ford, in their side-splitting comedy characters of "Zeke" and "Daisy," "The Missouri Girl" has taken its position as one of the funniest comedies and laugh producers in years. The vehicle was presented here with a New York caste, a little over one year ago, and was pronounced a "scream." The company play here at the Miners' Opera House for one night only, on New Year's eve, Wednesday, December 31.

The management of the theatre wish its patrons and others a Merry Christmas and invite all to come and refresh themselves in the waves of merriment of two and one half hours' plunge in an ocean of hilarity. New Year's will be incomplete without seeing and joining the merry throng that will flock to see the laughing success of the century.

To the Citizens of Fernie

At the request of a number of the ratepayers and citizens, I offer myself as a candidate for re-election as Mayor. A public meeting will be called to discuss municipal issues. You will all be in possession of financial statement for the year 1913 before election day.

J. L. Gates

ISIS THEATRE

BEST ALWAYS

PICTURES CHANGED DAILY

Special Saturday Matinee and Evening

The Better Father

TWO REELS — The Evils of Blind Unreasoning Jealousy Powerfully Portrayed in this Picture

"The Flower Girl and The Counterfeiter" "IMP" Drama With Wm. Shay

Two Hearts & a Thief & Cupids Bad Aim "Nester" Comedies

SPECIAL MONDAY

THE TRIUMPH OF STRENGTH

2 Reel Ambrosio Lion Picture

SPECIAL TUESDAY

Masterlinks, the Mystic's Masterpiece

PELLEAS AND MELISANDE

Interpreted by CONSTANCE CRAWLEY and ARTHUR MAUDE A Remarkable Picture

ALWAYS A GOOD SHOW AT THE "ISIS"