The District Ledger

Industrial Unity Is Strength

The Official Organ of District No. 18, U. M. W. of A.

Political Unity Is Victory

No. 20, Vol. VIII. THE DISTRICT LEDGER, FERNIE, B. C., JANUARY 9, 1915

Provincial Library Jun 30.14

W. L. PHILLIPS, President District 18, United Mine Workers of America

Re Unemployment In Alberta

President W. L. Phillips has received a communication from A. Farmilo, Secretary of the Alberta Federation of Labor, that a delegation composed of the mayors of Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, Aldermen Hunt and Riddell of Calgary, Alderman Kinney of Edmonton, Mr. Alex. Ross and Mr. A. Farmilo, president and secretary respectively of the Alberta Federation of Labor, waited upon Premier Sifton and fully apprised him of the present conditions of unemployment throughout the province. The miners' position was explained at great length. The result of this interview was quite encouraging to the delegation as the government has set aside the sum of $54,000 apportionments being made of $7,500 per month each for three months, for Calgary and Edmonton, and $1,500 each per month for the same period for Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. The inspector of mines has been instructed to investigate conditions prevailing in those mining districts (in Alberta) most acutely affected in the Crow's Nest Pass. Assurances were given this delegation that relief would be forthcoming in the very near future.

Secretary Farmilo also stated that he has notified the secretaries of Burmis and Maple Leaf of the Government's action and requested that they prepare such information as they deem necessary to be placed in the hands of the government to facilitate and expedite the alleviation of existing distress.

In this respect it would be an excellent plan if the secretaries of other locals in the affected districts would likewise compile whatever information bearing on the subject that would help out the situation.

Coal Creek Explosion

For the last three weeks or so we have been chronicling disasters in the Crow's Nest Pass, while the last two cases of fatal accidents have been from Coal Creek. It has been remarked often that disasters never come singly, and the people of the Creek have come to regard one accident as the first of a series, and that series generally three. We sincerely hope that the generally accepted number to complete the series has occurred and that for some time at least we may be saved the necessity to chronicle further fatalities.

The explosion at B North, however, was fortunate insofar as it happened before the men had entered the workings. Had it been delayed five or ten minutes possibly every living thing in the mine would have been destroyed. The explosion at present is a mystery, but whether it will remain a mystery after the inquiry we cannot say, but explosions of this nature have invariably to be explained away by some obscure scientific theory of spontaneous combustion or the concussive theory.

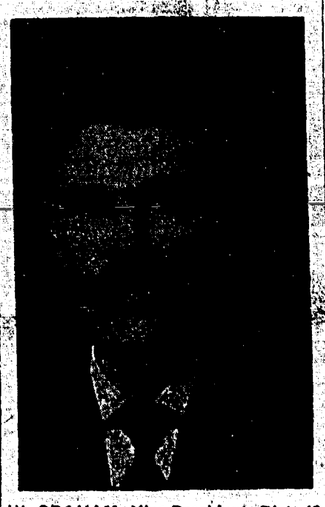
There is, however, one very significant fact, and that is there was no one in the mine at the time; ignition from from the usually ascribed sources, a careless miner or defective lamp must be eliminated. It would appear that the cause is some agency for which the digger cannot be held responsible.

The explosion, which occurred at about two minutes past seven, was one of the severest ever felt in the Creek, outside of the big bump of twelve years ago. Houses on both sides of the valley were shaken, ceilings crack, and the inhabitants experienced a distinct shock. Some are of the opinion that there were two explosions, while others assert that there was but one. The flame from the tunnel mouth shot across the valley and residents of Fernie declare that a distinct glow was noticed in the sky at about the time the explosion took place.

Owing to the fact that Saturday following the holiday is looked upon more or less as an idle day, there were only a few men waiting to go on shift, while some little delay at the lamp house was responsible for the fact that although the whistle had blown the men had not had their lamps tested and were waiting for the fire boss to "blow" them before entering.

Had the men been waiting in the fire boss' shack there would have probably been several lives lost, as the shack was blown to atoms. The late arrival of the fire boss was thus responsible for a further saving of life.

When the explosion burst from the tunnel, all those in the immediate vicinity were blown down, and it was here that Thomas France, Fred Gillette and another man received their injuries. In the case of France, he was knocked against the snowshed and badly cut and burnt, but from enquiries made at the hospital we learn that he is making rapid recovery. Fred Gillette had a remarkable escape, and there is not the slightest doubt that the horse he was driving was responsible for the saving of his life. This horse, a particularly docile brute, when it arrived at the tunnel mouth, refused to venture inside, and Gillette was bending down to pick up a "persuader" when the explosion burst forth. The horse, which was standing some fifteen or twenty feet from the entry, was struck by a large piece of rock in the head and instantly killed, while Gillette escaped with a few scratches.



W. GRAHAM, Vice-President, Dist. 18, United Mine Workers of America

The Explosion

B North mine is one of the smaller mines at the Creek and is some fifty feet above the level of the town. There were two distinct reports, practically simultaneous, and people half a mile from the mine in describing the explosion, claim it felt as if the ground under their feet was being swept away from them. Then appeared a dense cloud of black smoke or coal dust, followed by a huge sheet of flame that lit up the mountain side. The snowsheds for a distance of fifty feet were blown away, while the electric hoist house directly in front of the mine, some thirty feet away, was not badly damaged, although one blast of the explosion came through this exit. The force was so great that it came out through the air course or fan-drift and completely destroyed the fire bosses' shack and demolished the fan casing, although the fan itself escaped serious injury.

The news of the explosion was telephoned to Fernie immediately and a special train was made up which conveyed the general manager, Mr. Geo. O'Brien, and several others to the Creek.

Shortly before ten o'clock an exploring party, consisting of Provincial Inspector E. Evans, B. Caufield (colliery manager), H. Adamson and W. McFegan, equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus, entered the mine to ascertain the damage to the interior. A short time later W. McFegan returned alone to the surface in an exhausted condition and reported the other members of the party to have been overcome. A rescue party was immediately formed of the following: W. R. Wilson (General Manager of the Company), J. Moore, E. Hesketh, T. Williams (mine inspector), W. Lancaster, W. Commons, Chas. O'Brien, J. Bell, A. Watson, D. Martin, J. Hamer, A. Atkinson, J. Biggs and A. Watson. The first to be recovered was B. Caufield (colliery manager), who recovered very shortly after returning to the outer air. Mr. Caufield assigns the cause of his exhaustion to over exertion in endeavoring to recover Mr. Evans and Mr. Adamson, all of whom were members of the exploring party. While endeavoring to recover the prostrated men, several members of the rescue party were overcome by the gas and had to be revived.

The exploring party had only penetrated the mine some three hundred feet before being overcome, and as the unconscious men had to be carried over caves caused by the explosion, the task of bringing them out was additionally hampered. Mr. Adamson required three and a half hours continuous labors with resuscitation apparatus and artificial respiration exercise before he revived, but Mr. Evans, after five hours application of similar methods was given up.

A. J. CARTER, Sec-Treasrer Dist. 18, United Mine Workers of America

Premier Sends Condolence

Premier McBride sent the following message to Fernie on Saturday night:

"Please say to people of your district how much I deplore the loss of Inspector Evans. His death leaves a gap in the service of our country which will be very difficult to fill.

(Signed) "Richard McBride."

The deceased inspector was one of the most conscientious men that has ever acted in the capacity of inspector of mines in this district, and, so far as he was able, did his duty with a fearlessness and disregard for criticism that was recognized by all. At every inquest in connection with mine fatalities in this district he was in attendance at he displayed a thoroughness and practical knowledge that one more than one occasion brought to light facts that might have otherwise been overlooked or disregarded. The mineworkers realized that they had in Evan Evans a man who was going to try to do the right thing even if the department for which he worked and the coal companies, did not appreciate such microscopic thoroughness.

Of a quiet and retiring disposition, the deceased had made many friends during his stay in this town, while he was well known and respected down the pass, having worked in several of the camps prior to his appointment.

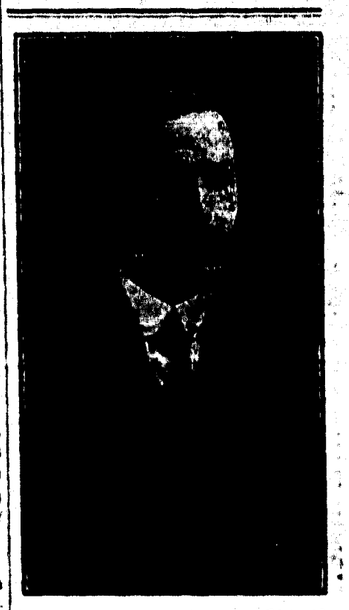
The resuscitation apparatus used in connection with the accident was under the supervision of George Clifton, who is in charge of the Government Rescue Station here, and Mr. Robt Johnstone, of Coal Creek. It was due entirely to the ceaseless efforts of the rescue parties that only one fatality has to be recorded, and had it not been for their prompt and untiring efforts, the death roll would have been larger.

THE INQUEST

The inquest in connection with the death of Evan Evans, the provincial inspector of mines, who lost his life while exploring the mine after the explosion on Saturday morning, was opened by Coroner Wilkes Monday afternoon. The jury consisted of E. K. Stewart (foreman), N. E. Suddaby, J. Tudhope, S. Graham, J. F. Macdonald and H. E. Barnes, were sworn in and viewed the remains, after which they adjourned to the court house, where five witnesses were called. Mr. Thos. Williams, who is inspector of mines for the district known as Northern East Kootney, was the first to be called, and stated that he had visited the mine in company with the deceased after the explosion, and that they decided to close up the mine until the fan was repaired, after this was in operation twenty-four hours was to elapse before allowing anyone to enter the mine. However, it was later decided that as it was believed by the mine management that a fire existed in the mine, this should be verified, and then the mine could be properly sealed off, and to this end the exploring party, consisting of B. Caufield, colliery manager, E. Evans (deceased) and R. Adamson and W. McFegan, two mine overmen, donned Drueger apparatus and entered the mine. This being some two hours after the explosion. Witness was not present when the apparatus was put on by the party, he had returned just when they called for assistance, and one John Moore, donned the apparatus that had been used by McFegan, one of the exploring party, and the only one who returned to the outside unassisted. Moore, with a rope attached around his waist, led the rescuers, followed by witness without apparatus. Mr. Caufield was recovered first, but revived shortly after being brought out. Evans was found by the rescuers unconscious and a short distance beyond him Adamson, in a like condition. With difficulty these men were brought out, a number of the rescue party being partially overcome. Other witnesses in testifying as to the condition of the apparatus stated it was in perfect order when donned by the party, although the supply of oxygen was but half of the capacity of the apparatus. The type being two hour Drueger, with fully charged oxygen cylinders. Two styles of apparatus were used, both Drueger, three sets of them being what is known as the mouth-breathing, the other the helmet type. This latter style was used by Mr. Evans. When the men were found the apparatus had become disarranged, it being reduced to a state of inefficiency. Expert evidence will be called in this connection, and in order that the investigation may be of the most thorough nature, a very large number of witnesses have been summoned.

At this juncture an adjournment was made as a telegram was received from Mr. Thos. Graham, Chief Inspector of Mines for the Province of B. C., to the effect that he would arrive that evening (Monday) and that he desired to be in attendance. Accordingly the adjournment was taken until Monday, January 11th.

(Continued on Page Four)



D. REES, Inter. Bd. Member, Dist. 18, United Mine Workers of America

Official Returns--Election for District President

Candidate and Office	Fernie 2314	Michel 2334	Coleman 2633	Carbondale 2227	Blairmore 2163	Frank 1263	Bellevue 431	Beaver Mines 481	Maple Leaf 2829	Passburg 2252	Hillcrest 1058	Chinook 1126	Lethbridge 574	Kipp 1189	Taber 102	Canmore 1387	Bankhead 29	Corbin 2877	Georgetown 3026	Nordegg 1087	TOTAL
PRESIDENT:																					
W. L. Phillips	396	173	90	37	14	56	318	38	15	46	197	24	161	149	41	146	167		37	152	2257
J. PRICE	148	77	84	109		33	80	2	8	19	59	19	111	48	11	19	43		4	62	936
Spoilt ballots	5	8	3				1			1			3	4							33
VICE-PRESIDENT—																					
W. Graham	302	139	128	107	14	26	18	4	7	28	96	14	112	50	35	140	145		17	158	1540
Donald McNab	76	40	21	10		10	7		3	6	30	14	87	117	10	17	23		8	24	503
Robt. Levitt	138	63	43	31		51	377	36	13	32	133	10	74	29	7	6	44		15	30	1132
Spoilt ballots	4	17	8	2			19				7	1	8	3	1	2					72
SEC.-TREASURER—																					
A. J. Carter	346	157	116	82	13	26	184	19	14	34	126	25	150	131	43	147	172		36	149	1970
J. Brooks	198	89	49	60	1	60	181	21	9	31	131	16	116	59	8	17	38		5	60	1149
Spoilt ballots	4	6	3				1				5		1	2	1						23
INTER. BOARD MEMBER—																					
D. Rees	430	160	117	96	14	53	272	24	17	53	179	22	135	119	13	147	166		37	155	2209
H. Brooks	96	77	51	45		33	78	16	6	10	63	17	129	71	39	17	38		3	50	839
Spoilt ballots	11	6	2	1			4				2			2							28
FRAT. DELE. Dist 6 W. F. of M																					
T. Uphill	408	125	65	29	6	17	19	4	6	13	59	4	72	17	5	6	26		8		889
Robt. Levitt	63	48	56	58	3	46	344	33	8	44	150	10	55	24	4	12	32		4		994
B. Nugent	17	12	9	13	2	6	6	1	2		13	6	44	12	30	5	17		1		196
Duncan McNab	34	19	19	19	2	4	10		3	3	11	8	45	121	6	7	19		1		331
Robert Oakes	31	37	18	15	1	11	11	2	3	6	17	9	34	9	7	128	117		25		481
Spoilt ballots	19	33	12	3		2	12		1	1	4		26	16		6	4				141
BD. MEMBER Sub-Dist No. 1—																					
H. Martin ACCLAMATION																					
BD. MEMBER Sub-Dist No. 2—																					
I. Thomas			82	20	2	7	22	1	4	27	22										187
E. Christie			30	5	5	16	236	2	1	11	39										355
F. Allett			6	7	3	44	23		1	4	9										97
Robt. Holmes			41	19	4	8	7		3	3	9										154
J. Loughran			9	27	0	1	39	37	3	5	19										140
J. Dudley			6	7		11	24		3	11	175										237
Spoilt ballots			28	7		2	35		2	2	23										99
BD. MEMBER Sub-Dist No. 3—																					
A. Bateman												16	33	15	41						105
C. Peacock												10	54	127	8						199
J. Larsen												11	185	51	4						251
Spoilt ballots												0	7	10							17
BD. MEMBER Sub-Dist No. 4—																					
F. Wheatley ACCLAMATION																					

Received Return Sheets but no Ballots from 1 or 1 2877

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that we have counted the Ballots cast on December 8th, 1914, and declare the above to be a correct count.

(Signed)

FRANK BARRINGHAM
ENOCH AINSWORTH
DAVID GILLESPIE

The Voice of Socialism From Great Britain

Notes and Comment from London Labor Leader

Parliament has adjourned. Why has it done so? Why has it abandoned its post of duty at this time of unparalled stress in the nation's history? Is there really nothing for it to do, no responsibility resting with it—no interests of the state, no liberties or needs of the people, no circumstances relating to the tremendous war struggle, big with the fate of the nation, of Europe, and the world, now going on—that requires the attention of our elected representatives?

Parliament evidently thinks there is none. It has at any rate meekly assented to its own abrogation and the establishment of a Cabinet, or, for all we know, a military autocracy, over the realm.

After a recess of some six weeks it reassembled three weeks ago. What did it do? It voted with little or no discussion £250,000,000 for the war—the largest single sum ever voted by Parliament—passed hurriedly some war emergency legislation, heard several Ministeral statements, put a few questions—some of them important enough—to Ministers, and then, after just fourteen days' sitting, adjourned for ten weeks!

True, Mr. Asquith, has assured us that in the event of any matter arising which the Cabinet considers of grave importance, Parliament will be immediately called together. The Cabinet, indeed! Since when has Parliament acquired such implicit faith in the word and wisdom of Mr. Asquith and his cabinet nominees as justifies it in committing the destinies of the country to their sole supervision and direction during three months, at a time of virtual revolution and such great peril as this? Was it not this same Mr. Asquith who endorsed the repeated assurances of Sir Edward Grey that this country was under no agreement or obligation to support France in case of war with Germany? Are not he and his Cabinet (presumably) bound this country without any conclared with reference to its assurances to Ulster that it was guilty of an act of "unparalled betrayal"? And has not he an dhis Cabinet (presumably) bound thi scountry without any consultation with Parliament to an agreement with France and Russia that this country (and they on their part) will not consider or adopt any terms of peace without the assent of the others?

The Cabinet is only, or ought only to be, the servant of Parliament. As things are, this Liberal Cabinet is representative of a party which on many if not the majority, of domestic questions is in a minority in the House. It is for Parliament itself, not a party clique of this kind, to judge what questions, especially in a crisis laden with unforeseen issues like this, demand its attention and discussion.

Yet at this hour, when the manhood of the nation is being appealed to to leave their employment and families and go forth to be killed or maimed on the plea that the very existence of their country is at stake, our members of Parliament submit to Mr. Asquith's decree that the country has no no need whatever for their particular services and that they may betake themselves to the bosom of their families and the golf links!

Never, one would think, if Parliament is of any importance at all, was it more imperative than now that it should be in session day by day, if only for an hour. For, consider:

The press is censored, not only in the matter of all news from the battle front, and all political information from abroad, but with respect to all that concerns the conditions and treatment of our troops at home. Large areas of the country are virtually under martial law.

Industry in many parts of the country is almost at a standstill, tens of thousands of the people are in a state of distress, rules and regulations never considered by Parliament are being put in force by the authorities.

Several million pounds of state money are being spent every week on contracts, concerning which grave scandals were brought under the notice of Parliament during the short time it was in session. And was not almost the last word said in the House an admission on the part of Mr. Lloyd George that "on the face of it" a case submitted to Mr. Keir Hardie was an attempt on the part of a trading firm to enrich itself under cover of the Chancellor's own taxation scheme at the expense of the poorest of the poor?

But enough. Heaven knows we have little reason to put much trust in the present House of Commons. But such as it is, it is the representative organ of the body politic of the nation. And we declare it is a scandal of scandals that its members should go on holiday in the midst of circumstances and events that engage the hopes and fears of the whole nation, and the attention of the world, as never before in British history.

* * *

There are further signs that a large section of German Socialists are by no means enthusiastic about the prosecution of the war. In the Social-Democratic organ at Hamburg—the Hamburger Echo—a letter appears, signed bya group of influential members of the party, expressing the opinion that the editor has turned his back upon the principles of the party, has misunderstood the cause and the meaning of the war, and has adopted a Jingoistic attitude.

* * *

Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Sons have done their best to produce an attractive Christmas card to be published and sold "entirely for the benefit of the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund." The mere production of a "patriotic" card to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace is an irony, but the designers, it must be admitted, have at least refrained from printing below the colored picture of gaudily-dressed men, heavily armed with rifles, lances and threatening bayonets, the usual Christmas refrain, "Peace on Earth." That would have been too much.

* * *

Many of our readers will remember Mdle. Alexandra Kollontay, the Russian Socialist, who visited this country a year or two ago. In a letter to Mr. Middleton, the assistant secretary of the Labor Party, she says she has reached Sweden safely from Germany and has had a warm reception from the Socialists, "who are very kind to us." Mdle. Kolontay adds, "my friendsship and my thoughts are always with the English comrades, especially in these horrible days. Give my kind greetings to all of them who remember me."

* * *

In De Notenkraker, the Dutch Socialist weekly, appears a cartoon depicting the real enemy of the workers. A haggard and starving man is shown at the counter of the government pay office. He is about to take up the money on the counter when a pompous, silk-hatted banker pushes him aside, with the words, "Me first!" The cartoon would have been equally to the point in this country, for the first aid given during the war was promptly secured by the banking concerns. Private ownership of the means of life is the real enemy of the people, whether those people be French, German or British workers. That we can never bear in mind too much.

* * *

Many of our readers will be glad to know that the letter which Mr. E. D. Morel forwarded to the Birkenhead Liberal Association on resigning his candidature has been printed in pamphlet form. Mr. Morel has added two valuable appendices, the first giving the full text of the questions put and the answers given in the House of Commons relating to our Continental obligations, the second consisting of notes on the German strategical position and the Belgium neutrality. The pamphlet is issued at 1d., and may be obtained from the National Labor Press (30, Blackfriars street, Manchester). Branches of the I. L. P. should "boom" it vigorously.

* * *

Commenting in the Methodist Times on resolutions on the war carried by the Wesleyan Methodist body, the Rev. H. Baird Turner says they declared in effect, "we must recognize with pride that our young manhood is responding, with hosts of Mohammedians and Hindoos, Russians and Japanese, to the touch of that Imperial war drum that summons men to the fight of Christ against the Devil. It is well to be original," continued Mr. Turner, "but men of conservative mould may perhaps be shocked when Jesus is taken from the Cross at the entrance to the narrow way that leads to life, and placed at the head of the battalions with a rifle on his shoulder in the way 'that is very broad and leadeth to destruction.'"

* * *

Some disappointment has been expressed because the peace advocates in Germany are apparently silent at the present time. Die Menscheit (Switzerland) explains that the peace societies of Germany have, during the war, gained more members than they have lost, and that they have not raised a public protest against the war only because of the state of martial law which exists and the prevalence of war fever. "They do not consider it wise to make martyrs of themselves, but rather to economize their forces until the day comes when, with a changed public opinion, they will be able to exert effective pressure on their respective governments."

The editor of the Die Menschelt reminds his readers of how the earthquakes of Messina and San Francisco united the people of the earth in a bond of human sympathy, and points out that, despite the baser passions aroused now by the war-mongering press, there is evidence that the great calamity of the war is generating an undercurrent of similar sympathy. Food and shelter are willingly being offered to the Belgian people in France, Holland and Britain, large sums are being contributed to relieve the distressed in all the belligerent countries, and in England a fund has been inaugurated to assist the wives and families of destitute aliens. Quoting these instances, the editor of Die Menschelt appeals for German donations for the relief of distress amongst the civil population of unhappy Belgium.

* * *

In an article in the New Review (New York) Anton Pannekoek of Bremen pays a high tribute to the actions of the Servian Socialists during the war. Despite the fact that a nationalistic attitude on the part of the Balkan workers might have been particularly excusable in their desire to uphold the independence of their awaken-nations, their leader, Comrade Lapshewitz, declared on their behalf in the Servian Parliament that, while the attack on Servia by Austria was an outrage, nevertheless the policy of the Servian Government was partly to blame, and, therefore, the Socialist Party would vote against the War Credits. "This is an example of courage," says the writer, "that may well be compared with the memorable stand taken by Bebel and Liebknecht in 1870."

* *

At the present time, when each of the blood-stained warring countries is posing as the Lord's anointed and the savior of mankind, the unbiased and uncensored opinions of neutral countries would provide a series of rude shocks to the self-complacency of the nations concerned. The Swiss journals La Voix de l'Humanite tries to hold impartially the scales of Justice. In a recent issue it publishes an extended list of German atrocities, as reported in the British and French press, the truth of which was testified by responsible Belgian authorities. German readers of the paper, knowing their countrymen to be ordinary human beings and not brutes, were indignant. In the following issue a detailed list of atrocities committed by Russia an dthe Allies was given, and the truth of these excesses wastestified by German authorities and French priests, and the French readers of the journal were in their turn, indignant. The editor of La Voix de l'Humanite hereupon interposed and suggested that the cause of the atrocities is not the essential cruelty of one nation or the other, but war itself.

* * *

The Socialists of Spain are taking a very broad view of the war. In a recent issue of La Justica Social, the organ of the Socialist Party, the question is asked: "To which side should Socialists give their sympathies?" This is the answer given:

"Can they sympathize with the autocratic imperialism of Germany? Can they sympathize with a government so incompetent and hypocritical as that of Great Britain today? Can they place any hope in the political system, corrupt to the core, of that monstrous and criminal Tsarism of Russia?

"No! The sympathies and hopes of Socialists must be placed solely in the workers of all the nations. When autocracies attack each other the workers should rise up solidly against them all. Therein lies the hope of the workers. For the realization of this hope we must work, suffer and sacrifice ourselves night and day. Socialism alone can liberate the world from a new series of disastrous wars. Socialism alone can decide the future of the world, and the hour of that decision is at hand. Militarism, which rules the world, is already feeling the pressure of the Socialist movement. Is the Socialist movement ready for the moment of its opportunity?"

* * *

In the devastated districts of France babies are dying like flies for want of nutrition.

"This sentence," writes Marian Willmore, "came to me in a letter a short time ago, and it has haunted me ever since. This is one of the 'glories of war' about which the War Office, the Press Bureau, and the communiques are silent. We hear so much about the 'honor' of countries nowadays, but how does it weigh in the balance against the prolonged agony the mothers are suffering as they watch the slow starvation of their little ones, powerless to help? People need to realize that while they applaud the heroism and glory of war a potential nation is 'dying like fflies.'"

AS TO CHILD LABOR REMEDIES

Reformers in the State of New Jersey are jubilant because of a law passed in that State conferring the powers of a labor inspector upon truant officers and policemen. By means of this law they think they will be able to abolish all child labor in that State. . . . . When the question of child labor is viewed in its entirety, however, there seems to be little reason for rejoicing. Remedies have to strike deeper than a mere widening of the powers of a truant officer.

It has been established with fair convincingness that child labor today is no longer a product of mere ignorance or indifference among parents. There was a time when stupid parents sent their children to work in defiance of the law in order to accumulate money or property. That type of child labor is now a comparative rarity in the United States. There are few parents either so ignorant or so heartless as to want to see their children stunted physically and intellectually.

What drives children to work today most often is extreme want superinduced by unemployment, sickness, or death of the father. No remedy for child labor, therefore, that does not strike at poverty itself can be considered more than a palliative. The New Jersey law may prevent the exploitation of children by employers. It does not reach down deep enough, however, to touch the root of the child labor evil.—Chicago Tribune.

SHILOH

REGARD BRITISH AS TOUGHEST OF THEIR ENEMIES

German Officers and Men Returning From Front Do Not Belittle Their Opponents

BERLIN, Jan.4.—Evidences of the reaction of German officers and soldiers fighting at the front against the tendency to belittle the fighting qualities of the enemy continue to accumulate.

Soldiers' letters and returning soldiers speak in terms of high appreciation of the military prowess and soldierly qualities of their opponents, and among several hundred wounded with whom the correspondent of the Associated Press has talked in his visits to hospitals the last fortnight, no one was found who refused to credit the enemy in general, Russian, French, Belgian and British, with bravery and military skill.

Distinctions are drawn, it is true, the British being generally reckoned as the toughest opponents on the west front.

The Germans had a high opinion of the fighting qualities of the French soldiers before this war began. The fighting which occurred in the march from the Belgian frontier to the Marne and Paris tended to lessen their respect for toughness of French moral fibre, but the last two months have changed that again and soldiers' letters reflect increased respect for them. The recent fighting of the remnant of the Belgian army in Flanders also has greatly raised the German estimation of the Belgian soldier, who, in the general army opinion, had not greatly distinguished himself at Liege, Namur and Antwerp and the intervening field engagements.

Stick It To the End

As to the British, field post letters continue to bear out the statement from a German expert as to their robust fighting qualities. One of the latest of thes letters, printed in the Cologne Gazette, contains the following striking passage:

"People at home appear to have wrong notions about the fighting qualities of the enemy. The British are the toughest and bravest foe we have to meet. Every individual man keeps on shooting coolly so long as he is not taken prisoner and these trained veterans shoot well. When we storm a position the French will run when we close in with our shouts of 'hurrah,' but the British stick tenaciously to their entrenchments to the last."

Danzer's Armeezeitung, the leading military publication of Austria, pays a high tribute to the Servian, Belgian and Russian troops. The Servians are called brave, but declaration is made that they are without food and ammunition. Credit is given the Belgians for standing with England and France "France "when they must have realized that their own cause was irredeemably lost." The press is criticized for it attitude in attempting to belittle a foe that is both brave and capable.

THE VAMPIRE

By Bert Leach

(With Apologies to Kipling)

A fool there was and he cast his vote
(Even as you and I).
For ragged pants and a tattered coat,
And some grub on which he didn't dote,
He voted for G. O. P., you'll note,
(Even as you and I.)

Oh, the work we do for the favored few,
And the miserable wage we get.
We crack the nuts and they take the meat,
They hand us chaff and they take the wheat,
And to make our bondage more complete,
We vote for the system yet.

A fool there was and he goods had none,
(Even as you and I.)
He worked like 'ell from sun to sun,
He got no cash, so he worked for fun,
And he voted just as his dad had done,
(Even as you and I.)

Oh, he worked like fun from sun to sun,
And he plotted and schemed and planned.
But he just could not make both ends meet,
If his head kept warm then he froze his feet,
And his kids hadn't half enough to eat,
But he couldn't understand.

The fool was stripped to his foolish hide,
(Even as you and I.)
They couldn't use that though they may have tried,
And the poor old fool was kicked aside,
And his legs lived on though his head had died.
(Even as you and I.)

It isn't the shame and it isn't the blame
That stings like a white-hot brand.
It's the cursed foolishness of a jay
Who'll work ten hours for two hours' pay
And vote for the thing on election day.
And will not understand.
—St. Louis Labor.

Former President Eliot of Harvard university, whose ideal of a hero is a baby-butchering gunman, says, with one eye on the $100,000,000 Rockefeller foundation, that the pious Mr. Rockefeller has been "wronged" and that "no man's business ethics are better than his." Evidently Dr. Eliot's ethics are not.

Local Union Directory, Dist. 18, U.M.W.A

GLADSTONE LOCAL No. 2314
Meet first and third Fridays, Miners' Hall, Fernie; second and fourth Fridays, Club Hall, Coal Creek. Sick Benefit attached.—T. Uphill, Sec., Fernie, B. C.

MICHEL LOCAL No. 2334
Meet every Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock in Crahan's Hall. Sick Benefit Society attached.—R. Beard, secretary.

PARK LOCAL No. 1387
Meet every Sunday. Sick and Accident Benefit Society attached.—Michael Warren, Sec., Cannore, Alta.

HILLCREST LOCAL No. 1058
Meet second and fourth Sunday in month. Sick and Benefit Society attached.—Thos. Thompson.

CARBONDALE LOCAL No. 2227
Meet every alternate Sunday at 2.30 p.m. in the Opera House, Coleman.—J. Mitchell, Sec., Box 105, Coleman.

BANKHEAD LOCAL No. 29
Meet every Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock in the Bankhead Hall. Sick and Accident Benefit Fund attached.—Frank Wheatley, Fin. Sec., Bankhead, Alta.

COALHURST LOCAL No. 1189
meet every Sunday in Miners' Hall, 3 p.m. No sick benefit. Secretary, F. Barringham; President, Duncan McNab.

BEAVER CREEK LOCAL No. 481
Meet every first and third Sunday at Lyric Hall, 3 p.m.—John Loughran, Sec.

COLEMAN LOCAL No. 2633
Meet every alternate Sunday at 2.30 p.m. in the Opera House, Coleman.—J. Johnstone, Sec.

PASSBURG LOCAL No. 2352
Meet every second and fourth Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. in Slovak Hall. Sick Benefit Society attached.—Thos. G. Harries, Sec., Passburg, Alta.

BURMIS LOCAL No. 949
Meet every second and fourth Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in School House, Burmis. No Sick Society.—Thos. G. Harries, Sec., Passburg, Alta.

MAPLE LEAF LOCAL No. 2829
Meet every first and third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in Union Hall, Maple Leaf. No Sick Society.—Thos. G. Harries, Sec., Passburg, Alta.

LETHBRIDGE LOCAL No. 574
Meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30 in Miners' Hall, 12th Avenue North.—L. Moore, Sec.-Treas.

BELLEVUE LOCAL No. 431
Meet every Sunday at 2.30 p.m. in the Socialist Hall.—James Burke, Sec., Box 36, Bellevue, Alta.

CORBIN LOCAL No. 2877
Meet every second Sunday at 2 o'clock in the Club Hall. Sick Benefit Society attached.—R. Garbutt, sec., Corbin, B.C.

GEORGETOWN LOCAL No. 3026
Meet every Sunday afternoon, 2.30, at Boarding House. Sick and Accident Fund attached.—Max Hutter, Sec.

FRANK LOCAL No. 1263
Meet Sundays, after each pay day, at Miners Hall. Sick and Benefit Society attached.—E Morgan, Secretary.

Imperial Bank of Canada
HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO
Capital Paid Up..$7,000,000 Reserve Fund $7,000,000
PELEG HOWLAND, Esq., President ELIAS ROGERS, Esq., Vice-Pres.
BRANCHES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
Arrowhead, Athalmer, Chase, Cranbrook, Fernie, Golden, Invermere, Natal, Nelson, Revelstoke, Vancouver, Victoria.
SAVINGS DEPARTMENT
Interest allowed on deposits at current rate from date of deposit.
FERNIE BRANCH A. M. OWEN Manager

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE
HAS INSTALLED
SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES.
LODGE YOUR
Wills, Title Deeds, Mortgages, Insurance Policies or other valuables in one of these boxes
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION APPLY TO
P. B. Fowler, Manager Fernie Branch

THE HOME BANK OF CANADA 1854
HEAD OFFICE AND NINE BRANCHES IN TORONTO
JAMES MASON, General Manager
BRANCHES AND CONNECTIONS THROUGHOUT CANADA
There are many hundreds of substantial savings accounts with the Home Bank that were started years ago with a deposit of one dollar. Your dollar is always welcome. Full compound interest paid.
J. F. MACDONALD, Manager
VICTORIA AVE., FERNIE B. C.

Who is Your Printer?
DO you ever consider the importance of the use of stationery that is in harmony with the nature of your business? In many cases your letterhead is considered as an index of your business character, hence the necessity of a good printer.
If you want really high class printing--the kind we always produce--try us with your next order
The District Ledger
"QUALITY" PRINTERS
Phone 48a :-: Fernie, B.C.

Peps What are they!

Peps is the name bestowed upon a new scientific preparation put up into tablet or pastille form, which provides an entirely new and effective treatment for coughs, colds and lung and throat troubles.

Did it never occur to you as peculiar that when you have a cough or a cold, or any chest trouble, you should apply medicine—not to your lungs, but to your stomach?

Look at it the other way round. Suppose you suffered from some stomach complaint—indigestion or ulceration. How strange you would think it if you were asked to take a medicine which had to be breathed in, and which went—not to your stomach, but to your lungs and breathing passages?

Peps—this newest remedy for coughs, colds, and lung troubles—go to the lungs and breathing-tubes, direct. Peps are really pine fumes, and certain highly beneficial medicinal extracts specially prepared by a new scientific process and then condensed into tablet form. It is like making a breathable gas solid!

You put a "Pep" on your tongue and let it dissolve. As it does so, the healing essences it contains turn into vapor, and you BREATHE them direct to your lungs and air passages!

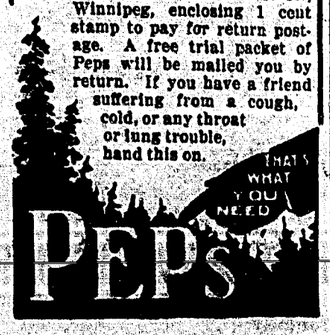
Just as the out-door treatment for consumption—the "breathing" treatment—is now admitted to be the only rational treatment, so the "Peps" treatment for colds and lung troubles is the only rational home treatment.

Peps cure catarrh, coughs, bronchitis, sore throat, tightness or aching across the chest, difficulty in breathing, night cough, hoarseness, asthma, laryngitis, smoker's throat, etc. Best for children, because free from opium, morphine, or any poison.

All druggists and stores sell Peps at 50c. a box or 3 for $1.25.

FREE TRIAL

Cut out this article, write across it the name of this paper, and mail it to Peps Co., Toronto, or 52 Princess Street, Winnipeg, enclosing 1 cent stamp to pay for return postage. A free trial packet of Peps will be mailed you by return. If you have a friend suffering from a cough, cold, or any throat or lung trouble, hand this on.



Assess Employer and Employee

Report on Insurance Law for Workmen Favors Asking All to Contribute some

Governor Lister's special commission of nine men, appointed to consider and recommend to the legislature a bill covering surgical and medical care and attendance for injured workmen, completed its work recently in Olympia by unanimously agreeing upon a measure designed to cover the situation fully and satisfactorily to all concerned.

J. P. McGoldrick of Spokane, one of the commissioners representing the employers of the state, said yesterday.

Necessity Is Conceded

"While the necessity for caring for men injured in hazardous occupations is conceded by all, the elaboration of a law designed to accomplish such a result without unduly burdening our industries must always be considered.

"Details can easily be arranged after the main and vital points have been agreed on, and in the recommendations to be made to Governor Lister next Monday, the essential elements of a workable law providing surgical, medical and hospital care for injured workmen, include all necessary provisions for legislation covering this important question.

Both to Contribute

"To provide funds every employer in the state must pay over to the industrial insurance commission monthly one-third of one per cent of his payroll, and every employe must likewise contribute one-third of one per cent of his wages for the same purpose. These contributions combined will produce a sum sufficient in the minds of all to fully care for every injury that may occur in hazardous occupations. If not, provision has been made for extra assessments when needed, and if too much money is raised in this way, as is likely to prove true, assessments may be omitted from time to time. This is not a burden on the employe at any time. The man earning $600 a year pays $2 for one year for surgical and hospital attendance, while the $1800-a-year man would pay $6 per year. For the same reason no undue financial obligation is placed on the employer as the distribution over the state of the total cost according to the hazard equalizes the burden.

Four Classes Are Created

"More accidents occur in the lumber and coal mining industries than in other occupations in the state, due partially to the hazard, but largely to the fact that these two classes cover a considerable majority of all workmen.

"To remove the suggestion that perhaps industries with nominal hazards were contributing toward the payment of care for injuries resulting from the more hazardous occupations, four classes were created:

"First, class 10, covering lumbering operations.

"Second, class 16, coal mining.

"Third, all semi-hazardous industries paying less than a 2½ per cent. premium rate to the state compensation fund.

Fourth, all other industries paying over 2½ per cent premium.

To Care for Injured

"The industrial insurance commission is duly empowered to contract wherever and whenever necessary for care for injured workmen during the first 90 days of an injury, but with the further provision that aggravated cases may be cared for longer, the latter cost to be paid out of the compensation class fund.

"The transportation of an injured workman to the nearest place of treatment is to be borne by the employer.

"Unscrupulous, grafting employers, inefficient physicians and improperly conducted hospitals are made impossible by providing for strict supervision by the commission in the first place; the provision that no profit shall accrue in the second place, and full authority to remedy any evils, abuses or omissions in the final analysis.

Seek to Prevent Fraud

"Employers generally believed that a period of two weeks after the happening of an accident should elapse before compensation should begin, to prevent malingering through fake accidents, trivial injuries and the prolongation of minor injuries. This term was thought unnecessarily long by the commission by deciding on a waiting period of six days, accident treatment, however, to begin immediately after the injury was sustained.

"In regulating hospital and beneficial associations provision has been made for mutual agreements between employers and working men whereby these benefits may be continued, but to prevent the retention of the employer of any part of the workman's contribution all assessments must pass through the hands of the state industrial insurance commission."—Spokesman Review.

CORRECT ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN WHO WISH TO SUCCEED

By G. E. M.

Be aggressive
Get what you go after
Make good.
Do what you are expected to do.
And paid for doing.
No matter what obstacle you meet.
Just hammer your way through, somehow, anyhow—we don't care.
We pay you for doing things.
And we want them done.
Then we will pay you higher salary, and expect you to do more yet.
That is the main scheme of modern business.
If you don't succeed with the task we set you, you may go back to the Minor League
Of $15 a week clerks.
If you do succeed we will advance you.
We are willing to pay you a million dollars a year
If you make seven millions for us.
Of course it is our money that we pay you;
Don't doubt it for a moment,
Even though you think that it comes originally from the customer.
And that we have to charge the customer more in order to pay you such high wages for getting the customer to buy from us.
On the Q. T., it's a sort of complex bunco game after all.
What is?
Why, modern business.
We raise hell and sink heaven in order to get customers and sell them our goods
And we hire you to do the dirty work.
Paying you big money
If you are sufficiently aggressive
And land the customers.
But the big money we pay you comes out of the customers' pockets.
In the long run,
And he is really paying you big money to come and use your aggressiveness upon him,
To make him buy his goods from us
At a high enough price
To enable us to pay you big money which the customer kindly furnishes.
See?
It's a queer game.
You must study Human Nature.
Size up your customers.
If they prove easy you will not have to chloroform them.
If not easy, you will have to find their weak points.
And wiggle the weakest points to your advantage.
Also know the strong points,
And make use of them in your business.
Be all things to all men
For the sake of the Almighty—
Dollar.
Laugh, coax, kneel—or browbeat,
Be aggressive—
It pays.

THE MASTERS.

—N.Y. Call.

AUSTRIA FEARS FAMINE OF COAL

The coal situation in Austria is becoming alarming. The reserve stocks of coal held by wholesale dealers have been used up and the dealers are scarcely able to meet the demands of their customers from day to day.

Ninety-five per cent of the household coal comes fro Upper Silesia. There are large stocks of coal in Silesia, but there are no freight cars to transport them. All efforts to obtain coal from Western Bohemia and Moravia have failed. The mine owners already have sold their output in advance and refuse to make new contracts.

The municipality of Vienna had planned to create a reserve stock of 30,000 tons, but being unable to collect even a thousand tons, was compelled to abandon the attempt. The coal shortage will be felt severely when the really cold weather begins.—U. M. W. of A. Journal.

Note.—There are two Silesias; one a province of Prussia in the extreme S. E., between Poland and Bohemia, the other a duchy and crown land of Austria. Coal exists in both provinces in considerable quantities. The principal fields in German territory are around Benthen and Konigshutte and at Waisenburg. The annual output exceeding 27½ million tons.

The capitalist spellbinder has a message for the world—and it is marked "collect."

Misunderstood His Answer

"What is he so angry with you for?"

"I haven't the slightest idea. We met in the street, and we were talking just as friendly as could be, when all of a sudden he flared up and tried to kick me."

"And what were you talking about?"

"Oh, just ordinary small talk. I remember he said, 'I always kiss my wife three or four times every day.'"

"And what did you say?"

"I said, 'I know at least a dozen men who do the same,' and then he had a fit."

No Extra Cost

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder is not a contributor to the increased cost of living.

Its price has not advanced, although there has been a great increase in the cost of cream of tartar, from which it is made.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder makes the finest and most wholesome food and is most economical in practical use.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER

Made from Pure, Grape Cream of Tartar
NO ALUM

The District Ledger

As an Advertising Medium is Without Equal in the Crow's Nest Pass

It reaches Earner and Spender. It appeals to them because it supports their cause. The workers own the paper and control its policy. All advertising of a questionable nature is barred from its columns. Advertisers do not have to pay compliments, but we quote the following received from a very large firm in New Jersey, U. S.

We have looked through your paper with considerable care and interest. We might take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the service as rendered so far. We would also add that it is one of the cleanest weeklies that we have run across in some time.

The District Ledger

Published every Thursday evening at its office, Pellatt Avenue, Fernie, B. C. Subscription $1.00 per year in advance. An excellent advertising medium. Largest circulation in the District. Advertising rates on application. Up-to-date facilities for the execution of all kinds of book, job and color work. Mail orders receive special attention. Address all communications to the District Ledger.

F. H. NEWNHAM, Editor-Manager.

Telephone No. 48 Post Office Box No. 380

PROTECTION FOR LIFE AND FIRST AID

Today in every public school throughout this continent children have frequent fire drills, and the rapidity and orderliness with which class rooms are vacated bespeaks a warm tribute to the discipline of the teachers and to the nimble intelligence of the pupils.

The object sought is to lessen the possibility to life and limb should fire break out.

A candidate for a third class certificate (fire bosses' ticket) must first satisfy the government examiner that he has had first aid or St. John's Ambulance work before he is permitted to sit for the examination. The object of this is to enable the mine official to render timely assistance to his fellow workers in case of accident.

That every mineworker cannot qualify for the position of fire boss is a foregone conclusion, but that should in nowise deter all mineworkers, and likewise individuals in other occupations, from taking lessons in first aid work.

This question has been discussed by officials of the U. M. W. of A. and Mr. W. R. Wilson, manager of the C. N. Pass Coal Company, who has signified his willingness to co-operate in so laudable a project and in the near future it is expected that suitable arrangements will be made, details of which will be published later.

A SMATTERING OF SCIENCE, SENSE AND SYMPATHY

"Hurrah! for 1915!" is the slogan today.

Let us ask ourselves the question why do we do this?

Instead of making loud mouthed utterances it were far better if we engaged in a little sober thought.

Simply changing the number "4" into a "5" is not going to effect a miraculous improvement.

We have all read statements credited to bankers, railroad magnates, industrial princes and others of that ilk, that an era of prosperity will shortly appear on the scene of action.

Whistling to keep one's spirits up may be O.K. as a temporary expedient, but is of little use in filling an empty stomach. Optimism is all right in its place, but when it is synonymous with mental blindness, drastic measures are in order if the sufferer is to be brought back to a rational state.

The recipient of a twelve per cent dividend on his investment views the world through different colored goggles to those worn by an individual who has little funds and a large family.

Wherever we turn our attention today conditions are bad. This is a fact that cannot be truthfully denied. Constant repetition of like statements will not mend matters we know full well, nevertheless it may dawn upon some that a study of the why and wherefore might be beneficial.

We will cite an individual case, not because it is individual, but because it typifies the distressful state of affairs prevalent generally.

Frank, Alberta, has achieved more than passing notoriety—mountain slide and mining disaster have happened in its bailiwick, and now many of its residents are in the grip of the monster "Poverty."

Schools have been built for the purpose of affording mental improvement to the rising generation, but when the physical needs of the pupils are lacking to expect that intellectual food can be assimilated is a palpable absurdity.

In the vicinity of Frank there are many youngsters who, in addition to inability to obtain sufficient food, are without adequate protection for their feet, consequently are compelled to absent themselves from school, and in some instances mothers have had to have recourse to flour sacks in order to attempt to furnish their offsprings with covering for their bodies.

The local miners' organization has done the best it can with the limited means at its disposal, but this is painfully inadequate to meet existing requirements. We are informed that the attention of the government's official, Mr. Garden, has been drawn to the subject, and judging by past actions of this gentleman, he will lose no time in investigating the matter.

It must be discouraging to men of humane tendencies to be so persistently confronted with such evidences of distress as are now so commonplace throughout the Dominion, and they surely should be more constrained to act than those who have not witnessed so much misery.

Perhaps they do have occasional self-communions on the question, still merely quizzing is not enough, a thorough study of the underlying cause is essential ere the remedy can be ascertained. What would we think of a doctor when a sick man in compliance with his request, put out his tongue for examination, said: "My dear man, your tongue is not red enough; here, take this prescription, and let your wife go down to the paint shop, buy a pint of carmine, then your tongue will be the correct tint." In plain language, with varying degrees of forcefulness, this so-called healer of the sick would be dubbed a "fool."

Temporary relief administered to the sick man "Society" is no more efficacious in curing ills than a covering of red paint would be to a sick individual.

Do you know what "Diagnosis" means? This is the definition according to Webster's Dictionary.

"The distinctive or discriminating knowledge of anything, but especially of a disease." That is to say, "diagnosis" means to know by the symptoms discernible the contributory factors of a given malady or sickness.

The scientific Socialist is the doctor called to attend upon a sick society. He finds that there is abundance in existence of everything necessary for society, and yet he also knows that at one extreme of the body politic there is a plenthora (and that extremity an insignificantly small percentage of the whole) whilst at the other extremity there is a paucity.

We have made use of two words, "plethora" and "paucity," that are unfamiliar to many, therefore as this is an educational journal we will again quote from friend Noah's storehouse of knowledge:

PLETHORA—In medicine, fullness of blood; excess of blood; repletion; the state of the vessels of the human body, when they are too full, or overloaded with fluids.

PAUCITY—Smallness of quality; as paucity of blood.

Now, Doctor Socialist having diagnosed the case does not advise the patient to take a large dose of "red paint" labeled on one side "thrift" and on the other "charity," but bluntly and candidly proclaims that no lasting benefit can be obtained until the allopathic dose of co-operative ownership of the means of wealth production and distribution has undergone deglutition (Latin—deglutio, to swallow.)

We cite the case of Frank, Alberta, simply as an illustration of what is taking place in one corner of the body politic. Blake, the poet, says—

"A starving dog without the gate
Bespeaks the downfall of the state."

If Frank were an isolated case it is still worthy of consideration. Unfortunately it is only a mere speck and the best that can be offered so long as the existing regime continues is the palliative remedy (!) of Charity.

There are millions today who realize that something is wrong, but they prefer to prescribe "red paint" rather than make a careful diagnosis. This is the appropriate period for making resolutions. Therefore, let us all make resolutions of actions and not resolutions of words only. The disease is deep-seated, therefore apathy will not cure it. We have had enough of empiries (a physician who enters on practice without a regular professional education; a quack; a charlatan) and instead commence a study of the science of Socialism.

FUNERAL OF E. EVANS

(Continued from Page One)

The funeral of the late Evan Evans was held on Tuesday afternoon from the residence of Mrs. M. Mitchell, where deceased resided, and was one of the largest ever held in this city. Long before the hour set for its arrival throngs gathered along the streets awaiting it. Promptly at 2 o'clock the cortege left the residence and proceeded to the Church of England. It was headed by the Fernie-Coal Creek Excelsior Band playing the strains of the Dead March in Saul, followed by the members of Gladstone Local, U. M. W. of A., Dove Rose, representing the International of the U. M. W. of A., W. L. Phillips, President of District 18, and Richard Jones, secretary of Michel Local, and an intimate personal friend of the deceased, representing the Michel miners. Then came the Masonic bodies, consisting of Master Masons, Shriners, and Knights Templar in their rich black uniforms with swords reversed. The hearse, bearing the casket, smothered in floral tributes, was next, the mourners carriages bringing up the rear. An impressive burial service was held at the English Church, at which Rev. Plewelling, of Cranbrook, and Rev. Robertson, of the city, officiated, after which the remains were conveyed to St. Margaret's Cemetery where the last rites were administered by the members of the local Masonic Lodge, and they were laid to rest in the Masonic plot beside the remains of Thos. Corkill, who lost his life in the Hillcrest Disaster, and who was a close friend of deceased. The pall bearers were: Colonel J. McKay, G. F. Stalker, N. E. Suddaby, Wm. Bailey, W. J. J. Morrison and H. E. Barnes. Never in the history of the City of Fernie has there been such a large representative Masonic gathering, the brothers having journeyed here for the occasion from every part of East Kootenay. Flags throughout the city were hoisted half-mast in honor of deceased, and business was practically suspended while the funeral was held.

Evan Evans was a man of sterling worth and fixed integrity, and the more intimate one became with him the more his qualities were apreciated.

Of a quiet and retiring disposition, more given to study than to lighter diversions, he was constantly endeavoring to increase his store of knowledge, and it may be incidentally remarked that even as a miner working at the face he made a fixed and firm determination to attain to the position which he ultimately reached, and in which capacity he was so manfully filling his duties when he met his death.

Deceased was a native of Wales, about forty years of age, and unmarried. None of his relatives are living in this country. The next-of-kin, a sister, resides in England.

ORPHEUM CLOSES TEMPORARILY

Owing to present conditions Mr. W. Johnston, proprietor of the Orpheum, informs us that he has closed the Orpheum temporarily, but will reopen the house as soon as there is any indication of business picking up. Mr. Johnston takes this opportunity of thanking the people of Fernie and Coal Creek for the generous patronage given him, and regrets that business conditions should compel him to close for even a short time.

The Orpheum may be rented for social purposes, entertainments and dances, and there is a first class orchestra in connection to furnish music. Applications for renting the hall should be made to Mr. W. Johnston, P. O. Box 112, Fernie.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our dear son, David Paton, who was accidentally killed at Fernie, B.C., 9th January, 1913. Aged 55 years.

Two years have passed, our hearts still sore.
As time goes on we miss him more;
His memory is as dear today
As at the hour he passed away.

Inserted by his father and mother.

Born—Dec. 27, to Mr and Mrs. R. S. Phillips, a beautiful baby boy. Mother and child progressing splendidly. Dick is stated "see him smiling!"

Fernie Municipal Elections 1915

Fernie, B. C., Dec. 30, 1914.

Unsolicited by any party or sect I beg to offer myself as a candidate for Municipal honors at the forthcoming elections, and if elected will use my best effort and ability to serve the ratepayers in a thoroughly businesslike and unbiased manner.

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT E. BARNES.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, FERNIE, 1915

To the Electors of the City of Fernie

This is to announce that I respectfully offer myself as Candidate for Municipal Honors at the forthcoming City Election, and if elected will use my best efforts on behalf of the taxpayers of the City.

HUGH CARLILE.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, FERNIE, 1915

To the Electors of the City of Fernie

At the request of several friends and ratepayers I have decided to offer myself as candidate for Municipal Honors, and if elected will use my practical knowledge in building construction for the benefit of the Municipality, and in all other respects serve them to the best of my ability.

ED. BROOKS.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, FERNIE, 1915

To the Electors of the City of Fernie

I beg to offer myself as a candidate for Aldermanic honors, and if elected will use my best efforts on behalf of the citizens of Fernie.

AUBREY SNOW.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, FERNIE, 1915

To the Electors of the City of Fernie

I have been requested by a number of the citizens to stand for the forthcoming City Election as alderman, and have decided to offer my services to the City. If elected will do all in my power to serve the best interests of the ratepayers at all times.

I have lived in this city for years and claim to know your requirements, and sincerely ask for your vote and confidence.

I am, yours truly,

ROBERT WALTON

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, FERNIE, 1915

To the Electors of the City of Fernie

Having decided to offer myself as a candidate at the forthcoming election, I will, if elected, endeavor to serve the ratepayers without favor or prejudice to the best of my ability.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES ED. MARSHAM.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, FERNIE, 1915

To the Electors of the City of Fernie

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I consider it a great pleasure to come before you for re-election as a candidate for Aldermanic Honors. Trusting my past record meets with your approval, I respectfully solicit your vote and influence.

Yours truly,

WILLIAM JACKSON

RELIEF FOR WIDOWED MOTHERS OF NEW YORK STATE

A bill is being introduced in the Albany Legislature, in January, to establish a system of pensions for the necessitous widowed mothers of New York State. The measure is to work under a Home Rule clause, and Child Welfare Boards, established through the State, are to be the means of distributing the relief.

The bill is on the same lines as that rejected by the Legislature last March. Mr. Richard Jones, secretary of the State Commission on the Relief of Widowed Mothers, is of the opinion that the measure is sure to carry this year.

In twenty-one States of the Union widows' pensions have been granted, and thus the importance of the home as the foundation of the State has been recognized.

The commission, in its report just issued, unconsciously reads like a suffrage oration. It lays down the principle that "The normal development of childhood is one of the most important functions of government."

In preparing the report the commission studied 980 families of widowed mothers of whom they made exact and sympathetic reports. The investigation shows that many widows make heroic efforts in attempting to look after their home and children, [illegible] compelled to go out and earn a miserable pittance. In spite of all that they can do statistics show, as may be expected, that many delinquent girls and boys come from these poor widowed homes.

GEORGETOWN LOCAL UNION 3026

Georgetown, Alta., Jan. 4, 1915

Dear Sir,—Please publish in your columns that William Martin has been expelled from this Local

(Signed) MAX HUTTER.

I. O. O. F.

Installation of officers of Mount Lodge, No. 47, I. O. O. F., will take place Wednesday, Jan. 13th. Full attendance requested.

Retrospect

To the Editor, District Ledger.

Dear Sir,—The New Year's wishes of many millions are undoubtedly far from being realized, having regard to the present conflict raging in Europe, Asia and Africa. Nevertheless, the usual good wishes and greetings have been exchanged by many in a spirit of earnestness and sincerity, and a desire that the following twelve months may be productive of happiness and concord. It will be, however, very much a question of our own effort and determination to bear our share of the sorrows as well as the joys that may be in store for us during 1915.

The late Evan Evans, like others, received his share of good wishes from his numerous friends, but unfortunately was denied a chance of realizing them.

In the mining world we are constantly reminded of the many serious calamities of the past; and the intervals are of a duration that will not permit of forgetfulness.

Fernieites, though accustomed to frequent accidents, can never forget the extremely sad calamities which occurred at the close of 1912 and were repeated early in January, 1913.

It is an unfortunate fact that we do not always appreciate the value and ability of many of our citizens whilst living, but after death we are often forcibly reminded of the sterling qualities of those who have passed away during the past few years.

On December 9th, 1910, the terrible catastrophe took place at Bellevue, and the writer well remembers Inspector Evans coming down on the 12 p.m. train from Coal Creek, on his journey to the bereaved camp. Neither can we forget the fate of the late Fred Alderson, who lost his life at Bellevue in attempting to save others.

On June 19th, of last year, we were again shocked on hearing of the Hillcrest disaster; while the narrow escape of many of our friends—who had volunteered their services in rescue work—is not forgotten. The efforts of the brave men who, hoping against hope, readily volunteered their services in their efforts to rescue; and had it not been for their almost superhuman energy and determination the heavy death roll would have been augmented.

This forcibly reminds us of the fact that the man who so courageously risks his life in order to render the necessary assistance after an explosion, is not protected in any manner whatsoever. He receives no stipulated wage, neither is he covered by the Compensation Acts of the provinces.

Going back over the history of explosions in Eastern British Columbia, we cannot help but regret their terrible frequency. We had the No. 4, Michel, disaster; No. 2, Coal Creek; the Morrissey blow-outs; No. 6, Coal Creek; the various bumps at No. 2, Coal Creek, and the awful bump of July 31st, 1908.

It is an open question whether the last mentioned accident was not the cause of saving many lives the following day, inasmuch as most Fernie men were home and naturally able to assist their wives and children in the never to be forgotten fire of August 1st, 1908.

We cannot help thinking of what might have happened at B. North mine, Coal Creek, had January 2nd been a regular working day.

The mine employs approximately 300 men, who are working on three different shifts, hence in all probability had there been work upwards of a hundred would have been proceeding along the main entry, inasmuch as the accident occurred shortly after 7 a.m.

We naturally expect a rigid inquiry will be made. It is stated positively that there was no one in the mine when the accident occurred, hence shot firing and a miner's carelessness with his lamp—which are often given as causes by those ready to exonerate coal companies—may be set aside in this case.

Personally I have no wish to criticize anyone at this time. It would be well in future, when inquiries are to be held, if miners, and more especially the men's official representatives in their organization should have the privilege of attending inquiries as a representative of the deceased, and should be invited to attend and officially advised of the time and place where any inquiry may be held. If the Mines Department of this Province are anxious to inquire into the cause of all fatal accidents—and we must presume they are—too much note cannot be taken of the foregoing remarks re inquiries.

I feel sure no officer of our organization, nor any miner attending such inquiry, would have any intention of demanding unnecessary privileges.

During the inquiry which will be held

(Continued on Page Eight)

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35185

M. A. KASTNER

SOLE AGENT FOR FERNIE

ALEX BECK BLOCK, FERNIE, B. C.

News of The District Camps

COAL CREEK NOTES

The mines were idle from 3 p.m. Thursday until 7 a.m. Monday. Notices were posted that the mine would resume work day shift only.

The children of the Presbyterian Sunday school gathered together at the church on Thursday evening last on the occasion of the Annual Christmas tree. A sumptuous repast was prepared for them by the ladies of the church, to which the youngsters did full justice. After the eats a splendid programme of instrumental and vocal selections was presided over by Walter Joyce, superintendent of the school. The following taking part: Mr. R. Johnstone, Miss Jessie Mawson, Miss Martin and Miss Oakley, Messrs. J. and S. Fowler, T. Jones and J. Mawson. The Coal Creek Junior Minstrels gave a series of choruses, after which Santa Claus entered and distributed presents to the expectant crowd. The National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.

Charlie Graham, superintendent of Corbin mine, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. B. Caufield Sunday.

Chief Inspector Graham was in camp Tuesday in connection with the recent disaster.

A large number of Creekites journeyed to Fernie to attend the funeral of the late Evan Evans. The mines were idle and the company supplied a special train.

Mr. and Mrs. Holman and family, of Michel, were visitors to their daughter Mrs. Worthington, during the holidays.

The social dance held in the Club Hall on the evening of Jan. 1st was well attended. The music was supplied by Percy's Orchestra.

The management of the mines desire to thank the residents for the assistance rendered by the supply of stimulants, etc., and all who assisted in any way.

Jack Myers, jr., arrived back in camp after a short sojourn in the Brazeau district.

Will all "Moose" note that although there is no meeting on Monday next the secretary will be in attendance to receive dues from 7 to 8 p.m.

Apropos of the recent disturbances in Fernie consequent on a certain person using seditious language in the streets, and giving the name of Thos. Wilson, and rumor gaining currency that said Thos Wilson was boarding at Foster's, Riverside Avenue, we are asked to state that the Thos. Wilson, residing at above address, has no connection with the disturbance in question, and furthermore that he is, and always will be, a loyal subject, being still on the reserve list of His Majesty's forces having served a number of years in the army.

Jim Dixon arrived back in camp from Drumheller.

New Year's Day Concert at Methodist Church, Coal Creek

The Ladies' Aid of the above church are to be complimented on the splendid aggregation of talent which graced the boards at the Methodist Church on the evening of Jan. 1st. Our genial superintendent occupied the chair, and, with anecdote and reminiscences enlivened the proceedings. The program consisting of songs, sketches and instrumental selections, was of the usual standard that Coal Creek artistes are capable of placing before the people. Billy Puckey received an encore for his ability in demonstrating the various ways of showing love for the gentler sex. His encore, "Liza Had Hold of My Hand," was well received. Songs were also rendered by Mesdames Percy, Mitchell and Reid, and were duly encored. R. Billsborough rendered the descriptive song entitled "The Collier," by request. Messrs. O'Brien, McCourt, and Davidson also contributed vocal selections, while Messrs. McLeod and McCourt were responsible for several instrumental selections. Chas. Percy and Mrs. Morrison were the accompanists. After the concert the ladies brought around cake and sandwiches, which were partaken of by all and greatly appreciated. The singing of the National Anthem brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

Coal Creek Methodist Church — Sunday school and Bible class, 2.30 p.m. Gospel service, 7.30. Wednesday, 7.30 Naval experiences. Friday, 7 p.m., choir practice.

In Memorium

In affectionate remembrance of Tom, the beloved son of Walter and Mary Joyce, who passed away January 7th, 1914, aged 10 years.

A year has passed, our heart's still sore,
As time goes on we miss him more;
His loving smile, his gentle face,
No one on earth can fill his place.

Ever remembered by his parents, brothers and sisters.

HILLCREST

The ball given on New Year's night under the auspices of the Bachelors' was a decided success. Some outsiders attempted to introduce distasteful innovations, but were promptly checked.

Mrs. E. Taylor, from the Brazeau, is visiting friends in camp.

We are informed that there will shortly be a transfer of proprietorship of our local movies.

To accommodate those who wished to enjoy the festivities away from the camp, General Manager Brown enabled them to do so by getting their pay cheques cashed on Thursday.

George Forbes now has the rink in excellent shape and whilst glad to see the old faces is ever ready to welcome new ones.

BELLEVUE NOTES

The regular meeting was convened, President in the chair.

Correspondence received from International re Ohio situation and requesting financial support. To our regret this is impossible because of our precarious position so plainly shown by the report of the Relief Committee stating that after next issuance of relief, which we expect will be this week, funds are depleted and only recourse will be an appeal to the government for assistance.

Copies of the Mineworker's Journal were received, and as this is a most excellent publication published in three languages, for the modest sum of $1.00 a year, should command a ready sale. John Brooks has been appointed to accept subscriptions.

Pit Committee reported upon several matters of minor importance they had discussed with the super, the principal being relative to the reinstatement of one of our members laid off on a charge of insubordination.

The Relief Committee called the attention of the Local to a few cases they had not been able to act upon owing to instructions received at previous meeting. These were thereupon dealt with in accordance with the majority's conception of the merits of each case.

Under the head of unfinished business circular from Local 1058, tabled at previous meeting, was brought up for consideration. The trouble seems to be the refusal of their doctor to contribute his quota towards paying of expenses incurred in sending a patient to a specialist when he is unable to treat them himself. From our viewpoint this seems an arbitrary position for a physician to assume, however, after due consideration our members reached the conclusion that the time is now ripe for our District to make agreements with the Doctors' Association and not with individual practitioners. It is intended to bring this subject forward for deliberation at the forthcoming convention. In the meantime a committee has been appointed to render whatever assistance is practicable to Local 1058.

The following is a summary of report of committee which accompanied President Phillips to Blairmore to interview General Manager re powder question.

General Manager stated that he could not see the necessity of taking away restriction until the expiration of present agreement, although he added he would not place any obstacles in our way, "although it would be against his conscience" (whatever that may mean) provided we could prevail upon the Department of Mines to lift the restriction. We now anxiously await receipt from President Phillips of news regarding what answers he receives from Pres. J. P. White and the Minister of Labor.

The meeting was brought to a close after selection had been made of a strong committee to act as a Scale and Constitution Committee.

The above committee is hereby requested to remember the time: Sunday, 2.30; and the place, the Secretary's office, for their next meeting.

The proprietor of the Southern Hotel has succeeded in securing a liquor license which became effective January 1st, when copious draughts of John Barleycorn were dispensed free of charge.

A Bible class will shortly be opened in the Methodist Church. A hearty invitation is extended to all.

Every credit is due the washhouse men for the excellent manner they have cleaned the cubicles under their charge. Are we quits now, George?

Future prospects for this camp are not rosy. Having lost the Spokane order, working days will be brought down to three a week.

With the majority of the men of No. 1 indefinitely on the enforced idle list, we shall hail the day with gladness when "Business as Usual" becomes the slogan of the West.

COALHURST

The mine here is working about half time at present. A few men are leaving, but none are being hired. Work started on January 4th. The Company did not pay their employes until Monday, some delay at the bank being the cause.

Manning & Co., from Diamond City, are engaged on the brickwork in the boiler house, where two new boilers are being installed.

Sam Jones, acting in the capacity of Mine Inspector, was on duty in Coalhurst, January 4th.

The I. O. O. F. held their annual ball in the school house on New Year's Eve.

The Local Secretary was a visitor to Fernie, acting in the capacity of District Teller, returning on Saturday. Robert Conners was acting as checkweighman in the absence of the regular weighman.

The committee who had charge of the miners' concert held on Dec. 21st, held a meeting on Sunday afternoon and report, after paying all expenses, a balance of $63.20, which amount was duly turned over to the proper party.

Peter Melling has ordered his clogs to be placed on file to be preserved for future reference.

We are pleased to see Charlie Phillips around again. Doctor says it will be some time before he is ready for work.

A hard luck story was listened to in the Union Hall a few meetings ago, and a committee told off to investigate. They found the party supposed to be in hard circumstances had just recently sold a farm in Saskatchewan; had a half share in a hotel in the States, besides plenty of money on hand to take him to his friends if he cared to go. We believe the Local Union would do well to always investigate thoroughly before dipping down in the treasury to help hard luck story tellers, as they have been doing in the past, and save the fund for the purpose it is collected for by the organization.

MICHEL NOTES

Christmas holidays are over and the mines are working steady, but a lot of men are still out of work, judging by the large number seen around the mines every day.

President Phillips and Board Member Rees were in town the last week-end, taking up local grievances.

We are pleased to note that Mr and Mrs. Beard's youngest child is recovering rapidly from pneumonia.

We regret that owing to pressure on our space we are compelled to hold over the report and list of contributors to the Christmas entertainment given to the kiddies. This will appear next week.

Quite a number of persons attended the funeral of the late Mr. Evan Evans at Fernie, on Tuesday. Mr. Evans was well known and respected by all in this town, having lived here from 1901 until 1906. We feel that we have lost one of our genuine old friends.

COLEMAN

The death took place at the M[illegible] Hospital on Tuesday morning, Dec. 29th, of Mrs. George Derbyshire. Deceased, who leaves two small children besides her husband, had been ailing for the past month, but was considered to be recovering. Therefore her death came as a shock to her family. The late Mrs. Derbyshire was born in Lydesby, Lancs., England. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, service being held in St. Albans' Church, much sympathy is felt for the bereaved family.

The dance held under the auspices of the Coleman Relief Society in the Opera House on New Year's Eve was a great success, being, in fact, uncomfortably crowded, but under the capable management of Floor Master Disney everything passed off smoothly. Stokes Orchestra was in attendance and gave entire satisfaction as usual.

The sum of $231.70 has been already collected by the Relief Society, not including funds raised by the last dance, and of that sum $187.85 has been expended in relieving the distress. Some twenty-five families have been given relief.

The regular meeting of Local 2633 was held in the Opera House on Sunday, July 3rd. President R. Morgan, presided.

The International Coal Co. has succeeded in securing several new contracts, and as a result No. 4 Seam has been opened up again, and 22 men started digging on Monday, while forty coke ovens have been lighted up. A few more men have been started in the slope. While there are still a large number idle the outlook seems brighter for the near future.

It is a far cry from Coleman to West Hartlepool, England, but how near they can be brought to each other has just been demonstrated by the recent German raid on the last named place, news of which has just reached Mrs. Thos. Muir to the effect that her mother, 66 years of age, a niece, twelve and a half years, and a nephew of five years, have been killed, while a niece fourteen years of age has been seriously injured by the bombardment. The heartfelt sympathy of every right-thinking person is, we are sure, extended to Mr. and Mrs. Muir and family in the sad calamity which has befallen them.

The members of the Knights of Pythias have forwarded a letter of sympathy and condolence to Mr. and Mrs. Muir.

J. Loughran Replies to Dave Rees

To the Editor, Districte Ledger—

Dear Sir,—When I received the Ledger on Saturday I was somewhat surprised to find that my remarks in the previous week's Ledger re the elevation of Alderman Walls of Workington, England, to be mayor of that town, were responsible for drawing a reply from such an able critic as Brother Dave Rees, and as I have but a very short time to write and mail this answer, I will dispense with preliminaries and get down to business by admitting that with a slight variation Dave was correct when he wrote, "If I understand the writer, however, he wishes to advance the idea that the old country method of electing a man for life is better than the system of annual elections, such as we have in District 18." I will take it for granted that my critic is aware that no trade union official in Great Britain, or any country that I know of, is elected for life, and that the custom is, so long as a District Official continues to give general satisfaction and retains the confidence of the members who employ him, he has not to fight for his official life annually. In fact, there is no limit to his term of office, and just as it is customary here for a man when employed at any occupation in or about a coal mine, to retain his job so long as he gives satisfaction to his employer, so it is with a trade union official in all the old countries. At the same time every official is subject to a recall, and would have to tender his resignation, if called upon to do so by any Local in his District. Of course the charge or charges which would accompany the resolution calling upon him to resign, together with the official's explanation, would be considered by the executive committee, and a referendum vote taken of all the locals in his district immediately. Then if it were shown that a majority of the members were in favor of accepting the official's resignation, he would be asked to resign, or "scrapped." I think Brother Rees will also agree that the number of trade union officials who are able to give general satisfaction for a number of years are few and far between. But while the system referred to makes it an easy matter to remove an incompetent servant, it at the same time gives greater security to the man who is naturally adapted for the position he was elected to fulfil, and whose experience, tact and other accomplishments show that he is the right man in the right place. Besides, all officers except the district president and district secretary, are elected or re-elected annually, and when either of these officers become vacant any candidate who has been three years a member of the association and has the requisite number of nominations may, if he chooses, address all the locals in that District, and have his expenses paid from the general fund. This enables the members to select the most suitable applicant and they will, as a rule, vote for a man on his merits. Therefore the successful candidate is more likely to give satisfaction to all than if he was simply the choice of some big local. Let me ask Brother Rees what opportunity have the members for selecting and electing the best of the candidates whose names appear on the ballot papers for the various offices annually. At the last election every official position was contested, but it was big odds on all the old officials being returned for this reason. During the past year the old officials have had an occasion to visit all the important locals in the District and to make themselves known to the members of their own locals. But as no person likes to buy a pig in a poke, nor to vote for a candidate they have never seen, it is simply a farce to put the District to unnecessary expense when both candidates have not the same opportunity of addressing the locals. In fact to nominate a new candidate against an old one, under the present system, would be like staging a scrap between a professional pugilist and a novice, with the latter's hand tied. Besides, elections fought under these conditions accomplish nothing, seeing that the recall could be put in force the week after the election just as easy as the week before it. "Why should not the officer who feels he has earned his salary look forward with pleasure to election day?" says Brother Dave, and by way of reply let us take a squint at a few of the methods the officers adopted previous to last election day. On Nov. 28th we were told in the Ledger all about what "the officers were doing." International Board Member Rees has been attending the Board Meeting, etc. Vice-President Graham left for the Brazeau Country. Secretary-Treasurer Carter represented the District at a funeral. President Phillips left for Coleman, etc. By this and similar means the servants were kept in the limelight, until the votes were recorded, then they bowed to the audience and made their exit.

On November 14th we read in the Ledger "District Executive Board Meets—Discuss Unemployed Question," And under that heading we were informed that the "brains," or as Brother Dave prefers to call them, the "servants of the District," were in session for three days formulating a scheme re the unemployed. Now, most of us have read in Easops Fables about a mountain that was in labor and brought forth a mouse, and we have also read that "the wise men of Gotham" debated every scheme twice, once sober and once drunk, and if they arrived at the same conclusions on both occasions the scheme would be adopted. Be that as it may, we have heard that the scheme was peddled around the Locals and was considered good dope for electioneering purposes, but whether that was the sole object of those who gave it birth or not we have not heard.

Of course, by making these remarks I am taking a chance of bringing a hornets nest about my ears, but I can assure Brother Rees and his colleagues that my only object for making them is to show how much wasted energy could be saved by altering the present system, and how the money which was spent in stumping the Locals would have served a better purpose had it gone towards helping to relieve some of the distress which unfortunately prevails in District 18.

Yes, you were quite right, Dave, when you wrote, "Brother John stood for Sub-District Board Member in the recent election, but I feel positive he has no reference to the membership of his sub-district." At the time of writing I had no idea what the result of the election was, and for that matter it was immaterial, as my object then and now was simply to try and alter, or improve, a system which in my opinion is bad, seeing that it is not only clumsy and expensive, but that it has a tendency to rob a man of his independence, and in time reduce him to the level of a party politician.

Brother Dave goes to considerable [illegible] the last three [illegible] were voted out, and to assure us that none of them lacked ability, and I agree with all he said about these gentlemen, but his [illegible] simply confirm my contentions — viz., that if these men failed to live up to the principles they once possessed, or if they did not use all the ability which he gives them credit for, in the interests of the memberships, then I repeat the system under which they were employed was responsible for their shortcomings. Does Brother Rees believe that a farmer who was a yearly tenant would take as much interest in improving his homestead as if he owned it, or held it on a lease which guaranteed him security? No, brother: "Nothing doing." And don't forget that whatever our occupations may be, we are but human beings. Therefore, if an official thinks that by playing to the gallery he is making his re-election a certainty, don't blame him; blame the system, and try to improve it.

Brother Dave appears anxious that the members should do the thinking, and I also say "Let them do it," but they must be encouraged and assisted to think intelligently and collectively. But I think all Local officials will admit that their greatest trouble is to get members to take an interest in Local matters, except when their pay cheques are threatened, while the little interest they take in electing their servants is another indication of how much thinking they do. From what I hear it is only the fear of being fined $1.00 that makes some of them vote at all, and then they are quite indifferent as to who they vote for. In fact the man who does a little thinking is considered a busy body, or a crank with a bee in his bonnet. But although it is much easier to follow old established customs, and allow things to drift with the tide, on the pretense that it would be unprogressive for a servant who is paid for thinking to give an occasional lead, would it not be much better for a dog to wag his tail than to allow the tail to wag the dog? Our memories are short, I'll admit, but we have not forgotten that it was our brother miners across the line that helped to defeat us four years ago, because our servants did not see the wisdom of having all contracts on both sides of the line so arranged that they would all terminate at the same time. Twenty years ago the miners' servants in Great Britain did some thinking and formed a federation which controlled all the miners unions in England, Scotland and Wales. All contracts entered into by this federation end at the same time, therefore it is not possible for the miners of one district to have a good time at the expense of their brothers in another district who are on strike for a living wage. I need scarcely say that the British Miners' Federation is the most powerful labor organization in the world and that within the last three years all the railway men's unions, the sailors and firemen, and other important unions, joined that federation, and that it was an open secret that the federation was about to call out all its members in the early part of the present year. This, in the opinion of men who are not frightened to speak the truth lest they would be dubbed unpatriotic, had much to do with hastening the present butchery, which is making Europe a hell, for had that strike commenced it would decide for all time whether a decaying aristocracy or the will of the people should rule, while there was nothing short of a European war that could save the present rule of Capitalism in Europe.

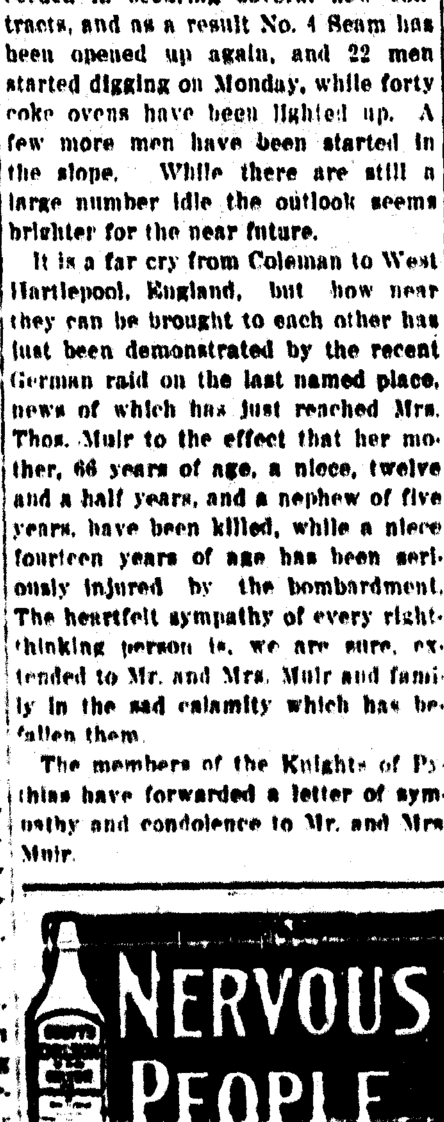
Let me advise Brother Dave not to leave all the thinking to the poor miners; most of them have sufficient troubles of their own to think about and to advise his colleagues at the next International Board meeting to make sure that all contracts on both sides of the line end at the same time. Tell them where they send a delegate to a conference to fight hard for federation; tell them also that the silly game of bringing men out in sections is played out, and that it is better to bear the ills they have a little longer until a federation is formed than to get spanked, one state after another. If they will do this then there will be "Something doing," and let it be soon.

Wishing Brother Dave and other thinkers a happy and prosperous New Year,

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LOUGHRAN.

John Kenda was committed for trial on Tuesday afternoon on the charge of doing grevious bodily harm, he having stabbed two of his fellow-countrymen, Lazar Rischuk and Mike Kenda at that place about ten days ago. The former victim received two thrusts in the abdomen, the latter being stabbed four times, three in the back and one in the abdomen. Considering the ferocity of the attack it is remarkable that these two men were sufficiently convalescent to attend the preliminary investigation.

The management of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company have signified their intention of making the bi-monthly pay day permanent from now on.



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A Real Compensation Act

Proposed by Oklahoma State Federation of Labor—Would Set a Premium on Accident Prevention

A recent report issued by the American Association for Labor Legislation states that twenty-four of the forty-eight states have enacted workmen's compensation laws and indications are that a number of others will enact laws of this character within the next few months.

The movement for legislation to compensate workmen who are injured during the course of their employment, or their dependants, has been under way in Oklahoma for some time. The Oklahoma State Federation of Labor, at the 1913 session of the legislature, presented a bill which followed in many respects, the one now in effect in the state of Washington. The State Manufacturers' Association also had introduced a so-called compensation bill and the result was that the legislature failed to pass any legislation of this character. Indications are, however, that the coming legislature will pass a compensation law.

Organized labor of Oklahoma views the question of workmen's compensation from the standpoint that each industry should bear the burden of its accidents. While a workman can never be fully compensated for an injury received, or his dependents, if death results, justice demands that the industry to which he gave his time and service should at least bear a part of the financial burden.

Society is fast recognizing the fact that the present common law system of compensating for industrial accidents is cumbersome, wasteful and incompatible with modern industrial conditions; that it originated at a time when modern industry was unknown and that some plan must be put into effect which will displace the present system, which breeds injustice, is productive of slow and cumbersome court procedure and substitutes therefor a system whereby the injured employe may recover at a time when it is most needed, immediately after the accident occurs, without going into court and as under the present system, dividing the amount recovered with a lawyer.

When public opinion awakens to a situation of this kind legislation usually follows, and so it has been with this proposition. But when laws of this character that are really effective are enacted the liability company and damage suit lawyers lose a lucrative business. A liability company, it should be understood, insures an employer against liability for accidents occurring in his establishment. A policy is given for a certain amount on each employe for which the employer pays a set premium. If an accident occurs for which the employer might be held liable, and the injured employe brings suit for damages, the liability company, with its lawyers trained in this work, fights the case. There are very few employers who do not insure in this manner, which has resulted in a very lucrative business for the liability companies. Statistics show that for every dollar collected by the liability companies in premiums, at least 45 cents goes as profits and operating expenses. One would naturally think, then, that fifty-five cents of every dollar expended by the various industries for liability insurance reaches the injured employe or his dependents, but we have yet to deal with the damage suit lawyer.

When an injured workman goes to a lawyer to arrange to bring suit for damages the lawyer makes a contract with his client. The usual contract provides that the lawyer shall receive as his fee from 25 to 50 per cent of the judgment, and in practically all cases 50 per cent, if an appeal is taken from the lower court. Statistics on the subject show that only 25 per cent. of those injured ever recover damages, and when the profits and operating expenses of the liability companies and attorneys' fees are taken into consideration we find that only 25 per cent, reaches the injured employe.

The liability companies and damage suit lawyers are naturally loath to give up this lucrative business, and when legislation is proposed that will remedy these conditions, those who propose such legislation must face the combined opposition of these elements, together with those whom they are able to control through business connections or otherwise.

There are two forms of compensation laws upon the statute books of the various states; one state insurance, compulory in form, that is that all parties affected must be bound by the terms of the law, and simple compensation, elective in form, which allows either party to elect not to come under the terms of the law if they so desire. The general terms of both forms are similar in many respects with the exception of the basic principle upon which the act rests. While elective compensation may be satisfactory in some respects, an investigation of the operation of elective laws in the several states having compensation laws of this form shows them to be decidedly ineffective as compared with those of the compulsory form.

The Oklahoma State Federation of Labor will submit to the coming session of the legislature a compulsory workmen's compensation act, the gist of which is to abrogate the fellow-servant doctrine, assumption of risk and contributory negligence, thereby doing entirely away with the common law doctrine of negligence or fault; one that compensates all who are injured, provides certain and adequate relief and speedy adjustment of all claims and does entirely away with the court or any jury system. Under the operation of such a law each industry would be taxed a certain per cent. of its pay roll, which would not be higher than the premiums now paid liability companies, which would go into a general fund from which claims for compensation would be paid. Under this plan the solvency of the employer is absolutely guaranteed, as the injured employe is paid by the state, which collects the assessment.

Nearly every member of the legislature has expressed himself in favor of a workmen's compensation act and a majority of them in favor of the one desired by labor. But the influences in opposition are at work, and as the secretary of the State Association of Manufacturers stated in a recent letter to some of the employers af the state, a copy of which is in the hands of the officers of the Oklahoma Federation of Labor, "It is considered inevitable that there will be legislation on this subject and that a compensation law will be enacted. The only hope of the employer lies in making a strong educational campaign among the legislators before they assemble." An appeal is also made in his letter for funds to conduct the "educational campaign." This element has always opposed laws of this character, and since they see, as their secretary states, that its enactment is inevitable, they hope to dictate the provisions of the bill, hoping thereby to secure one that will be ineffective.

Organized labor in Oklahoma expects the enactment of a real compensation law and awaits with interest the action of the coming legislature of this legislation.

EDGAR FENTON,
President Oklahoma State Federation of Labor.

Japan Joined War ot Help Armament Ring

By Sen Katayama

(Sen Katayama is now in this country on a lecture tour, and gives the following statement concerning the attitude of Japan in this war.)

Japan has driven the Germans from Kiaochow and the populace is indulging in a great celebration of the victory of a Japanese army over a small German force.

The real cause of the entrance of Japan into the war was the hope of the present bureaucracy that such a war might serve as an excuse for an increase of armaments. Corruption and scandals in the army and navy had recently rendered these institutions decidedly unpopular.

Used Count as Tool

In an effort to stem this tide of disapproval, old Count Okuma was asked to form a ministry. The count had many friends, especially among the journalists, a large number of whom were graduates of his school—Waseda University.

By the use of his name the bureaucratic party hoped to regain the confidence of the people and secure the increased armaments, and the war with Germany was another step in this direction. This move has been successful, as the Premier has recently announced a budget for the year 1915, including the desired increases of armaments.

Antagonism is Growing

At the extra session of the Imperial Diet, when this budget was presented, the opposition parties voted for it in order to show the world that Japan was united in time of war.

Now, the opposition has begun to resume its former position and the antagonism for increasing the army is growing so steadily that there is a prospect that the premier will be compelled to dissolve the lower House and call for a new election. In this connection it must be remembered that the opposition parties, when combined, have always had a majority.

There is no doubt that the people will support the opposition in its attitude. Some of the reasons offered by leaders of the opposition for their attitude on armaments are sound so far as present conditions are concerned.

Imikais Gives Views

The following is a resume of the argument offered by K. Imikais on the question:

"I oppose the increase in the army now as I did a year ago, because I want the system of the army radically changed. It must be based on the national strength.

"I do not agree with Y. Ozaki, the present Minister of Justice, that the armament should be reduced. I only insist that there is no necessity for an increase in the number of army corps on the present basis.

"The present European war is showing that ordinary standing armies are obsolete, and the necessity of arming the entire people. Former wars were fought for kings and emperors, but present wars are between nations and races. Consequently, in time of war every man capable of bearing arms must go to the front.

Would Seek Revenge

"Suppose Russia should be beaten in the present war. Then there will be no war between Japan and Russia, but if Russia should win, prepare for a big army that would be sent to Harbin to secure revenge against Japan.

"The present financial situation in Japan requires that the present two-year term of service should be shortened and number of reserves increased. But this question should be discussed at a national defense conference, organized on a democratic basis."

The present war with Germany was entered into hastily and is very unpopular. The people of Japan are beginning to realize that they are now confronted with a new and powerful enemy—Germany—whose people they had never looked upon as enemies, for Japan is greatly indebted to Germany where many of her people were educated.

Must Change Position

As a direct result of the European war Japan's international position must be changed. Should England be beaten by Germany, there is no interest in the Far East to require Japan to continue her alliance with England. If England should win, then she will have no interest continuing the alliance, but may, on the contrary, assume a hostile attitude toward Japan, in response to the anti-Japanese feeling in Australia and Canada.

From every point of view the entrance of Japan into the present war was suicidal, and it is probable that one of the results will be the fall of the Okuma Ministry.—N. Y. Call.

The worker is emulating Uncle Tom's character. He is trying to cross the River of Doubt on the floating chunks o fice, with the dogs of war and wolves of want hot on his trail.

Santa Claus Brought—To the workers, more war. Soup houses. Municipal pawn shops. Hundreds of bread lines. Loss of more jobs. Starvation. Cold. Death and disease. The stockings of the children of the poor were filled chiefly with holes.

WOMEN OF NORWAY

Equality of Sexes Has Improved the Condition of All

Nobody can visit Norway today without being struck with the position held by Norwegian women. They are neither submissive, timid nor loud. They dress with modesty, and they dress fittingly. But the great fact is their social position. Here they really seem to move among men as equals, and that position seems to be now accepted without any real damage to the womanhood or manhood of the country. On the contrary, both are better for it.

The achievement of the voting power by Norwegian women is only a part of this vast movement, which is represented by a claim to equality in society as a whole. The women in Norway have worked for that greater aim simultaneously with the suffrage agitation ever since 1885, and they have achieved their aims together. Practically all professions are now open to women in Norway, except the priesthood and the army.

Men and women are educated together at school and college. They form clubs and societies together, both for sports, pleasure and serious objects. The young men, indeed, are now said to refuse to have separate societies, and the two sexes are more and more working together in all spheres of life. Women sit on juries, and there is now one woman judge. And yet Norway does not sink into the sea. On the contrary, she has, by general consent never been so prosperous.

The vote is the banner and the emblem of this movement, the crown of woman's claim in Norway. The story of the way in which the women of Norway secured the vote will be deeply interesting to all people at the present moment. There was no violence of meetings. The victory came in the end quite peaceably and by the consent of all parties.

The Norwegian women got the vote in the normal political way, by helping and supporting their friends in all parties, and the detail off the story is a curious one. The first victory of the suffragists, in Norway, as in England, was to secure the local vote. That vote has been very extensively used. It is now universal, and it has resulted here in Christiana in the Socialists being the most powerful party in the Municipal Council. The next victory was the gain of the limited vote—the "conciliation bill" vote—for state purposes. That was given to the women of Norway by the Conservatives, but with the aid of Liberal members of the Storthing.

That limited vote continued for some time, but in 1912 the Liberals were returned to power despite of it. In 1913—last year, the Liberals and Socialists combined, and not opposed by the Conservatives, extended the vote to all women, and now the suffrage in Norway stands as the same for both men and women—a universal vote for all adults over 25 years, both for the state and local purposes.

Women are allowed to sit in Parliament, but not to become members of the government. One woman sat in Parliament for a short time as substitute for a man—the Norwegians, happy people, have a substitute system which saves them from by-elections. But she has been defeated, and no woman now sits in the Norwegian parliament.

Now, for the results on politics. Women's opinions are, of course, much more deferred to. There sits in Norway a woman's council which represents all the higher interests of women. That body is regularly consulted by the government on all women's questions. No Norwegian Parliament has yet been elected on the universal suffrage, but the woman's vote has played a part which gives sufficient guidance for the future. It has just gained a maternity benefit for Norwegian women.

On all social reforms—wages, homes, pensions and children's care—the women's vote is all for pushing legislation. Above all, it is powerful in temperance. Thus Norway, with her powerful local option law, is setting a lead to the world. And in that the women have played a great part.

"I know you are honest and frugal, of course,"
Said the worker, with a Chesterfield smile,
"But the wad in your pocket would strangle a horse—
Oh, where did you get such a pile?"

"'Tis a secret all dark, that may not be told,"
Said the millionaire fondling the pelf,
"For if you but knew the source of my gold
You'd vote to retain it yourself."

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THE CREEPING DARKNESS

Franklin H. Wentworth

(Students of the University of Chicago were instructed yesterday in the management and operation of great railroads. In the address by the assistant second vice president of the Illinois Central, the statement which apparently impressed the students most was that the age limit at which men were taken into railroad employ was 35 years.—Chicago Tribune.

It is an interesting commentary on modern business life that there is no place in it for the old. Life-wisdom, of commercial value. The tangibles are below par in a profit-seeking world.

In the current industrial organizations, at the moment at which it would seem that a man is best equipped for efficient service, he ceases to be of use.

This is because to keep the present social order going, physical intelligence is alone required of the mass—muscle intelligence, as it were. Men are available only as they are human machines; unthinking, plodding creatures of routine.

Among railroad employes there survives a fragment of a traditional dialogue between the general manager of a great Western railroad and an employe whom he was reprimanding:

The Employe: But, sir, I thought—

The General Manager: Damn you, sir. You are not paid for thinking.

Under a military despotism the soldier is not paid for thinking. He murders without compunction men who never did him any harm at his superior's command and gives his life in battle not his own.

Under an industrial despotism the worker is not paid for thinking.

He, too, gives his life in battles not his own.

Despotism has many forms.

For Profit's sake the workers produce, and produce and produce, and when they are old they are cashiered.

When they have given their lives in service to society, society confronts them with a shut door for their pains.

Society has no place today for the old.

Th great wholesale houses of Chicago take boys at 16 years of age.

Inside of a year they are doing a man's work—at a boy's pay.

This is the young and ambitious period of their lives. They have hope in their hearts; the inevitable has not yet balked against their horizon.

From 16 to 25 they work hard and faithfully. A few out of the hundred thousand become department managers or get similar positions of service that involves a petty authority and a little judgment in matters of no particular importance.

The vast majority reach 35 before their reason awakens with the judgment of manhood and they realize that they have given the best part of their lives to a ceaseless grind for other men's profits, and that it is now too late to do anything for themselves.

If before hope expires they look about for new relations of service they are confronted by such interesting rules as are operative in the Illinois Central.

At the moment when, under a rational social order, a man's years would best qualify him for mature judgment and sound and intelligent decisions, the present social order meets his application to serve it with the curt and positive assurance that he is too old.

This base—nay, infamous—humiliation is constantly suffered today by men who are robust, strong and able.

What, then, are they to do?

Stay in the rut; die in the rut, or starve.

From the moment that an intelligent man awakes to the realization that he has no future save one of routine, treadmill plodding, he gets his bread at the price of his manhood. The life-flame flickers and goes out. His eyes no longer shine. His tale is told. He then begins a long period of waiting; waiting for death. He may indulge himself with a few creature-comforts, but he has no longer to be recuperated with. He may go or stay.

So he continues at his boyhood's employment; at his boyhood wages, or very little more; until he gets in the way of some short-tempered manager.

Then his store coat, worn at the elbows, is gone from the hook. He doesn't come any more. His floormates forget him.

During the ambitious period of a man's life today his energies are sapped by a system which throws him away like a limp rag as soon as the sap is wrung out of him, or awakening intelligence provokes a normal dissatisfaction.

Thousands and thousands are thus ground through this frightful, impersonal mill, the mere dry grist of a profit-making civilization which has no use for the thing that life is meant for—the human soul. Life is a progression; an unfoldment; a spiritual development.

When your soul stops reaching out for higher things; then your hope is gone, and your ambition is gone, you may be walking about the streets and riding on trains, but you are a dead man. Your life is behind you.

A society which reduces human beings to the dead level of a machine-like routine; which smothers the creative instinct; which extinguishes hope before the mid-life is reached, is only a form of organized death.

And yet it is this vast horde of patient, plodding slaves, dulled by routine and soul-quenched by years of exploitation, who are keeping their fellows in slavery. They look with dull eyes upon ideals for a ransomed society. They do not think they can be benefited. They do not think at all. Dead men do not think.

A clerk who has worked ten hours a day for twenty years without a day's vacation looks at a caged canary and exclaims: "Poor imprisoned little thing."

There is never so sorry a slave as the slave who imagines he is free.

And day by day, step by step, age is creeping on.

It is a sad thing, this realization that the world has no place for the old.

The little children still love grandfather and grandmother.

But their place by the fireside is gone.

The fireside itself has gone.

Hurry into your grave, old man. You have worked hard, it is true. You have been making things for others' comfort all your life.

But this is a busy world. There are profits to make.

And you are in the way.—N. Y. Call.

About 30,000 claims for damages for injuries sustained are before the Workmen's Compensation Commission in New York State. Before the workmen's compensation act went into effect the injured workmen and the widows and orphans of those who were killed would have been at the mercy of greedy corporations and grafting lawyers and would have received little or nothing to tide them over a period of misfortune and suffering when they needed support most. Credit the organized workers of the country for having secured the passage of compensation laws, not only to gain some semblance of justice for themselves, but for the non-unionists as well. And what are the latter doing to show their appreciation?

A sway-brained professor says "John D. Rockefeller has saved us from paternalistic government." And fastened upon us machine gun government.—Vide Colorado.

A dog in St. Louis was given a funeral that cost $500, a sum that would keep a workingman's family for a year (as the worker exists now), but the workingman voted to let the dead dog have it.

There's some excuse for the jingo who has armor plate to sacrifice to his country at a fancy price, but how about the boob jingo who has nothing to offer but his skin?

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We know an insurance agent who always has a good list of prospects. When he closes one contract he asks the insurer about any friends that might be interested, and often gets a note or a verbal message of recommendation to some of those friends.

Merchants could use similar methods to advantage, modified to suit their business. First give your customers perfect satisfaction; then get them to recommend you to their friends. If you sell a washer, wringer, stove, piano, a brand of paint, or baking powder, get your customer to write his experience and publish it in your advertisement.

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A preacher says John D. Rockefeller is the saddest man in the world, whereat old John winks knowingly and grabs another coal mine.

After spending ten million dollars of the people's money and nineteen lives the president pretty nearly got the flag saluted in Vera Cruz.

Old party politics is a struggle of the outsiders to get in office as much as possible and for the insides to get out of office as much as possible.

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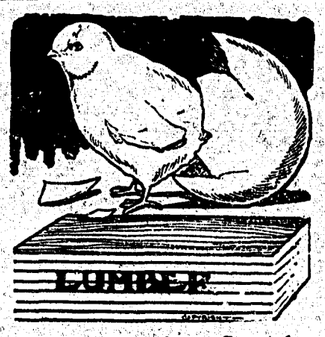

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949	Burmis	T. G. Harries, Passburg, Alta.
2237	Carbondale	J. Mitchell, Carbondale, Coleman, Alta.
1337	Canmore	Michael Warren, Canmore, Alta.
[illegible]	Coleman	[illegible]
2377	Corbin	R. Garbitt, Corbin, B.C.
1126	Chinook Mines	P. Swanston, Chinook Mines, Commerce, Alt.
2314	Fernie	Thos. Uphill, Fernie, B. C.
1263	Frank	Evan Morgan, Frank, Alta.
1068	Hillcrest	Mark Stigler, Hillcrest, Alta.
574	Lethbridge	L. Moore, 1731 Seven avenue, N. Lethbridge
1139	Lethbridge Collieries	Frank Barringham, Coalhurst, Alta.
2339	Maple Leaf	T. G. Harries, Passburg, Alta.
2334	Michel	Richard Beard, Michel, B. C.
2362	Passburg	T. G. Harries, Passburg, Alta.
142	Tabor	A. Patterson, Tabor, Alta.
2404	Georgetown, Canmore	Max Hunter, Georgetown, Canmore, Alta.
1667	Brazeau Mines	Harry McKenna, Nordegg, via Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

Are We Liberating Europe?

To Those Who Declare This to Be a "Holy War."

By J. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P.

Since the war began the conservative press has constituted itself the mouthpiece of the Labor Party. It knows all about us, what we are thinking, how we are divided, and what we have done in our private meetings. The usual scribes are inventing their little tales and are supplementing their little incomes by a few extra coppers won in this way. In one newspaper these tales appear as a paragraph in a London letter; in another as a special contribution from "A Labor Correspondent"; in a third, as an editorial article. Needless to say, most of them are as false as they are offensive. But that is how the show is worked. Public opinion must be kept feverish; electors must be misled, and, above all, the labor movement damaged. Otherwise, how could there be wars? How could the working class be kept divided? War is both the seed time and the harvest of the interests of the classes that prey upon the common people.

What the I. L. P. Will Have to Meet.

Unfortunately for us, the game of reaction is easily played. Every people has a prejudice and an allurement which, when awakened, makes them forget their civilization and their reason. Whisper Russian aggression to Germany, for instance, and it goes off its head; raise an anti-German cry here, dub peace advocates "Herr" and "Von" and the same thing happens with us. The "return to Nature" is all too simple to make one sure of one's footing on reason. And behind the grievous lapse there is always a respectably good sentiment. I suppose if I were to put the very best face possible upon the present war and our part in it I should say that we are fighting because we want to liberate Europe from the German military bueaucracy. That is what the I. L. P. will have to meet, and in relation to that we shall have to define our attitude.

Personally, I am willing to go to great lengths to do this. I have always held that it was a legitimate purpose of British foreign policy to aid the birth of liberty wherever we could. But in doing that we have to choose our friends and we have to be careful of our own record. The policy of "the Little Englander" is to keep his country clean, to provide it with honorable friends, and to make its influence felt all over the world. This is our first reply to the deluded ones who think this is a war for liberty. Our chief ally, Russia, will not allow us to claim that good credit. The thought of liberty never entered into the minds of those who promoted the Triple Entente; it has never inspired the partners to this entente—nay, more—its sacrifice has kept the entente in existence. It is now a mere misleading afterthought. Russia in arms with us to free Europe from an autocracy, whether political or military, is a grim joke.

How to Break German Despotism

Now let me deal with a second point. Those of us who have striven for a good understanding with Germany have done so because we believed that the Russian autocracy could not survive the understanding. That was recognized in Berlin. When the Kaiser was here at the unveiling of Queen Victoria's memorial he was attacked by the Conservatives in Berlin because his friendship with Great Britain was subversive to them and their methods. The German Social-Democrats were steadily gathering force to the same end. German military autocracy was strong, but German democracy was getting stronger. The growing life within German society was cracking the shell which encompassed it. That shell could be cracked from within—our Socialist policy, or from without—the policy of our Foreign Office. For eight weary years British diplomacy has been strengthening the shell by affording it a reason for its existence. Now it comes forward in war pretending to do the breaking. I lay it down as an incontrovertible proposition that the best way to overthrow what despotism there is in Germany is by Germans from within, and not by British, French and Russians from without.

I want to go right down to the foundation of things. German military autocracy was bad for Europe—so is British secret diplomacy. But to try and break either by a war is stupid and criminal. Is it really true that in Anno Domini 1914 the only way to dethrone the German military caste is for Britain, France and Russia to fight it? It is not. The end cannot be secured in that way, and if it could, the price is too dear. I would rather that militarism had flourished for another ten years than that we should have sent thousands of men along the path of privation, hate and pain to death; that we should have clouded thousands of happy firesides; that we should have undone our social reform work for a generation; that we should have to loose in Europe all the lusts of battle and all the brutalities of war. Already there have been acts done in this war which make the blood run fast and proud, but such acts are done in every mine accident, every foundering of a ship at sea, every sacrifice of a comrade. If I had to choose between German militarism for yet a little while and the battles already fought, the outrages already committed, the women and children already made desolate, I would, with their loved ones and protectors nothing now but shadows seen through tears, I would unhesitatingly choose the former.

The Unequal Sacrifice

And that is not the full price. For a generation or so Europe will be paying for this war in an arrested civilization, a weakened population, an increased poverty. We are but replacing one European menace by a greater one. We hope to remove the fiend with blood-splashed foot from Berlin and take in exchange the dreaded rider on the white horse as the monarch of Europe.

The bargain is thoroughly bad, and the people will have to make good the balance. "Ah, but," they say, "we are all, rich and poor alike, to share our privations." That is untrue. The rich lose their children like the poor and mourn for them like the poor; the rich subscribe their thousands to the charity funds, and their women folks, in comfortable places, make shirts for the wounded and petticoats for the orphans. But there is no equality in the sacrifice. The poor lose the breadwinners—they lose all. When the father is gone charity alone can fill the mouths and clothe the backs of his little ones, and charity is a bad start for life. The rich do not suffer that. Take your subscription list. The widow gives her farthing and the rich man his £10,000. Result: the widow becomes a pauper and the rich man remains rich. There can be no equality of sacrifice under such conditions. The poor are driven into the darkest parts of the Valley of the Shadow bending under the heaviest burdens, and masses of them see the light of happy health no more.

Destroy the military bureaucracies as we should like to see them destroyed, and as we were destroying them, and the poor are blessed; but destroy them as we are now pretending to destroy them and the poor are cursed for generations.

What Will Be the Result?

There is a third point. What is to be the result of the success of our present methods? We debase one autocracy and exalt another. I have just been told that one of the ablest military men of our country remarked recently to a friend that the war might last for three years—eighteen months of which would find Russia and ourselves fighting Germany and the other eighteen Germany and ourselves fighting Russia. That is an exaggerated and dramatic way of putting an obvious possibility. It is unthinkable that Germany should win. It will be overborne by starvation and financial stress, even if victorious on the field of battle, and the military exigencies of its position have forced it to alienate the sentiments for liberty in the heart of our democracy. Morally and financially, it is weak, and that will settle the battles in the end.

Europe Under New Barbarism

What is then to happen? First of all, who is to be the victor? Not what is vaguely called "the allies." For how can Russia and ourselves have a common victory? Before the war broke out we were beginning to see in our "high places" that we had done too much for Russia, and if any one goes back and studies carefully statements made by Sir Edward Grey within the past year it will be seen that he has been changing in his attitude to Russia. Not very long ago I received an explanation of our foreign policy from one qualified to speak, and it was that we were in the Triple Entente because we feared Russia, but that a conviction was growing that we had gone too far. Well, when Germany is down, who will be up? We can gain little. A colony or two to add to our useless burden perhaps. France will also have a colony or two, maybe, and Alsace-Lorraine. It may or may not claim money payments. This will rankle in the German heart just as the loss of Alsace-Lorraine rankled in the French heart. But with strong democratic movements these things might be adjusted in a scheme of lasting peace. With Russia, the case is different. It too, will want something, but above all its autocracy will be rehabilitated. Its military system will be strengthened; it will become the dominating power in Europe. No invader can touch it, as Napoleon found to his cost, and as Germany today assumes in its scheme of military tactics. It will press in upon us in Asia. Our defense of India will be a much bigger problem than it is now; China will be threatened; Persia will go. It will rivet upon us the Japanese alliance, one of the greatest political menaces to our imperial unity. Above all, it will revitalize the Pan Slav movement, and if ever Europe is to be made subject to a new barbarism, this movement is to do it. I know that if the Pan Slav movement could be democratized it might be harmless. But the government of the Slav is just that which will yield last of all to democratic influences.

The Truth of the Matter

So it comes to this. We are in this conflict in a senseless, blind sort of way because years ago we had not the foresight and common sense to protect ourselves from being drawn into it. France is in it to wipe out 1870-71; Russia is in it to dominate the Old World—Asia as well as Europe.

I read and listen to the moral flamboyancies of those who tell us that this is the last war; that from it is to date the overthrow of the militarcastes of Europe; that from the destruction of the Berlin War Office the Peace Temple at the Hague is to come into real being. It is all moonshine. Far more likely is it that this war is the beginning of a new military despotism in Europe, of new alarms, new hatreds and oppositions, new menaces and alliances; the beginning of a dark epoch, dangerous not merely to democracy but to civilization itself.

To prevent this we must work with might and main, and our success will be measured by our clearness of sight and courage in explaining to our people now how this war has come, what it really means, and how it is to be ended.—Labor Leader.

I AM WAR!

By James Logan Mosby, Prize Essay in Life.

I was conceived in passion, hatred, envy and greed, born in the morning of antiquity, and have a genealogy whose every page drips with the red blood of innocence. I respect neither the feebleness of gray hairs, the helplessness of infancy, nor the sacredness of virtue, and walk, iron-shod, ruthlessly and impartially over the form of the weakling of the form of the giant.

I paint the midnight skies a lurid glow from the burning homes I have ravaged, and I turn peaceful scenes of rural beauty, where God's own creatures dwell together in amity, into a raging hell. I set neighbor against neighbor in deadly combat, and I incite the brother to slay his brother.

I make puppets of kings, princes of paupers, courtiers of courtsans, and thieves of respected subjects, and empires melt before my breath as does the mist before the morning sunlight.

I make of religion fanaticism; the heathen I make a fiend incarnate; and of all men I make playthings devoid of reason and justice. Through intrigue I make the intelligent powerful, the unscrupulous wax fat on the spoils of blood-won victories gained by others and the less learned suffer for their own ignorance.

Famine, want and misery follow in my path; I lay waste green fields and still the hand of industry. I pillage the land of the resources but contribute nothing of beenfit to mankind, leaving the pestilence to stalk ghost-like in my wake and complete the work of destruction. I lay a heavy tribute upon my most loyal subjects for the maintenance of my establishment; I squander the vitality and lives of those who serve me faithfully, yet return to the world nothing but ruin and ashes. The baubles of fame I confer on some are but empty shells of false standards wherein the license to commit murder and rapine is held to be the insignia of glory by a mistaken civilization.

I can offer no excuse, nor can I give one plausible reason why I should not cease to be, other than that so long as men who wield influence are permitted to gratify their selfish desires and ambitions at the expense of the many who must carry the burdens and endure the suffering, that long will I continue to exact my toll of sorrow, devastation and death. For I am pitiless—devoid of all feeling; I fear neither man nor God; I am amenable to no law, and I am in myself the law, and the last resort.

I am WAR!

CURE FOR CONSUMPTION

Dr. Wiley, the pure food man of a former administration, declares that "if a great holocaust would burn down every home we would get rid of tuberculosis." This is saying in effect that precious few houses in America are fit for occupancy. But suppose they were all destroyed would men build any better for rental purposes, when they realized that not many could pay rent on better property? The conclusion is inevitable that there can be no real homes until the exploitation of capitalism is at an end.—Ex.

This would put an end to Tag-day for Tuberculosis, thereby preventing a lot of well-meaning individuals from button-holing passers-by on behalf of the "White Plague Fund." It would upset the established rules of society and until these rules are thrown overboard the solution for social ills is unattainable.

As a result of the ten months' operation of the Ford profit-sharing plan employes have purchased on contract homes valued at $5,000,000 for which they have made payments aggregating $1,500,000; have taken out life insurance to the amount of about $3,000,000 and have saved on an average of $13.65 per month each, which rather discounts the pessimistic theory of anti-Socialists that when we have decent working hours and wages we will spend our time and money in the saloon. But they'll continue to preach it just the same. And the fool workingman will continue to believe it.

(Oh, yes! Socialism is an unsound theory as it would put a stop to incentive' Guess you have heard this before uttered by the "antis"? Like many other of their objections when subjected to the acid test of practicability it crumbles to pieces [illegible] by the results quoted above.)

What is the difference between the exploiter who lives on the labor of little children and the man who votes for the system that enables the exploiter to live on the [illegible] children?

QUARTER MILLION OF UNIONISTS ENLISTED

More Than One Hundred Thousand Miners Join the Army

For the first time a detailed analysis of the number of trade unionists who have enlisted in Britain since the war commenced is available. The total (and even then the returns from some of the unions are incomplete) is no less than 225,470. Of these the miners contributed 109,860, the railwaymen 45,000, the postmen 10,000, and the gasworkers and general laborers nearly 15,000. The figures for the various unions are as follows:

Trade Union	Members Enlisted.
Beamers, twisters, etc.	500
Blast furnace men	1,060
Boot and Shoe Operatives	2,960
Builders' Laborers, N.A.	1,000
Bookbinders and M. Rulers	500
Bleachers, Dyers, etc	1,500
Card and Blowing R. Oper	400
Coachmakers	1,000
Clerks	500
Gasworkers and Gen. Lab.	14,495
Ironfounders	1,400
National Amal. U. of Lab.	4,500
Machine Workers	650
Plasterers	250
Postmen's Federation	10,000
Railwaymen, National Union	45,000
Shipwrights, etc	1,000
Shop Assistants	8,000
Steel Smelters	2,700
Stevedores	700
Teachers	4,500
Typographical Association	1,200
Toolmakers	550
Vehicle Workers	6,000
Watermen, Lightermen, etc.	250
Workers' Union	4,000
Ayshire Miners	1,700
Bristol Miners	150
Derbyshire Miners	3,700
Cannock Chase Miners	700
Clackmannanshire Miners	250
Cleveland Miners	900
Cumberland Miners	1,100
Durham Miners	30,000
Forest of Dean Miners	450
Lanarkshire Miners	7,000
Lancashire & Cheshire Miners	4,000
Leicestershire Miners	550
Mid and East Lothian Miners	2,000
Northumberland Miners	3,500
North Wales Miners	3,000
Nottingham Miners	3,500
Old Hill (Staff) Miners	360
Stirlingshire Miners	1,000
South Derbyshire Miners	400
South Wales Miners	20,000
West Lothian Miners	600
Yorkshire miners	15,000

In addition to the foregoing it is known that members of the Transport Workers Unions have enlisted in their thousands, but no absolute figures are obtainable.

(The above cutting is from the B. C. Federationist, but no mention is made of the source of the information whence these figures are taken. Granted the accuracy (and we have no reason to doubt it) this should be considered a positive rebuttal to those German newspapers who have so frequently alluded to the British soldiers as "mere mercenaries.")

Directory of Fraternal Societies

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock in K. P. Hall.
Noble Grand, J. T. Puckey.
Secretary, J. B. Mcikiejohn.

ESTHER REBEKAH LODGE NO. 20
meets first and third Thursdays in month, at 8 p. m., in K. P. Hall.
A. MINTON, N. G.
S. TOWNSEND, R. Sec.

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS
Meet at Aiello's Hall second and third Mondays in each month.
John M. Woods, Secretary.
Fernie, Box 657.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
Meet every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in their own Hall, Victoria Avenue.
C. C., T. Ratcliffe.
K. of S., D. J. Black.
M. of F., Jas. Madison.

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE
Meets every Monday at 7:30 p. m., in K. of P. Hall.
Dictator, F. H. Newnham.
Secretary, G. Moses.
140 Howland Ave.

LOYAL TRUE BLUE ASSOCIATION
Lady Terrace Lodge, No. 2[illegible] meets in the K. P. Hall [illegible] and fourth Friday of each month at 8 p. m.
MRS. J. BROOKS, W. M.
[illegible] ORR, Secretary.

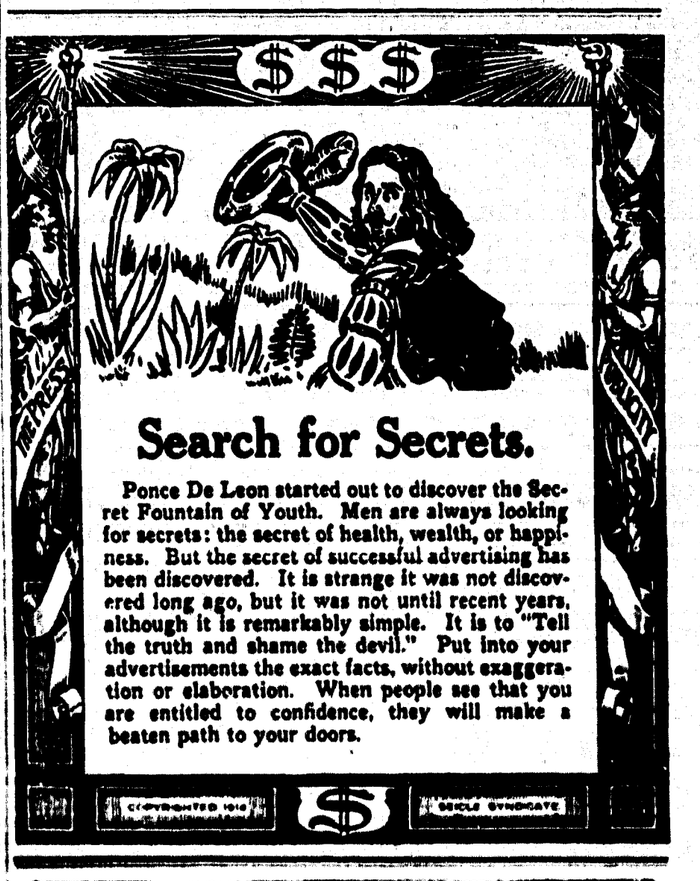
LOYAL ORANGEMEN
Terrace Lodge 1713. Meet at the K. P. Hall first and third Friday evening of each month at 7.30. Visiting brethren cordially invited.
R. CRIGHTON, W. M.
J. SKILLING, Rec. Sec.

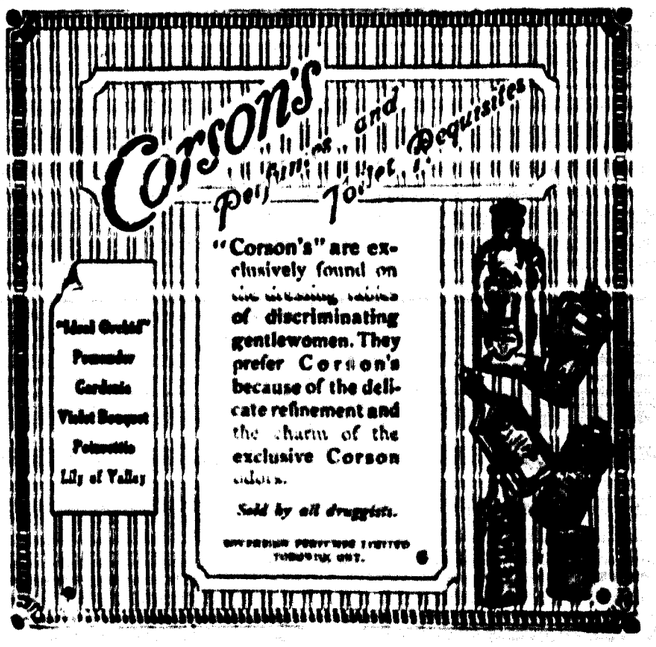
Beware of Ointments for Catarrh That Contain Mercury

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

Sold by Druggists, Price, 75c. per bottle.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

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





Extraordinary Values in Woolen Goods

Shoe Dept.

Men's, Ladies and Children's Felt Slippers at Greatly Reduced Prices

We will sell our entire stock of Felt Slippers at 20 per cent discount, good only for Saturday and Monday. These comprise all Felt, leather soles and heels, with fur tops; Moccasin Slippers, fur or wool lined; Fancy Colored Slippers in ladies' and children's. A great variety to choose from. Prices ranging in men's from ..... 35c. to $3.00
Ladies', from ..... 15c. to $2.00
Children's, from ..... 10c. to $1.00

DRY GOODS DEPT.

WOOL TOQUES

In a good heavy quality; all wool and extra warm. Come in plain colors and two-color combination. Regular 35c. and 45c.
Special ..... 25c.
SEE WINDOW

HOCKEY TOQUES

Just the thing for skating and snow-shoeing. Colors, navy and white; red and white; red and navy; khaki and brown, and all plain colors. Regular 50c. and 60c
Special ..... 35c.
SEE WINDOW

LADIES' CASHMERE HOSE

Made from a specially selected yarn; full fashioned and absolutely fast black. Reinforced tops. Sizes: 8½, 9, 9½ and 10. Regular 35c.
Special ..... 4 Pair for $1.00
SEE WINDOW

CHILDREN'S WOOL SCARVES

Extra warm quality, 54 inches long, with tasselled ends. Colors, navy, red and white. Regular 35c.
Special 25c

A GREAT CLEAN-UP

of all lines of our heavy woolen goods, for one week all our heavy sox, mitts, pants and underwear will be on sale at big reductions.

This is a great opportunity for the man who works outside. In spite of great advances in the price of all wool goods in Canada due to the war, we are giving you an opportunity to buy THE BEST quality of heavy wool goods at a great reduction on last year's price

See our big window display, note the high grade of all our wool goods, all well known makes, the prices are so low it will pay you to buy for next year.

HEAVY WOOL SOX
MACKINAW SOX
LUMBERMAN'S SOX
MACKINAW PANTS
HEAVY WOOL SOX
MACKINAW JUMPER SHIRTS
HEAVY WOOL MITTS
WOOL LINED LEATHER MITTS
STANFIELD UNDERWEAR
HEAVY TWEED PANTS

All Overcoats on sale at reduction of 20 per cent

Grocery Specials for Saturday

Gold Standard Baking Powder, 16 oz.	.20
Mixed Biscuits, 2 lbs.	.25
Old Calaber Dog Biscuits, 5 lb. sack	.45
Spratt's Dog Biscuits, 5 lb. sack	.50
Canada First Condensed Milk, per tin	.10
Holbrook's Custard Powder	.35
Cooking Eggs, 3 doz.	1.00
Libby's Sliced Peaches, 1½'s, 2 for	.35
Extra Large Oranges, per doz	.40
Holbrook's Herring in Tomato Sauce, 3 tins	.40
Little Herrings in Tomato Sauce, 2 for	.25
Canada First Marmalade, 5 lb. pails	.55
Macaroni, 10 lb. box	.70
Assorted Toilet Soaps, 8 for	.25
Lyle's English Syrup, 2 tins	.35
Holbrook's Marafat Peas, per pkg.	.10
Tomatoes, 2 tins	.25

PROVISION DEPARTMENT

Fresh Haddie, 2 lbs	.25
Fresh Halibut, 2 lbs	.25
Fresh Herrings, 2 lbs.	.25
Fresh Whitefish, 3 lbs	.25
Skinned Hams, per lb.	.18
Cooking Butter, 1 lb. brick	.25
Lard, 3 lb. pails	.50

The Store of Quality

TRITES-WOOD COMPANY, LTD.

Money Saving Prices

BRANCHES AT FERNIE, MICHEL, NATAL AND COAL CREEK

FIVE MILLIONS FOR RELIEF WORK

Word has been received from Mr. Geo. Pettigrew that Premier McBride, when interviewed by a committee delegated from a mass meeting of the unemployed of Nanaimo, made the statement very definitely that he had $5,000,000 he was prepared to spend in order to see that the residents of this Province were properly cared for.

We are informed that Premier McBridge gave the Dominion Government the assurance that he would attend to the wants of the unemployed of British Columbia. Hence the knowledge of his having $5,000,000 for this purpose bears out the promise made to the Dominion authorities.

We feel that people generally should know that our Premier has this extraordinary large sum of money for relieving genuine cases of distress.

Various associations have been organized for the purpose of attending to the utterly destitute, and so far as possible assisting all the needy. However, in many cases we find that local charitable bodies could not handle their own distress cases, and appeals were naturally sent broadcast with a view to satisfying the Local needs.

We also know that many were contributing to the various charitable bodies who really could not afford to do so, and we find that many of the organizations have practically expended all their funds in order to assist their unemployed brethren.

True, from a humanitarian standpoint, it is the duty of every individual to see, as far as possible, that his fellow man has food, clothing and shelter, yet when we know our Premier is able to care for the hungry, and more especially when we know the source of such wealth, we feel the worker ought not to deprive his family and self in order to assist the more unfortunate.

Let us for the time, at last, banish those old ideas which have been crammed into us about the stigma of charity and the glory of work, etc., and if we are [illegible] unfortunate position where we cannot obtain employment or victuals, then, to use our Western vernacular, let us act the good fellow and help "Dick" to "blow-in" his 5,000,000 bucks!

T. J. Griffiths came up from Kalispell, Mont., Tuesday last for the purpose of attending the funeral of his friend Evan Evans. Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths left for Lethbridge on Friday, where Mr. Griffiths expects to take up headquarters for the I. C. S., as his territory has now been extended and embraces a portion of Alberta, Eastern British Columbia (of which Fernie and Coal Creek is a part) and Northern Montana, and Idaho.

COMMUNICATED

To the Editor, District Ledger.

Dear Sir,—Will you kindly allow me space in your valuable paper to enlighten the persons of Michel who are laboring under a delusion regarding the source from which the presents came which were distributed to the children of Natal and Michel on the evenings of Dec. 28th and 29th respectively.

A statement was made in my presence and in the presence of others that most of the presents given away were paid for with Union money."

Now, sir that is an absolute falsehood. Not one cent of union money has been used for such a purpose. I happen to be on the committee who handled the Miners' Dockage Fund, and such a statement as the above mentioned accuses the committee of crooked dealing by misappropriating the money handed over to us.

My desire is to clear the committee of any semblance of crooked dealing.

Every present given out to the children either at Natal Sunday School treat, or at Michel Methodist Church Sunday School treat, was donated from an outside source. Messrs. T. Eaton & Co., Winnipeg, donated a small parcel, while the other boxes were sent in by the Woman's Missionary Society addressed to Miss M. Paul, who is working here under the auspices of the Woman's Missionary Society. These articles of clothing and toys were to be distributed by her as she saw fit, and the time chosen was when the children were getting their Christmas treat.

Trusting you will make matters clear.

I remain,
Yours obediently,
E. C. CURRY.
Methodist Church, Michel, Dec 30, 1914

MASQUERADE BALL

The combined fraternal societies, in conjunction with the Ladies' Benevolent Society, will hold a masquerade ball on January 24th (Burns' night) in the Victoria Hall, Fernie. The proceeds will be devoted to relieving cases of distress occurring in the town.

In connection with the above Messrs Lomont and Strack, of Calgary, will supply masquerade costumes for hire in Victoria Hall on the afternoon of Sunday and Monday, January 24th and 25th.

The regular monthly tea of the Ladies' Guild of Christ Church will be held at the home of Mrs. J. I. Macdonald, Highland Avenue, Wednesday, Jan. 13th, at 3.30 p.m.

W. L. Phillips has now changed his quarters to Cox and Dalton Street, and his phone number is 176.

(Continued from Page Four)

we shall, no doubt, receive the information as to how four experienced men like Inspector Evans, Supt. Caufield, and pit bosses Adamson and McFegan, were overcome whilst having the Draeger apparatus on. The average miner, and more especially those not conversant with the working of the mine rescue apparatus are in a quandary as to how such came about. And greater is the wonderment when it is realized that there was no need of hastily donning the apparatus, and the short distance they had travelled.

It is useless conjecturing as to what happened, and it would be improper to condemn the apparatus mentioned until we have the causes explained.

We must take cognizance of the fact that the pulmotors were more or less instrumental in resuscitating four out of five men who collapsed, hence demonstrating the superiority of said device over the old-fashioned method of manual artificial respiration.

Owing to the nature of certain accidents at Coal Creek during the past year, I am convinced that it would be the proper thing to have pulmotors as well as many other things of that nature in each district in all our large mines througout the provinces.

Before passing away from the death of Inspector Evans, and the narrow escape from death of a few others, one cannot help but commenting upon the inadvisability of men entering a mine so shortly after an explosion where there is naught but property at stake, and in this particular instance there was no danger of fire reaching other mines. B North was practically a new mine and in no way connected with other mines.

It may be rather out of place for anyone like myself to comment on the work of the late Inspector Evans, however, I feel that I am expressing the opinion of the majority of the miners of Michel and Coal Creek when I state that Evans was fulfilling his duties as inspector as near as he possibly could.

There is another important matter I feel compelled to comment upon at this time, and that is the inspection committees appointed by the workmen to periodically examine the mines.

In order that those other than miners may understand I would like to point out that the Mines Regulation Acts of B.C. and Alberta gives the workers of these Provinces the right of selecting from among their numbers a committee to examine the mines at least once a month, or oftener if considered necessary, by said miners.

It is interesting to note that in Alberta, when the government was amending the Mines Regulation Act for said province, our organization was told very plainly by their officers of that period who, in turn, had been told very definitely by the different officers of the Government, that the new act would give their miners, if they so decided, the right to appoint any salaried official of their organization to inspect the mines on their behalf.

Our organization felt it necessary to have such a clause in the act owing to the fact that it was generally felt that the average miner, with his family and his usual little ties in a camp, could not be always depended upon to give a conscientious report of the state of the mines. It may be thought that there is no necessity for any apprehension on this account, but though my statements may not be generally accepted, owing to the position I hold and the possibility of prejudice in dealing with any question affecting miners and their employers. I can state without fear of contradiction that the overwhelming majority of our men are afraid to make a conscientious report of the condition of a mine, and what's more the majority of our men decline to accept such an onerous position. There is no questioning the truth of the old adage, that there are more ways of killing a pig than one, and any man possessed of average intelligence must realize that a corporation need not have extraordinary strategical ability to find more ways than one of asking a miner for his resignation. We know of instances where men were told definitely that there was no work for them owing to their activity in defending the interests of their fellow workers and themselves. The writer has a faint recollection of something of the kind happening to himself a little over three years ago.

We will keep as near home as possible. The Fernie miners' union have tried to fill the oft recurring vacancies on their respective mines inspection committees, and many discussions have arisen from their reports, and there were times when they concluded it would be better to have no inspection committees. I well recall our men explaining how Inspectors Graham and Evans threatened to select the inspection committees themselves if our men refused to do so. I also recall at a special mass meeting of Gladstone Local held in the Grand Theatre, about a year ago, an inspection committee man reported that he could not conscientiously do his duty and expect to retain his job. There were a few who adversely criticized the man, but the majority appreciated the correctness of his position and admired his candid admission.

Since that time, the question of inspection committees and their work has been frequently discussed, and we find that about three weeks ago the question was again brought up, with the result that a motion was adopted to dispense with said committees.

In view of the foregoing brief explanation of the position of the average man on inspection committees, I feel it would be well that the Mines Department see to bringing about some much needed reform.

Had we succeeded in securing the right we expected to enjoy in Alberta —i. e., the opportunity of having an official of the organization or some other independent party examine the mines, we undoubtedly would not have averted all accidents, but I claim material assistance could have been derived from such inspections. However, the Chief Inspector of Mines, Mr. Stirling, gave a ruling or an interpretation of the act which was later endorsed by Premier Sifton, precluding the possibility of any other than a man actually engaged at the coal face, making periodical inspections. If accidents are to be reduced to a minimum, I am convinced we cannot have too rigid an inspection of mines; nor, on the other hand, too minute a test of a man's qualification prior to his being allowed to dig coal or even enter a mine.

Everyone who is experienced in mining will agree that extraordinary precaution must be taken by all, from manager to trapper boy, if we are out for results.

Many other points might be cited, but I will not digress any further at this time.

I trust, if this letter should come to the attention of the Minister of Mines, that our representative in parliament (Mr. W. R. Ross), the Chief Inspector of Mines, or any other party who is able to in a small way do anything that will have for its purpose the elimination of all accidents possible, that they will act. I can assure them they will have the co-operation of those whom I have the honor to represent, as well as all my fellow officers, if they (the officials of the Mines Department) so desire.

In conclusion, I would add that if any of the officers of the Mines Department would care to consult my colleagues or myself at any time we are ready and willing to lend whatever assistance we can.

I am not unmindful of the fact, that we cannot give expert evidence on every phase of coal mining, still, at the same time, I feel that our authorities, such as the Minister of Mines, etc., should not be above accepting a suggestion, even from a trapper boy.

Sincerely hoping that any inquiry which will be held in consequence of the B. North explosion will in some way minimize the altogether too frequent accidents which are happening of late.

I am,
Yours truly,
DAVID REES.

A. O. F. COURT FERNIE

All members are requested to attend above Lodge on Monday next, Jan. 11, to meet District Chief Ranger Wilson.

Business at 8; Social at 8.45 p.m.

FERNIE MAN KILLED AT THE FRONT

The following letter has been received by Mr. Arthur Fergusson, steamfitter, Fernie, from Thomas Strain, a brother of John Strain, who left Fernie with the first contingent of reservists:

Alta Vista P.O., Vancouver, B.C.
30th December, 1914.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter my mother received today notifying her of the death of my dear brother at the front.

As Dick had so many friends in Fernie, including yourself, I will feel indebted to you if you will kindly hand this copy to the local newspapers as I cannot find the addresses of all his friends. Dick had such a high opinion of you that I feel sure you won't consider this act to his memory any trouble. The notification was accompanied by a message of sympathy from the king.

Yours truly,
THOMAS STRAIN.

Infantry Records Office,
Island Bridge, Dublin,
Dec. 10th, 1914

To Mrs. M. Strain.

Madam,—It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of No. 7349, Private R. Strain, of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, which occurred at "The Front" on the 17th day of November, 1914, and I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council at your loss. The cause of death was

Killed in Action

Any application you may wish to make regarding the late soldiers effects should be made to The Secretary, War Office, Whitehall, London, S. W., and marked on the outside "Deceased Soldiers' Effects."

I am, Madam,
Your Obedient Servant,
F. LAW WILLIAMS, Capt.,
Officer in Charge of Records.

MACNEIL—TURNER

Mr. Alexander Macneil is receiving the congratulations of his many Fernie friends on his recent enlistment in the noble army of benedicts, which took place in the City of Calgary, December 30th, when he was joined in the holy bonds of matrimony to Miss Winifred Turner, a former resident of Shediac, N. B., and who, for the past two years has been one of the teaching staff in the Central School of Fernie.

Mr. and Mrs. Macneil will reside in Fernie. A host of friends, in which the Ledger joins, wish the newly-married couple long life and happiness.

Classified Ads.--Cent a Word

HOUSE FOR RENT—Four rooms; West Fernie. Apply, A. Luke, Box 381.

FOR SALE CHEAP—Two pair heavy Bob Sleighs, practically new. Apply, S. Graham, c.o., The 41 Meat Market, Fernie.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

Sunday next, January 10th, at 8 p.m., William Minton will speak in the Socialist Hall, subject, 'Scientific Socialism." Cordial invitation is extended to all, especially opponents, as discussion is welcomed.

January 17th, Alf Budden will be the speaker of the evening. Further particulars will be furnished in next issue.

Socialist Dance

A most enjoyable dance, held under the auspices of the S. P. of C., took place in the Socialist Hall on Pellatt Avenue, on Saturday last.

There was a very large attendance of trippers of the light fantastic and expressions of pleasure were heard on every side on the excellent music provided by William Allen's four-piece orchestra. This success has emboldened the committee to have another dance Saturday next, January 9th, when the same musicians will furnish the sweet sounds.

GLADSTONE LOCAL UNION

A mass meeting of the above local union will be held in the Grand Theatre, Fernie, on Sunday next, Jan. 10th, at 7 p.m., to appoint delegates for Conventions and other important matters. President W. L. Phillips and Inter. Board Member David Rees will be in attendance. All members are requested to attend.

T. UPHILL, Secretary.

Joseph Thomas, superintendent of the Passburg Mines, Ltd., was in Fernie [illegible] conditions are not very lively in that locality, but it is expected that there will be an improvement in the near future.

J. F. Smith, former president of District 18, U. M. W. of A., just received the sad intelligence that his mother recently passed away in Whitehaven, Cumberland, at the ripe old age of 79.

Hans Butler, aged 45 years, was struck by a C. P. R. train on the Kootenay Central line near Bull River, on New Year's Eve, and instantly killed. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental death, exonerating the train crew. The body was brought into Fernie on Sunday and will be interred here.