The District Ledger

Industrial Unity Is Strength

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

Political Unity Is Victory

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Twelfth Annual Convention

HELD AT LETHBRIDGE ALBERTA

Momentous Questions Thoroughly Discussed

MONDAY—First Day

LETHBRIDGE, Feb. 15.—A session of the greatest importance in the annals of miners' conventions opened this morning at 10 o'clock at the Labor Temple. The twelfth convention of District No. 18 of the United Mine Workers of America met to deliberate amongst other matters what action should be taken with regard to the agreement subscribed to by the miners in 1911, which ended the eight months' strike and which expires on March 31st. The session was under the presidency of W. L. Phillips, elected last summer, and opened with an address of welcome to the delegates by E. W. Alford, representing the Trades and Labor Council of Lethbridge, who hoped that whatever results would be accomplished the deliberations would conduce to the welfare of the miners in the great industry they were engaged in.

President Phillips, in reply, expressed on behalf of the Convention his satisfaction at being welcomed by a member of the working classes who was in sympathy with the cause of labor. "We meet not only to devise means for benefitting our immediate lot, but for doing something which would emancipate us from conditions under which we are suffering."

Press Censors Appointed

Following the procedure in vogue at present with regard to war news, International Board Member David Rees rose and submitted a resolution to the meeting that in view of the importance of the present session, and so that nothing should transpire which would in any way be likely to be misconstrued by the public and prejudice the deliberations of the miners that a press committee be appointed to censor all reports of the meeting. This was seconded by R. Garbutt, and carried.

The committee on credentials was appointed as follows: J. Loughran (convenor), J. Burke and H. Beard, who retired for the making up of the various other committees.

Mayor's Welcome

In welcoming the delegates to the city Mayor Hardie said that he believed that this was the third occasion on which he had the pleasure of addressing the convention. At each convention he had tendered counsel and advice, but was not sure whether they had been followed. Though not a Socialist, he was socialistically inclined. He did not advocate extreme measures at any time, for to be progressive was not to be extreme. He urged the delegates to temper their deliberations with wisdom and consideration.

Referring to the war, the mayor observed that more money had been spent than would feed the poor for a thousand years, and it had cost more to date than would have sufficed to keep the wheels of industry going for two years. Everything considered, however, the money was well spent. Some present, he knew, were not of our nationality, but he was not afraid to speak, for we were fighting the cause of individual freedom from militarism. Laying aside individual prejudices we should boost our end of the war from this point of view.

The mayor, referring to the incidents of 1911, said that he was a member of the operators' committee, and that the miners, if they had accepted the 5 per cent. offer made them would have shown themselves moderate and would have had the prestige of being a winning party. The operators as well as the miners had, in view of the financial conditions, a hard road to travel and to hold, and he asked the miners to be moderate and considerate in their demands, for money is everything in these days.

At the close of his address, the mayor was asked by ex-President Smith whether he considered the 5 per cent. offer an honest one. "Yes," said the mayor, whereupon Mr. Smith remarked that it was offered without the check-off.

Mayor Has Warm Time

In replying to Mayor Hardie's address, President Phillips, referred to it as one with the viewpoint of the class to which the Mayor belonged.

The Mayor, he continued, belonged to a class which was in a minority and which, the speaker hoped, would continue to be in a minority. The miners represented the majority, the brain and brawn of the nation. The minority, with the views they held, would soon become extinct and become mummified exhibits in our museums.

Socialist Speaks

While the convention was waiting for the credentials committee, the session was addressed by Alf Budden on "Reminiscences of the farm life."

Committees Appointed

The following were the committees:

Committee on *officers' reports*—Jas. [illegible], R. Garbutt, Corbin; M. Logan, Lethbridge; E. Ainsworth, Fernie.

Constitution committee—J. Johnson, Coleman; H. Beard, Michel; J. W. Smith, Fernie; R. Oakes, Bankhead; D. McNab, Coalhurst.

Grievances Committee — J. Barwick, Bellevue; Max Hutter, Georgetown; W. Archer, Blairmore; H. Lloyd, Chinook; P. Aflett, Frank.

Resolutions committee—T. G. Harries, Passburg; M. Warren, Canmore; J. Dudley, Hillcrest; J. Morris, Nordegg; J. A. Price, Carbondale; John Loughran, Beaver Mines.

Press committee—W. Graham, J. Larsen.

The Delegates

John Johnson, Coleman; J. Morris, Nordegg; R. Garbutt, Corbin; Wm. Archer, Blairmore; J. A. Price, Carbondale; B. Nugent, Taber; R. Oakes, Bankhead; M. Warren, Canmore; J. Dudley, Hillcrest; J. Loughran, Beaver Mines; M. Logan, Lethbridge; T. G. Harries, Passburg; H. Lloyd, Chinook Mines; F. Allett, Frank; D. McNab, Coalhurst; J. Barwick, Bellevue; J. Burke, Bellevue; E. Ainsworth, Fernie; J. E. Smith, Fernie; H. Martin, Fernie; H. Beard, Michel; Max Hutter, Georgetown.

Officers—W. L. Phillips, president; Wm. Graham, vice-president; A. J. Carter, secretary-treasurer; D. Rees, International Board Member; Frank Wheatley, Harry Martin, W. Haysom and J. Larsen, board members.

It was then moved by Delegate Garbutt, seconded by Delegate Warren, that the Scale Committee be appointed from the floor of the Convention, International Board Member D. Rees suggested that a specific number be appointed on this committee. Some discussion was then participated in by Delegates Smith, Garbutt, Barwick and Burke, during which attention was drawn by Secretary A. J. Carter that apparently there was some confusion in connection with the duties of the Scale Committee to be appointed. The real purpose for which it was required being to deal with such Scale Work as would come before the Convention and not that which would meet the operators to carry on negotiations for the renewal of the agreement. The Chairman then pointed out that constitutional amendments passed at this time, would not become effective until after the present convention. Delegate Burke stated that if the resolution submitted by one of the locals, to the effect that each local be represented on the Scale Committee, was approved by Convention, it would go into effect March 1st, and each local would then have the right of having a representative on the committee. The chairman ruled Delegate Burke out of order, stating that the question before the house was that the Scale Committee to be appointed, was for the purpose of making their report to the convention here. Delegate Garbutt (the mover) stated that he understood this was the committee to meet the operators, but he now agreed, in view of its purpose, that it should be comprised of a specific number, and would with the consent of the seconder (granted) alter the original motion to read:

"That the Scale Committee, consisting of five members, be appointed from the floor of the Convention."

Moved by Delegate Burke, seconded by Delegate Loughran, to table the motion for three days.....Carried.

President Phillips then announced that the Officers' Reports had all been printed in order to facilitate the work of the committees, and would be placed in their hands. Copies were available for all delegates.

Owing to some of the delegates having important resolutions which they were desirous of presenting, but which had not been submitted in strict accordance with the Constitution, desired to learn if these could be admitted at this time, and in this connection a short discussion took place.

The Chairman stated that the article in the Constitution governing this was quite specific, he felt, however, in view of the extreme importance at this time, of matters relative to the scale, that certain latitude should be allowed in connection with resolutions along this line, and would so rule; otherwise, unless the resolutions were with reference to matters happening during the interim of one month as set out in the Constitution, he would be compelled to rule them out.

Delegate Martin then expressed a desire to address the convention with regard to the unemployed question, but after a short discussion, the Chairman ruled that Delegate Martin would be permitted to wait on the Committee on *Officers'* Reports and make his appeal to them on this subject. This would also apply to any other delegate who desired to do so. The Chairman also announced that the committees were at liberty to call on the officers and Board Members, to appear before them, should the committees deem it necessary.

Regularly moved and seconded, that the Convention adjourn until 2 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday) in order that the various committees could convene and prepare their respective reports.

[illegible] vote and .....Carried.

An adjournment was taken at 11.45 a.m. to reconvene at 9 a.m., Tuesday, February 16th.

TUESDAY—Second Day

LETHBRIDGE, Feb. 16.—The discussion at the Miners' convention this morning ranged round a resolution submitted to the meeting by the Bellevue Local, in which it was asked that a member of every local should be represented on the committee to be appointed to meet the operators for negotiating the new agreement. Arguments for and against were briskly advanced.

Delegate Loughran said that conditions were extremely varied, no two mines being alike, and the presence of local representatives would, therefore, meet a decided want.

Delegate Smith considered it was not so much a matter of representation, as the having the power to enforce the miners' demands. His experience was that representation would cut a poor show when it came down to the final arrangements.

Fernie Local, for instance, was represented on the 1911 committee, but came out after the agreement far worse than it was before it.

Delegate Burke said that he wished to remove from the minds of the delegates any apprehension that the resolution contained a 'nigger in the woodpile." It was not contended that Bellevue local should fight for a purely local matter, say, for instance, 15 cents extra on cross-cuts, and obstruct the agreement if that was not granted.

Delegate Johnson said that it was not a case of what the miners had lost or gained through the last agreement, but in supporting the resolution he contended that it would conduce to meeting the operators reasonably.

Delegate Nugent, of Taber, voiced the sentiment of the majority when he declared that his local would fight for relief in local conditions, this relief being practicaly equivalent to an advance in wages.

An amendment was made that should the resolution carry, each local should bear the expenses of its representative. This was negatived and pros and cons as to the original resolution proceeded, with the result on its being voted that it was carried on the understanding that, though representatives of all the locals should be present with the operators, it did not necessarily mean that everyone should be on the comm'ttee. International Board Member Rees declared himself in favor of a committee of ten, which would meet with the wishes of the operators.

Doctors and Fees

The convention then took up the matter of medical fees, and the following resolution was submitted by Beaver Creek local: That the expenses of all members who are sent to medical specialists or medical institutions on the advice of a properly qualified medical practitioner, be paid from the district funds.

To this the following substitute motion was moved: That it is the sense of the convention that the time has arrived when an agreement should be made between the doctors and District 18 thereby eliminating local charges; further, that the district board is hereby instructed to work to that end by communicating with the various doctors and locals to the end that the doctors in the first instance form an association that would facilitate the working of the matter contemplated. The motion first carried by one vote, but on a roll-call being demanded was defeated by 29 to 21.

A further amendment was introduced, advocating that doctors' fees be cut down 25 cents a month, and that the deductions be kept in a separate fund to be devoted to cases where special treatment was needed; where locals have not sufficient the district to supply the necessary funds. This amendment met with short shift, and the original motion was again taken up and defeated by an overwhelming majority.

A resolution was then proposed for giving Delegate Farmilo, secretary of the Alberta Federation of Labor a vote and voice in the convention. This was agreed to, and the meeting adjourned until the afternoon.

Afternoon Session

Delegate Harries presented the following resolution:

"Whereas the government of the Province of Alberta has found it necessary to attempt to alleviate cases of distress in the mining camps of the province, and whereas the distress at Passburg is heightened by the failure of the Leitch Collieries, Ltd., of that place to pay the wages of the employees for December and January, and whereas the appointment of the manager of the above-mentioned company as the only representative of Passburg on the committee for the distribution of relief cannot be considered to the public interest;

"BE IT RESOLVED that this Convention protest against such appointment and that we advise our District Officers to make representations to the Government with a view to his removal."

Moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

Before any discussion took place, Dr. Miller arrived and it was

Moved and seconded to suspend the regular order of business in order that Dr. Miller could address the Convention ..... Carried.

Dr. Miller then addressed the Convention for half an hour on the subject of Technical Education, at the conclusion of which he answered several questions put to him by different delegates.

A vote of thanks was then tendered Dr. Miller after which he retired.

The convention then returned to the regular order of business and Resolution No. 15 was thoroughly explained by delegate Harries. After a short [illegible] vote and .....Carried.

Resolution No. 16—Frank Local

"Resolved that we endeavor to induce the Alberta Government to add an amendment to the Coal Mines Act to the effect that all men employed in the mines in Alberta pass an examination before being employed to dig coal. That a miner must be at least twenty years of age, and have had at least three years' experience in the mines of this country or some other country. That he be able to speak the English language. That monthly examinations be held at some central point."

The committee concur. Moved and seconded after a short discussion regarding the method by which this motion had been presented, that the motion be accepted and discussed by the Convention..... Carried.

A lengthy discussion then ensued in which nearly all of the delegates took part, with the result that the motion on being put to a vote it was carried.

Delegate Harries then moved the adoption of the Report of the Resolution Committee. Seconded by Delegate Loughran. ..... Carried.

The Chairman, however, pointed out that the Resolution Committee was not as yet discharged.

The Grievance Committee not being ready to report, and in answer to a query by the President, the chairman of the Constitution Committee stated that that committee could make a partial report only.

Report of the Constitution Committee

Resolution No. 2, by Lethbridge Local

Your committee non-concur and recommend that it be amended by deleting the last three lines and inserting after the word "society": "And to this end we ask our members to ally themselves with the progressive forces on the political field in order to hasten the day when the Co-operative Commonwealth may be established."

Moved and seconded to adopt the report of the committee.

A heated and lengthy discussion was entered into in connection with this resolution, practically all the delegates taking part. Delegate Logan announced that this was the first time he was aware of such a resolution being submitted by his local as he had been present when his local (Lethbridge) had discussed these amendments to the Constitution and they had decided to allow the Preamble in the Constitution to remain as it was at present. Board Member Larsen verified this statement. The discussion embodied several features, one of which was a proposed investigation of this matter along with other matters which were to be investigated by the Executive Board in connection with the affairs of this local. An amendment and also a substitute motion were introduced during the discussion but were later withdrawn.

The validity of its admission was the principal topic owing to the manner by which it had been presented to the Convention and coupled with this was the method by which it had been deemed necessary by a certain party to submit it for the consideration of the Convention.

A point of order was raised and the Chairman ruled that although it was an individual complaint, it had been nevertheless ruled upon by President John P. White as not being in accordance with the International Constitution, in view of this ruling the resolution must be discussed by the Convention. Delegate Nugent then pointed out that President White's ruling had not been, in the proper sense, an official ruling that it be discussed by the Convention.

Vice-President Graham then took the chair, and a short further discussion took place, Delegate Nugent and President Phillips participating.

The motion whether the decision of the chair shall be sustained was put to a vote and .....Lost.

President Phillips again took the chair.

Delegate Smith moved (seconded) that the Convention remain in session until this question of the Preamble be disposed of. .....Lost.

The Convention then adjourned at 5 p.m. to reconvene at 9 a.m. Wednesday, February 17th, 1915.

THIRD DAY—Wednesday

Morning Session

President Phillips called the Convention to order at 9.15 a.m. and stated that a communication from Gladstone Local (Exhibit 17) which was in the nature of a grievance, and was therefore handed to that committee who would read it when bringing in their report.

Report of Constitution Committee (Continued)

Delegate Johnson, chairman of the Constitution Committee, then asked the question with reference to the Preamble, the Chairman, however, ruled that that matter had already been disposed of, but upon being interrogated by Secretary Carter as by what rules of order it had been disposed of, the Chairman explained that inasmuch as the ruling of the chair at yesterday's proceedings to the effect that the present Preamble in the District Constitution was unconstitutional, had been over-ruled by the Convention, the matter had thereby been definitely decided.

When Delegate Johnson then commenced dealing with the further report of the Constitution Committee, exception was taken by some of the delegates on account of it not being presented in numerical order, and after a short discussion, it was decided that this method should be adopted, and after the Chairman had called upon the Chairman of the Committee on Officers' Reports and the Grievance Committee and learned that they were not ready to report

It was moved by Delegate Price, seconded by Delegate Morris, that this Convention now adjourn until 1 o'clock [illegible] being put to a vote was .....Carried.

Convention adjourned at 9.25 a.m. to reconvene at 1 p.m.

Afternoon Session

The Chairman called the Convention to order at 2.10 p.m., and announced that the photographer desired to take a group photograph of the delegates. After a short discussion, wherein it was evident that the consensus of opinion was that money required for this could be used to much better advantage, it was moved and seconded that the delegates to the Convention do not have any photographs taken, and on being put to a vote was .....Carried.

Report of Constitution Committee (Continued)

Article I., Section 1. No change.

International Board Member Rees suggested that this section should be corrected by deleting the word "may" in the fourth line and substituting therefor the word "can," the Chairman ruled however, that all grammatical and typographical errors in the Constitution would be corrected by the Revising Committee before same was presented to the printer.

Article I, Section 2. No change.
Article I, Section 3. No change.
Articlei., Section 4. No change.
Article I., Section 5. No change.
Article I., Section 6. No change.
Article II., Section 1. No change.
Article III., Section 1. Amendment by Passburg Local, No. 2352:

"Strike out on last line the word 'one' and add the word 'two.'"

Committee non-concur. Moved and seconded to adopt the report of the committee.

Delegates Harries, Smith, Price, Nugent, Loughran, Barwick and Beard discussed the matter, but owing to some confusion being caused by reference while this motion was before the assembly, to the resolution dealing with the section covering the election of officers, it was ruled out of order.

Moved and seconded that discussion should cease. ..... Carried.

Motion to adopt the report of the committee was then ..... Carried.

Motion to adopt the report of the committee was then ..... Carried.

Article III., Section 1. Amendment by Hillcrest Local, No. 1058:

"Owing to the fact that so many grave questions arise today, that we consider the present Board System inadequate;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the words as outlined in Article III. be abolished and that it read: 'Executive Board to be composed of one Board Member from each Local, said Local to elect its own delegate. District President to call board meetings at a central point within the district; expenses of delegates to be paid by each local.'"

Committee non-concur. Moved and seconded to adopt the report of the committee.

After some discussion the motion, on being put to a vote, was .. Carried.

Article III., Section 3. Amendment by Passburg Local.

"Strike out on last line 'pending election.'"

Committee non-concur. Moved and seconded to adopt the report of the committee.

This caused considerable discussion, the trend of which from some was that the Vice-President should act as President when that office became vacated, until the expiration of the President's term of office.

The motion to adopt the report of the committee, on being put to a vote, was ..... Carried.

Article III., Section 3. Amendment by Hillcrest Local:

"In order that we may improve our political status and make the preamble in the Constitution a reality,

"Be it therefore resolved that after the word 'organizer' in Section 3, of Article III., to read:

"'Vice-President shall visit each local not less than once in each six months, give an address and seek to organize the workers politically as laid down in the Constitution."

Committee non-concur. Moved and seconded to adopt the report of the committee.

Considerable discussion ensued in which a number of the delegates took part.

It was then moved and seconded that discussion should cease...Carried.

The motion to adopt the report of the committee was put to a vote and ..... Carried.

President Phillips drew attention to the fact that Section 2 had not been passed upon.

Moved by Delegate Burke, seconded by Delegate Dudley, that Section 2 remain as it is ..... Carried.

Article III., Section 4. Moved and seconded that this section remain as it is at present .....Carried.

A short discussion took place in connection with this section with regard to a resolution believed to have been passed at the last annual Convention, whereby work buttons were to be supplied annually instead of quarterly, as per the present clause in the Constitution. However, the matter, it was pointed out, would again come up for discussion properly under Article 9, Section 9, and it was allowed to stand over until then.

Article III, Section 5. This was dealt with by the committee in connection with the suggested amendments to the Constitution recommended by the President in his communication of June 1st, 1915, to the locals.

Committee recommended that two auditors be appointed from among the membership. These two auditors so appointed are required to be acquainted with the workings of the organization and that they shall audit the books and accounts every six months and shall present their report to the District Executive Board, and suggested that the auditors be appointed from the floor of the Convention.

Moved and seconded to adopt the report of the committee.

[illegible] chair in order that the President could address the Convention on behalf of the proposed measure, which he did conclusively. Delegates Archer, Price, Barwick, Smith, Harries and others also expressed their views on the question. I. B. M. Rees, in support of a motion to this end, pointed out that he had also covered this question in his report, which would be dealt with subsequently. However, as the matter was before the Convention he wished to state that since preparing his report he had been absent from the District, during which time the account for the annual auditing of the books of the District Secretary and District Ledger had been received, and this had put a somewhat new completion on the matter, inasmuch as the amount it had cost the District for this year was almost $300, and in view of this he had a further suggestion to make that an accountant and a member of the organization could be procured to do this work, equally as satisfactorily, he considered, to the membership, and at a much reduced cost. Delegate Nugent agreed with I. B. M. Rees, and further suggested that the matter be referred back to the committee, but did not wish to make a motion to this effect.

The motion to adopt the report of the committee was then put to a vote and was ..... Lost.

As there had been evident misunderstanding as a result of the decision of the Convention, a short discussion took place wherein it was pointed out by some who had voted against the motion or not voted at all, that it was not the intention to dispose of this matter by entirely turning down the recommendation of the committee. It was moved by Board Member Wheatley, seconded by Delegate Barwick, that this matter be referred back to the Constitution Committee for further consideration, and this on being put to a vote was .....Carried.

President Phillips resumed the chair.

Delegate Burke then moved (seconded) to suspend the rules of order and that the Convention adjourn for fifteen minutes so that the committee could amend their report. ..... Carried.

Adjourned at 3.58 and was called to order at 4.15. Fraternal Delegate E. W. Alford taking the chair in the absence of Vice-President W. Graham on request of the President.

Report of Committee

Article III., Section 5. The committee non-concur, and recommend to amend by striking out all words up to "District Ledger," on line 4, and insert the following: "That an accountant and one member of District 18 be appointed to audit the books of the District Secretary and the accounts of the District Ledger annually. Such appointment to be made by the District Executive Board."

Moved and seconded to adopt the report of the committee.

An amendment was then moved and seconded that the words "appointed by the District Executive Board" be deleted, and insert, "elected by the Convention." An amendment to the amendment was moved and seconded (later withdrawn) and the mover of the amendment consented to its being consolidated in his amendment, and after a short discussion the amendment was reconstructed as follows:

Moved and seconded to amend the motion by striking out the words "appointed by the District Executive Board," and insert, "elected by the Convention, said member to report to the annual Convention." ....Carried.

The motion as amended was then put to a vote and was .....Carried.

Article III., Section 6. Amendment by Carbondale Local:

"Whereas there has been considerable dissatisfaction expressed amongst the membership of District 18 through monies that have been loaned by the District Executive Board,

"Therefore be it resolved that the Constitution be amended so that the District Executive Board shall have no power whatever to loan monies from the District Funds without a referendum vote of the membership of District 18."

The committee non-concur. Moved and seconded to adopt the report of the committee.

Considerable discussion ensued relative to loans of the District funds in which a large number of delegates took part, and an amendment was moved and seconded.

"That the District Executive Board shall have no power whatever to loan any monies from the District funds unless authorized by a majority of the membership throughout the Locals in the District."

A further lengthy discussion took place as it was not clearly defined by the amendment whether it meant a majority of the membership of the locals or a majority of the locals.

An amendment to the amendment was moved by Delegate Burke (seconded) to strike out the words after "majority" and insert "of locals." This was then put to a vote and was carried. ..... Carried.

The amendment as amended was then put to a vote and ..... Carried.

An adjournment was taken at 5.03 p.m., to re-convene at 9 a.m. Thursday, February 18th, 1915.

"Alf. Budden To The Rescue"

To the Editor, District Ledger,—

Dear Sir,—May I have a little more of your valuable space? If Mr. Budden was interested, I was indeed surprised at him butting in. However, let me point out that he attributes words to me that do not belong to me. First he confounds the statement of H. M. Bartholomew about a Socialist being a scientist to my comments of the meaning of the word "value." This is not fair to Bartholomew. I reject the idea of "claiming." I made no remark about Capitalism, but about the construction put on the word "value."

Mr. Budden is not a scientist, as shown by his reasoning. He may be one of the ordinary Socialists, but not a scientific Socialist. It is a comedy --an Irish quarrel!

I am accused of saying what I did not say by a third party. For what purpose? That the third party may get into the row!

What I said was that the result of Socialistic investigation did not give a clear idea of the word "value." I did not deny but what the Socialists were content with the already accepted definition, but there faulty reasoning kept others from following in the same course.

Never mind; let us proceed, it is more than likely that Ritchie will become the "goat" and the other two will pile it on him and friend Budden will get clear. Budden has no use for "ancient scribblers." Mr. Budden repeats: "Labor is not everything and cannot be a measure of value." Comrade Bartholomew would be the last to deny the former statement, but would certainly take exception to the latter." Well, let us consider the latter, "Labor cannot be a measure of value." Now, it is two to one. The two says it is labor that [illegible] other term applied to another statement. Bartholomew does not go so far as Budden, does not jump at conclusions so quickly. He will likely

"Labor is the measure and defines value."—Budden.

"Labor is not the measure and therefore cannot define value."—Ritchie.

"Labor as labor has no more value than weight is weight."—Marx.

"But if their labor be expended in such useful articles as bread, or boots, or books, then their labor is the sole basis and measure of the value of such commodities."—Classical Economists.

Karl Marx said this was a loose and incomplete definition. I agree with Marx.

In short, "value" is decided by the estimation of the whole human family placed on anything at any particular time during the ever-increasing struggle of human existence. Time and place and necessity determine.

Yours truly,

J. M. RITCHIE.

Lethbridge, Alta., Feb. 13th, 1915.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

Don't overlook the date, Feb. 24th, but come prepared for a most enjoyable time at the Hard Times Dance. Excellent music will be furnished and every effort put forth to make the occasion noteworthy.

On Sunday evening the 20th a business meeting will be held for the purpose of voting on an amendment to the Socialist platform, therefore, a full attendance of member is desired.

First Aid classes will be started in Coal Creek early in March when lectures will be given. B. Caufield will look after the practical demonstration features and is taking the names of those desirous of assisting in this laudable work.

Classes have already been formed and lectures will be delivered from time to time by the resident physician, Dr. Weldon, of Michel. The matter is under way and it is expected that in the near future we shall see competitions between the various bodies of these three camps.

TO FERNIE POULTRY BREEDERS

We have this week received the itinerary of the lecturers engaged by the Provincial Department of Agriculture to tour the different points throughout British Columbia, but fail to find any date fixed for a visit to Fernie. At 4 o'clock on Saturday, 27th inst. H. E. Upton will give a poultry demonstration in Cranbrook and at 8 o'clock the same evening lectures will be delivered by the aforementioned expert on Poultry and by S. H. Hopkins on "Live Stock."

COOKING

[illegible] in the Methodist Church Saturday, Feb. 20th, at 3 o'clock.

Re PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS

To the Editor, District Ledger.

Dear Sir,—Parents who are not totally blinded with the belief that their children are immune from wrong-doing must agree that it becomes necessary to punish children occasionally. However, I feel the method of punishing infants should not consist of taking down their breeches in order to make the slap more effective and unnecessarily shaming the youngster before the class.

The two teachers who doled out this treatment on Wednesday last had, perhaps better not repeat this method of punishment.

Yours truly,

PARENT

DISTRICT OFFICIALS REPORT TO CONVENTION

President's Report

To the Officers and Delegates attending the Twelfth Annual Convention District 18, United Mine Workers of America.

Greeting.—

I beg to submit to you my first report as President of our District.

I took over the responsibilities of my present office during the month of July, 1914. There were several disputes then pending and also the enquiry into the cause of the Hillcrest Explosion, which I have no doubt will be fully dealt with in Vice-President Graham's report, who was then acting President. I might say that I carried out my duties to the best of my ability under such peculiarly adverse conditions.

The settlement of the various disputes that have arisen from time to time have not given any satisfaction to our membership, and it is now giving rise to much questioning as to whether the method of settling our disputes is the most rational one. The Lemieux Act compels us to settle our disputes in accordance with its provisions, and it is apparent to all who think seriously in this direction that the way out of the difficulty is either to end or amend the said Act. But in the meantime we are all aware of the fact that the wheels of the legislature turn very slowly, it therefore rests with the delegates to suggest a scheme that may be submitted for the joint consideration of both parties, and embody such in our next agreement. The adverse decisions that have been rendered from time to time by the independent chairman have produced a baneful effect upon the organization. The repeated failure to mete out justice tends to breed and foster a spirit of antagonism that is destructive of a sane and sensible attempt to adjust the most trivial of disputes. If the Western Coal Operators' Association are desirous of dealing with the United Mine Workers in preference to an unorganized horde of men, then surely the present method of settling disputes must militate against such a relationship. I would recommend that in view of the fact, the Independent Chairmen of the past have been chosen exclusively from the legal fraternity, having but little knowledge of the nature of our industry, which tends to handicap their good judgment, that an Independent Chairman be mutually agreed upon, one having passed the major portion of his life in and around the mines, and who is fully conversant with all matters pertaining to our industry. The said Chairman shall have no connection either directly or indirectly with any mining corporation in the district affected, or affiliation with any labor organization. He shall also act as such during the life of the agreement.

Minimum Wage Clause

The Minimum Wage Clause in the text of our present agreement needs clarifying. The recent dispute referred to me by the Bankhead Local Union has developed into a dispute of a technical nature as to the interpretation of the said clause. As you are doubtless aware certain rates were fixed upon a seam of coal designated as No. 0000 seam. The men employed in this seam failed to make wages. They applied for what is commonly known amongst mining men as "make-up," which was refused. The company claiming that the place is not abnormal and consequently does not come within the purview of the minimum wage clause. It is imperative that some common base should be reached whereon disputes of the character alluded to may be definitely determined, without so much legal fencing arising in their discussion. What standard shall be fixed in order to ascertain what constitutes a fair day's work for a fair day's pay? How shall it be interpreted? What is the interpretation of "abnormality"? These questions must be considered at this time. However, with a view to minimizing as far as humanly possible all disputes thereby decreasing expense, both to the operators and our organization, I would most earnestly suggest that as a guide for the settlement of disputes of a character similar to the one which has arisen at Bankhead, that we consider the advisability of an introduction in our agreement of a clause like the one hereunder given:

> "At all new mines 13.09 cents extra shall be paid untill the mines or any substantial part thereof takes weight, after which all extra shall cease on notification by the management." (See Agreement and Contract Districct No. 25, page 58.)

The Hillcrest Strike

This strike was occasioned by reason of the District Inspector of Mines, who was acting within his authority, forbidding the use of powder, which he considered to be a dangerous practice in a certain section of the Hillcrest Mine. As you are doubtless aware, the present agreement was entered into with the tacit understanding that powder was to be used in the winning of coal consistent with safety. To deprive the miner of one of the most proudctive of modern instruments of labor, without compensating him for the loss sustained, was one of the primary reasons which led up to what is commonly known as the "Hillcrest Strike." The miners affected by this change claimed that the rates in the agreement were abrogated, and duly notified the company that they were to be considered as working on the day wage scale until such time as new rates could be fixed, in accordance with the "New Work" clause of the agreement. However, the company persistently ignored their claim, and insisted that the miners affected should continue to work under the existing contract rates, powder or no powder. Every effort was made by the Local officers to avoid a strike, but it seemed inevitable. Your District Officers took the matter up and tried to establish the principle of a "differential" between "pick mining" and "powder mining." They felt with such a principle involved it justified every attempt to force the company to acknowledge the same, but finding after a strike of well nigh a month, the company still remaining obdurate and would not concede to the demands made by ourselves. After a lengthy deliberation by your Executive Board, they reluctantly, but unanimously, came to the conclusion in view of the fact that large compensation claims were pending against the company as a result of the disaster, emphasized by the industrial depression existing throughout the District, with the serious contingency alleged to be confronting the company that liquidation was imminent, and our humane desire to prevent the dependents from suffering loss of compensation, we deemed it expedient to advise the membership of Hillcrest Local to ballot on the question of returning to work.

Hillcrest Relief Fund

We still hold in our treasury several thousand dollars which were collected through the medium of the District Ledger and by circularizing the various Locals appeals were made for funds for the purpose of extending aid to the unfortunate dependents of the Hillcrest Disaster. A general relief fund was also formed and it was our intention of pooling all monies received by and through our organization to swell the General Fund. The Commission appointed to administer the said fund did not have a representative of our District amongst the number. Repeated attempts were made to be represented, for we felt that our knowledge of the district, and the needs of the miner and his family would be indispensable to the just administrating of such a fund. However, we found that one of the first acts of this Commission was to confine the benefits of the relief fund to those who were residents in the Province of Alberta. This action on the part of the Commission practically compelled us, in the interests of those living beyond the confines of the Province of Alberta, to retain the money collected by ourselves until such time that the Commission saw fit to remove this injustice meted out to those sufferers who were unfortunately living outside of Alberta. A disbursement has been made to these dependents, details of which amount, I have no doubt, will be presented in Secretary Carter's supplementary report. It is now common knowledge that the Commission is taking a more equitable view of the matter and has removed the geographical limitations which were so repellent to our sense of justice. I would, therefore, recommend to the Convention the advisability of handing this money over to the General Relief Fund, provided that the said Commission undertake to furnish us with statements from time to time as to the disposal of the fund in their care.

Organizing of the Northern Fields

The unorganized camp is inimical to our interests from two standpoints: Firstly its influence upon the standard of living; secondly, it furnishes an excuse for the operators, who are dealing with organized labor, to call attention to the unfair competition they must contend against, and this in turn affords them what they regard as a justifiable explanation for a curtailment of rates paid to the unionized workers. This Convention must seriously consider the extension of our organization so as to embrace the whole of the coal producing areas of Alberta. I would recommend to this Convention that a scheme be formulated to effect the organizing of the same as speedily as possible.

The Importation of Coal

This question is also of vital importance to our membership. Pressure should be brought to bear on the Federal Government that the "Made in Canada" slogan apply to coal, for in view of the fact that the unemployed question is giving us so much concern, this would tend to alleviate the prevailing distress in this district.

The District Ledger

The policy of the District Ledger relative to the most engrossing question of the day, viz., "The European War," is anti-militaristic. It will be a matter for this Convention to disapprove or endorse that attitude or policy. It has been found necessary also, to introduce changes in the general working of the business. As time goes on we learn of better methods to attain efficiency, hence a better system of book-keeping has been introduced, which I believe will be beneficial in handling of the office routine. At the commencement of the new fiscal year, Mr. Newnham, our Managing-Editor, expressed a desire to resume his former position as operator of the linotype machine, which necessitated the engaging of an editor to fill his place. The choice of an editor to fill the vacancy fell upon Mr. J. W. Bennett, whose qualifications to fill the post are well known to you all. He is also called upon to act in the dual capacity of book-keeper and editor. It is understood, however, that it will be the duty of this Convention to disapprove or endorse the action of your resident Officers in this matter. Owing to the additional expense incurred in sending the Ledger outside of the Dominion, I would recommend that the Ledger subscription be increased to $1.50 to points outside of the Dominion.

Legislation and Education

The various questions coming up from time to time, having special reference to the coal industry should be carefully studied by our membership. More especially ought we to be conversant with the legislation enacted in the two parliaments of British Columbia and Alberta. I would, therefore, most strongly advocate that each Local Secretary should procure from the proper authorities, copies of all acts dealing with mines and discuss them in the Locals at every suitable opportunity. These acts cost but little to obtain, and are of vital interest to us as mineworkers.

I would also urge upon all mineworkers to take advantage of the educational facilities that are being offered by the Province of British Columbia and Alberta, more especially the advantages to be gained by those who desire a better working knowledge of English.

Negotiating of New Agreement

It is needless reminding the delegates assembled in this convention of the seriousness appertaining to the question of negotiating of new agreements. It calls for the performance of our best thought and cool judgment at all times. We cannot be unmindful of the conditions now prevailing, the existing industrial depression is one of great concern to the most thoughtful of our membership. Our organization has shared the period of prosperity that passed over this western country. The coal industry, with all other industries, is now compelled to suffer from the effects of a chaotic and erratic exploitation. We have arrived at a point where our productive forces are disproportionate to the market demand. Hence we are passing through an economic phase of our history which will subject our organization to an acid test. Nevertheless, our organization must not forego the privileges that have been hardly won, or the customs and conditions which have been obtained through the bitter struggles of the past. Our function as an organization, is to press forward, secure still better conditions under which we labor and enjoy a greater share of the wealth we produce.

We are face to face with the greatest struggle in our history as a labor organization, and I sincerely hope that the delegates assembled at this Convention will grapple with the many serious problems confronting them in a manner conducive to the best interests of those whom they represent.

Fraternally yours,

W. L. PHILLIPS, President.

Vice-President's Report

To the Delegates assembled in Twelfth Annual Convention, District 18, United Mine Workers of America

Greeting:—

I submit herewith my second annual report to your Convention and trust that the delegates and membership will appreciate the efforts of my colleagues and self in our endeavor to secure better conditions and amicably settle the many matters of dispute that must confront the officers and membership under our present social and industrial system.

It is, however, practically impossible to begin a review of my work without commenting upon the several calamities that have been inflicted upon this district and the whole civilized world during the past year. We view with an intense horror the appalling slaughter at present rampant in Europe; the very thought of what is taking place today over practically the whole of the Continent sickens one if they will stop and try to realize the awfulness of modern war. And yet, strange and inconsistent as it may seem on this American Continent we have people (both sides of the line) gloating over the prospects of securing large orders for shrapnel and war munitions. These orders, we are informed are to secure for us our modicum of prosperity—a prosperity whose elusiveness out-rivals the rainbow. One is tempted to ask what will be our share after the war, when having killed all that is necessary to subject the othere nation, we shall find the ranks of unemployed augmented with the jobless soldiery?

In spite of the peacefulness of this continent, every day the membership and officers are receiving some additional evidence of the disastrousness of the conflict. First in the distress prevalent in every camp; then in watching the departure of many old friends who have been called to rejoin the ranks or, as is frequently the case, through a patriotic fervor begot of an empty stomach they have volunteered for service rather than starve, while not infrequently it is the arrest of some foreign-speaking brother who, justly or unjustly, has incurred the wrath of the military authorities and is incarcerated in one of the detention camps until such time as peace shall be declared. All this, unfortunately, is not without its effect upon those non-British members of our union who are unfortunate enough to be considered as "alien enemies" by the government. Personally I think we should use every endeavor to try and make matters as comfortable as possible of all who, through no fault of their own, come within this category. The present conflict can find but little sympathy among the educated workers, although I am forced to admit that "Nationalism" would seem to find more favor than "Internationalism" among the workers of Europe. It is, however, not my intention to comment at any chairman (from a practical viewpoint), and the very unsatisfactory decisions handed down, one can not help but sympathize with the membership. For these reasons I am inclined to regard our agreement with the Nordegg Coal Co. as being an improvement upon the 1911 Agreement. In the latter camp I took up some four or five disputes between the Local and the Coal Co. and succeeded in making a settlement in every case that was agreeable to both parties. From my experience in other parts of the District I have no hesitation in stating that if the District Officials and the Company in question had not been the last tribunal for the settlement of disputes, these matters would not have been settled, but would have dragged on until the case had gone to some independent chairman who would have rendered a decision in line with what we have been experiencing for the past three years. For my part I think the Convention might give this matter serious consideration.

New Work Agreement, Beaver Mines

On the request of Beaver Creek Local and Beaver Mines Coal Co. that the District President and Commissioner McNeill try to make a contract for cergreat length on the present reversion to barbarism, and will content myself with voicing my own personal feelings, viz., that war is unnecessary, brutal and reactionary, engendering passion and hatreds that it will take years to eradicate.

Reverting to our own industry and the more local calamities, the past year has taken a heavy toll of our membership. The Hillcrest Disaster, which occurred during the interim of President Smith's resignation and W. L. Phillip's election, found me acting as president, and for that reason I feel compelled to make certain explanations, which will be found under the heading of "Hillcrest Disaster."

As no doubt our President will report, additional territory has been added to our District—viz., Nordegg Mines in the Brazeau Country, with whom an agreement has been signed. With regards to the Yellowhead and Pocahontas camps it was not thought advisable to start organizing there owing to the present depression. This, with the question of unemployment will, no doubt, be thoroughly dealt with by the President in his report. I may mention, however, that the inclusion of the Brazeau field has meant considerable expense and work for the officials.

My work during the past twelve months has been very varied in character, and I have made it my duty to visit and address as many Local Unions as possible, and with the exception of Frank and Blairmore, can claim to have visited every one once, while some of the Locals have been called on twice or three times.

Immediately after the Convention last year I visited Passburg Local (at the request of Sec. T. Harries) and explained the position of the District with regard to relieving the distress prevalent in that camp owing to the mines having closed down.

About the same time I took up the disputes pending between Bellevue Local and the Western Canada Coal Co., Ltd. In addition to this dispute, I have also taken up disputes with Hillcrest Coal Co., Maple Leaf Coal Co., Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., and Nordegg Coal Co., with varying results.

Our present method of settling disputes does not find much favor with the membership, and when we consider the delay, the ignorance of the independent tain new work started at these mines (slopes), said agreement to receive the usual ratification, I deemed it advisable to journey to Beaver and assist the men in drawing up said agreement. After attending a meeting of this Local and explaining matters to them, a committee was formed and a meeting with the management arranged. The following agreement was the result of our negotiations:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CANADIAN COAL & COKE CO. AND CERTAIN MINERS

To sink a slope at the Western Colliery, Beaver Creek, Alberta.

Size of Slope.—14 ft. wide by 8 ft. high.

Price for Coal.—$1.00 per foot in thickness per lineal yard.

Price for Rock Brushing (top)—$2.40 per foot in thickness per lineal yard.

Price for Rock Brushing (bottom)—$3.60 per foot in thickness per lineal yard.

Yardage.—$6 per lineal yard in addition to price paid for coal and brushing.

Timber—$3 per set of three pieces, five braces, lagged all around, if required.

Track.—Temporary track to be laid by the miners. ....

Other Conditions.—Should faults be encountered during the sinking, the miners will be paid company work until conditions again become normal.

Man-holes.—6 feet high, 4 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep, $3 each; $1 per set for timber required in man-holes.

Signed on behalf of the Canadian Coal and Coke Co.

.....

Signed on behalf of the Union

.....

The contract received the sanction of President Smith, but Commissioner McNeil absolutely refused to sign the contract on behalf of the coal operators.

Nordegg Mines, Brazeau

The Nordegg Mines, Brazeau, having been organized by Secretary Carter and Inter. Board Member Rees, the Local next decided to negotiate an agreement. The District officials were duly notified of the Local's intention and a meeting with the Coal Company officials arranged to take place at Nordegg. International Board Member Rees, Secretary-Treasurer Carter and myself represented the District, the Local appointed a scale committee from among its members, while Messrs. Nordegg, Grier, and Shanks represented the coal company. After several meetings with the company and men we failed to effect an agreement, and negotiations were broken off and the men quit work. After several weeks of idleness, the men again sent to the District Office and asked that some of the officers be sent right away. As this occurred during the month of June, when acting as president (through the resignation of J. E. Smith) and at the time of the Hillcrest Disaster, I was unable to get away, it was agreed that International Board Member Rees should go and see what could be done. Bro. Rees succeeded, after considerable difficulty, in securing an agreement, which was published in the Ledger, and which, no doubt, Bro. Rees will mention in his report.

Corbin

Upon receipt of a request from the secretary of the above Local that one of the officers visit that camp and help them make an agreement for new work that was being operated there, President Phillips instructed me to proceed to that camp. Arriving at Corbin, I saw Secretary G. Elms, who informed me that the company had deemed it advisable to start rooms of a dimension different to that provided for in the Agreement, and consequently not covered by the contract price. I found out, however, that there were men working in these places on contract at a price offered by the coal company, which price was undoubtedly the very lowest that the men would have received had the matter gone to arbitration. I attended the Local meeting the following day and found that the previous meeting had agreed to accept the price offered by the coal company, but had asked the committee to see if they could get a better price on timbers exceeding 16 inches at the butt, which I understand was granted. When addressing the Local meeting I expressed strong disapproval of the manner in which the contract had been made, pointing out that the men by accepting the company's offer and working on a contract before a proper agreement had been secured, had given the coal company prima facie evidence that some of the men could make good money at the price they had accepted. We had this fact brought home very forcibly when the Pit Committee met the management, the latter informing them that some of the men were making $6.00 a shift under the present price, therefore they could not consider any increase on these figures.

I pointed out to the men that owing to their action of accepting contract prices in this manner it was placing the District Officials in a very awkward position and that it was more than likely that they would have to sign a contract for the prices accepted by them. It was their lack of judgment and common sense that had got them into this difficulty and there would be very little hope, if they tried to carry the matter further, of getting a better price.

I understand that the contract has been accepted. While it is hard to assign any reason for the men's action, from what I could gather at the meeting would appear that some of the men working contract had earned a little more than $3.50 per day, and being afraid that the company would pay them at the rate of "company work" from the start, they had been influenced in their decision and accepted the contract price offered by the company. There is not the slightest doubt that such methods of accepting contract work are directly opposed to the sense of our agreement and detrimental to the best interests of the membership, therefore I would suggest that this Convention make such offenses expulsionable. Notices printed to that effect in various languages and posted in conspicuous places might act as a deterrent.

The Hillcrest Disaster

With the details of the above disaster most of our membership are already acquainted, therefore I do not care to harrow their feelings with a description of same. The accident occurred at a period when I was acting as President, and having regard to its extent and the necessity for [illegible] sible advice, it was deemed advisable to secure the finest expert evidence available to demonstrate the miners' case, and if possible, apportion the blame. As the membership will readily recognize this was necessary from a legal standpoint in the event of any action at common law being brought by the dependents.

[illegible] toward this end we agitated strongly and secured same. It is unfortunate, however, that such a lamentable lack of wisdom was displayed in selecting Judge Carpenter as Commissioner. While the judge may be an able jurist, as a commissioner upon a mine disaster enquiry he was without the slightest scientific or practical knowledge. There is no question but what a more suitable Commissioner could have been secured, at least one whose knowledge of mining would have been such that the smallest and most insignificant detail of our industry need not have been explained to him. As was to be expected in appointing a jurist and not an expert, Judge Carpenter was more concerned in judging the evidence of the experts than in finding the cause of the explosion and fixing the guilt. Undoubtedly the Commissioner's report will be regarded by legal luminaries as a gem of judicial wrangling, but so far as any benefits to the mining industry are concerned, the practical man must regard

(Continued on Page Three)

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Vice-Presidents Report

(Continued on Page Two)

it as a useless piece of extravagance, while some have been unkind enough to regard it as a joke. The coal company received a good coat of whitewash and the very practical and scientific deductions of our expert, Mr. Norman Fraser, were either controverted by the Commissioner's legal sophistry or judged of little or no consequence. Our expert proved, beyond a shadow of doubt, that the ventilation was wrong, but in spite of this the Commissioner could not find the coal company guilty of negligence. The "Colliery Engineer" recently published an editorial comment upon the Commissioner's report, and while the editor's comments may be a little caustic, they nevertheless express the opinion of the majority of mining men in this country.

The question of the Hillcrest Relief Fund and compensating of dependents will, no doubt, be dealt with by the Secretary-Treasurer in his report.

The Drumheller Field

Having to visit Nordegg to take up dispute there, it was thought advisable by the Executive Board that I try to organize the Drumheller field on my way back. Arriving there on August 21st, I found all mines working full time, and immediately made myself acquainted with the men by visiting all the mines and asking the men to attend a meeting on Sunday, 23rd, for the purpose of organizing a Local Union. About 100 men turned up to the meeting.

There would be about 400 men working at the several mines in August, with the possibility of double that number being employed during the winter. After addressing the meeting the men decided to organize and a president and secretary, with a committee of two from each mine, was appointed to assist me in getting the men to sign the checkoff. It was arranged to hold a meeting on the following Thursday to receive reports of progress. I regret to say, however, although we got about one hundred men to sign the check-off, only about twenty men turned up for the meeting Thursday inght. As President Phillips was in Calgary, I thought it advisable to postpone the meeting until Sunday afternoon, when he might be present and assist me. I advertised the meeting accordingly and made every effort possible to secure a gathering, but the result was not very satisfactory, only some fifty men turning up. Realizing that there was not enough interest to guarantee us organizing and negotiating an agreement for the different mines, we advised those interested and the officers appointed to try and get a larger percentage of the men to join. This they promised to do. We also told them that as soon as they thought they were strong enough to negotiate an agreement we should be only too pleased to assist them.

Having received no word from the Secretary or President as to how they were progressing with their organizing efforts, it was deemed advisable when some of the officials were in Calgary attending the Alberta Federation of Labor Convention, to send International Board Member Rees into Drumheller to find out what had been done with regard to organizing. Bro. Rees, no doubt, will deal with his efforts to organize this camp in his own report. However, President Phillips sent me into the camp to assist the International Board Member in his efforts to organize. Bro. Rees met me and we decided again to try and hold a mass meeting on the following Sunday, and with this object in view again started to canvass the mines. We tried by every possible means to organize the camp and had three meetings of the men with that end in view, but failed to get a sufficient number interested to guarantee the District trying to secure an agreement. After reviewing the situation from every angle we told the men that unless they took a greater interest in trying to organize themselves, it was useless for us to try and negotiate an agreement. They appointed a new President and Secretary, and were promised assistance from a number of men. Recently, however, the secretary appointed has written the District to the effect that owing to the lack of interest shown and the poor attendance at meetings, they have decided for the present, at least, to let the matter drop.

While no blame can be attached to the officials, who did everything possible to organize the men, it is regrettable that this camp was not organized, for rarely, in my opinion, have conditions been so favorable for securing advantageous agreements than at Drumheller, which point was repeatedly impressed upon the men. It would almost seem that some of the men working in this camp have come to regard a job as the most honored and sacred possession possible; their ambition would seem to consist in working for enough to eat; scared almost to speak to an organizer, their terrors becoming intensified at the mere mention of the word "organization."

DOMINION TRADES & LABOR CONVENTION

I attended the above convention at St. John, N.B., and my report is appended below:

The Congress was opened by J. G. Montague, President of the Trades and Labor Union of St. John, who extended the usual welcome to the delegates to St. John. He then introduced the Mayor of St. John to the delegates, who extended a hearty welcome to those assembled, throwing the town open to them, and saying that he was sure they were intelligent enough not to abuse the privilege.

President Watters then took the chair and gave a short address, asking the delegates to endeavor to do the business which might come before the Congress intelligently and to try to avoid repeating themselves on any one question, and above all, to avoid personalities. He then read out the names of the delegates appointed to act on the different committees. The Congress then adjourned until 9.30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Tuesday's Session

The principal business on Tuesday, to my mind, was the report of the Executive Committee of the Congress, which among other things condemned the war as unnecessary, although they recognized the principle for which the Allies are fighting. The following is a resume of what they had to say on the matter: Of late years it seems to have been a race between the advocates of peace and common sense methods in settling international controversies, and the advocates of war, with their lust for power and greed for profit, in constantly preparing for it. The war lords of despotism broke the tape a little ahead in the race, and plunged the world into a fearful war. The worst, according to indications, of any struggle known in history. When the history of this appalling conflict comes to be written one feature of the gathering storm before the terrible crash, which will shine as long as the world lasts, was the common opposition to this war from the working classes of different countries. The labor movement all over the world, almost alone, was the one stout advocate of common sense and peaceful methods of settling these disputes. There cannot be any doubt that this force, a product of the unity of interests of the workers the world over, will gather an impetus from the lessons of this struggle, which will make it for the first time in history the dominating force in the world. Institutions which have been on trial for years utterly failed to stem the return to barbaric methods of settling disputes. The present position of the working class industrially, and the awful struggle proceeding in Europe, which is felt in every corner of the world, is a standing indictment of the mismanagement of the great nations by the ruling classes, whose ideas of government are incapable of dealing with the problems of modern society. It is fair to assume that just as the workers in Canada review with horror this tragedy, so do the workers in other countries involved. No doubt amid the bloody destruction of the flower of manhood on the field of battle, in the deluge of blood, amid the crashing and rending of steel and iron, and the earthquakes which demolish the patient work of centuries of glorious architecture, amid the tears of orphans and wails of the widows, that hundreds of thousands of soldiers, and as many wage-earners, toiling or starving to pay the price, will remember the resolutions they voted for in convention assemblies and unions of workmen; that insomuch as the capitalists of the world cause all war, that they be allowed to do all the fighting. And will not this have a tremendous effect when the time comes to settle things after the war? Amid this horror, your executive council recommend that the Convention reaffirm its utter abhorrence of war as a means of settling disputes. That we recognize the working class in one country alone cannot stop the war, and to prevent these struggles it is necessary for the working class among the great nations of the world to come to an understanding. That we declare, at any moment the working class in the other countries involved make a move to end this struggle, that we in Canada will co-operate in that move to end this terrible conflict as speedily as possible. We also feel that in this unfortunate struggle is involved a principle which should have undivided support. The German people have labored for years under a despotism which should have no place in the 20th century civilization. Great Britain and France are fighting together, as they must always stand together, for the forces of democracy against autocracy. The workers are not for a moment willing to change their present institutions for German despotism, and desire that the German people should have the way made clear towards their freedom. This is evidently not a war of Great Britain's choosing, and with the inevitable struggle now on, we express the hope that the despotism in Europe will be buried to its final destruction to make way for constitutional freedom in all the countries in Europe [illegible] to secure their own actual freedom. While ready to move in co-operation with the workers the world over to end the struggle, yet, at all times our great care should be the workers and their dependents at home in this Dominion.

Wednesday—Morning Session

Wednesday's session opened with a strong plea for the organization of women, which was made by Miss L. O'Reilly, of the Women's Trade Union League of New York. Miss O'Reilly gave a striking description of the work which is being done in organizing women workers in the United States. She proved herself to be a fluent speaker and made a deep impression on the members of the Congress. She pointed out the possibilities of unorganized women crowding men out of employment by reason of the lower rate of wages they would accept, and intimated that the cure of this menace lay in the organization of female workers.

W. R. Trotter (Vancouver) read a report on his organization work. He had endeavored to secure the affiliation of the Maintenance of Way Employees Association, which had been accomplished. This was an important year for the Congress. On behalf of this organization Mr. Trotter introduced a resolution calling upon the executive to endeavor to secure for the Railway Commission authority to regulate the length of sections and the number of men who should be employed to keep the road bed in condition. The matter was referred to the committee on resolutions.

Secretary Draper submitted his report on finance to September 15th, 1914. The following is a brief recapitulation of financial condition of the Congress:

B. C. contributed $183.63 for per capita tax. Alberta, $162.80. Saskatchewan, $120.85. Manitoba, 561.75 Ontario, $1,572.86. Quebec, $514.55. New Brunswick, $95.32. Nova Scotia, $55.63. International unions headquarters, $10,349.35.

The balance on hand Sept. 15, 1913, was $9,396.05. Receipts from per capita tax, charters and supplies, $13,616.80.

The A. F. of L. grant for legislative purposes was $500, while the interest on bank deposits for year was $200.29, making a total of receipts from all sources, $27,713.14.

The total expenditure was $12,762.12, leaving a balance in the bank on Sept. 15th, 1914, of $10,951.04.

I would like to point out at this stage that our own international union is paying the second highest per capita tax to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the amount paid for last year by International for District 18 being $1,064.17. You will also note that the Alberta Federation of Labor paid $162.80 per capita last year. The greatest portion of this was also paid by the miners of District 18, thus the mineworkers will readily recognize the extent of their contribution to the finances of the Congress.

President Watters submitted to the Trades and Labor Congress his Parliamentary Report, of which I believe the most important, so far as the mineworkers are concerned, is the Lemieux Act. The following resolution was submitted for the consideration of the Convention by the Telegraphers' Union, Manitoba:

"Whereas, the Lemieux Act governing workers in public utilities is a capitalists' weapon to prevent class action on the part of the workers (demonstrated in the proposed general strike of Canadian workers in an effort to relieve their fellow workers in Vancouver Island imprisoned for their activities in the miners' strike).,

"And, whereas, the capitalists use this law to their advantage by refusing to appoint an arbitrator, and place this privilege upon the government instead, which invariably appoints a member of the capitalist class, making a majority of the board favorable to the masters.

"Resolved, that we members of Manitoba District C. P. R. System Division No. 1, Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, instruct our delegate to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to work for the repeal of the Lemieux Act."

This resolution was left over to hear President Watters' report, which was as follows:

Industrial Disputes Investigation Act

Because of the shortness of the session the time required to grant franchise, vote money and otherwise give aid to the privileged classes to further exploit labor, and to the illness of the Minister of Labor, the House had no time to devote to a consideration of the plea of the exploited for amendments to the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act. Draft amendments to the act were submitted to the government at the interview which took place in January. These amendments provide for men who have been discharged or are on strike, still being employees, within the meaning of the act, making the decision of the Minister of Labor final in appointing a board, giving authority to the minister to appoint a board, notwithstanding the absence of compliance with any of the provisions of the act, removing the penalty attached to giving and receiving benefits by and from a trade union, and preventing any court or judge from in any way interefering in the administration of the act. At subsequent interviews with the Minister of Labor these amendments were pressed for. Being advised that the Minister of Labor proposed to amend the act in some vital particulars, close watch was kept to see that nothing of an injurious nature was introduced. The minister repeatedly gave assurance that your representative, together with the representatives of the Railway Brotherhood, would be consulted before anything was done. With regard to several suggested amendments, such as the extension of the act to include all classes of labor and the prevention of workmen under penalty of refusing to work with a non-union man, your representative registered a vigorous protest. The latter provision was offered as the complement of the employer being prohibited from discriminating or discharging an employee because he was a member of a union. On the other hand suggestions were made to the minister that the Act could be amended, with advantage to all concerned, by providing for the appointment of a board on the application of either party to a dispute, in any or all industries not now affected by the act, without in any way interfering with the right to strike or to declare a lock-out, and that such application could be made by either party before or after a strike had been called or a lock-out declared. The Act as it now stands requires the consent of both parties to the dispute; if amended as proposed to the minister, either party would have the right to obtain the appointment of a board.

Two days before the session closed, while the estimates were before the House, in reply to a question by Mr. Carroll as to whether the Minister had under consideration during the session, amendments to the act, the minister said:

"I gave a great deal of consideration to some proposed amendments to this act, but we had not time to bring them down this session. It is my intention during recess to issue some kind of a circular—I will not send out the whole bill—calling the attention of labor unions and employers of labor to suggested amendments, in a general way, and asking what suggestions appear to them desirable.'"

The Convention decided to wait for the suggested amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act to be submitted to the labor organizations for their approval or disapproval before moving any further in the matter.

Hon. Mr. Crothers, Minister of Labor, addressed the Convention on the 24th, giving the same old political stump speech.

Regarding unemployment, the speaker said it was a difficult problem; the greatest hardship was the want of money, and the impossibility of borrowing it. It had been said that the government could make money, but it is well known when this had been done, its value depreciated. It might, however, become necessary for the government to make an issue, but it would be a dangerous thing to do. Those out of employment must be taken care of, and the conscientious worker wanted no charity. The government intended to do its utmost to solve the problem and better conditions generally.

The Minister of Labor came in for a great deal of criticism from delegates Moore and Farrington. The latter, who had charge of the Vancouver Island strike, charged the Minister of Labor with being mainly responsible for the conditions now prevailing on Vancouver Island, owing to Crothers not having used the machine provided by the government to the best interests of the miners of Vancouver Island. He also accused him of making a statement that he (Farrington) the "foreign agitator" was responsible for the strike, and not the miners of Vancouver Island. And that he took this attitude for the benefit of the Washington operators so that they would get the coal trade as a result of the strike on Vancouver Island. Mr. Farrington emphatically declared that this assertion by the Minister of Labor was false, and that it was by repeated request of the Vancouver Island men for the assistance of the United Mine Workers owing to the very deplorable conditions that existed there, that they decided to go in there and to try and better the condition of the mineworkers there. Further, that he was insructed to go there by the President of the United Mine Workers of America, J. P. White, and that they had been on strike for a considerable time there before it was endorsed by the United Mine Workers.

The Hon. Crothers replied to Mr. Farrington, but his explanation was very unsatisfactory, and after a vigorous discussion a resolution was adopted condemning the Minister of Labor on the ground that his department had failed in its duty in connection with this strike of the miners on Vancouver Island.

At the Friday's session I took the opportunity to ask the privilege of putting before the Convention a resolution from District 18. I would like to point out here that according to the rules of the Trades and Labor Congress, all resolutions should be in ten days before the Convention sits, and that resolutions put in after that can only be accepted by a two-thirds vote of the Convention. The privilege was accorded, and the vote taken and carried. The resolution was as follows:

"Owing to the awful disaster at Hillcrest, June 19th, 1914, in which hundreds of orphans and widows were left without bread winners, and were left entirely dependent upon the public for support, therefore, be it resolved that the Trades and Labor Congress in convention assembled vote a sum of money towards the aid of these widows and orphans."

The convention decided to hand the resolution over to the Ways and Means Committee for consideration. The committee decided, after getting my explanation of the conditions prevailing through distress, to recommend the convention to donate the sum of $500 to the Hillcrest Relief Fund, same to be forwarded to A. J. Carter, Secretary-Treasurer of District 18, U. M. W. of A. I am pleased to say this resolution was carried unanimously by the convention.

There were over 60 resolutions submitted to the convention for consideration of them were requests for legislation to benefit the working class, and at times there was considerable discussion by the delegates upon the merits of such suggested measures.

I had the honor to be on the Committee of Immigration, but only found it necessary to occupy a few minutes of the convention's time in expressing my views. I feel, however, that I expressed the views of the majority when I represented, both on this matter and on the other matters that came before the convention.

In my remarks to the convention I contended that if all the energy of the working class was put forward in an effort to unionize and educate themselves to realize their position in society, they would then be in a position in every country to make conditions such that emigration would not be desired, and further that they would not be in the position of appealing to the government for restrictions to control immigration. I pointed out to the convention that while the men I was representing were miners, we were responsible for the first compensation act and eight hour act introduced in the Dominion. Further that the mine workers were instrumental in electing the first labor representative to the legislative assemblies of the Dominion, who include such men as Hawthornwaite, Parker Williams and C. M. O'Brien. I expressed the opinion that if the delegates assembled, representing as they did thousands of labor men in the Dominion, would become as progressive as the mineworkers there would be no need to ask the representatives in the houses of parliament for legislation to benefit the condition of the working class as they would have their own members in the legislative halls ready to safeguard the interests of their class. There would be an end to begging and appealing—we should have our own men who would be thoroughly conversant with our needs.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. GRAHAM.

Alberta Federation of Labor Convention

I also attended the above Convention at Calgary, where considerable business was transacted, no small portion of which had a direct bearing upon our industry. Certain resolutions and amendments to legislation affecting the worker were suggested, and it was decided that a deputation wait upon Premier Sifton and endeavor to get his approval and support for same. As it fell to my lot to be one of the deputation, I was naturally more interested in the matter affecting the mine worker, and must admit that the suggested amendment to the Compensation Act, payment of all rescue workers and the compensating of same, appealed to me particularly. The Premier stated he was in favor of an act along the lines proposed and that the Attorney-General was already working on a new act which would be based upon the Ontario and Washington Compensation Law. He further assured us that when complete the Act would be submitted to the various labor organizations before being passed by the Government.

The question of unemployment was also seriously discussed and the Premier expressed his sympathies in this connection, but explained that owing to the depression for which the war was mainly responsible, a large portion of the Government's revenue from natural resources had been cut off, with the result they had not been in the position to do what they would like in relieving distress. The Government would assist the municipalities financially by all the means at their command, and would endeavor to arrange all public buildings and improvements to be proceeded with as soon as possible. You are, no doubt, acquainted with the result of the recent meeting in Calgary of civic authorities and the Alberta Federation of Labor, the result of which has been that certain sums have been apportioned to Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, which money will be distributed in the above mentioned towns during the next three months, while from recent reports it would appear that Pincher, Taber, Coleman and other towns in Alberta have succeeded in attracting the Government's attention and securing relief.

While I feel this report to be lacking in many details, must excuse myself for same by the statement that I have endeavored to avoid dealing with matters that might be covered by the other officers. I realize that our deliberations are likely to have a far-reaching effect owing to the expiration of our present agreement, but I have sufficient confidence in the good common sense of our membership to know that every condition will be considered in formulating our demands.

Although we have had a change in our executive head during the past year I feel that it is part of my duty to complement the Board upon the unanimity that has existed at all our gatherings and the good feeling that exists between the officers, which so far as I am personally concerned, has been most cordial.

Yours fraternally,

W. GRAHAM, Vice-President.

Report of Secretary-Treasurer

To the Delegates of the Twelfth Annual Convention, District 18, U. M. W. of A.

Greeting,—

In submitting to you my annual report, I beg to draw your attention to the fact that we have passed through the most critical year in the history of the United Mine Workers in this District. The general depression, the instability of employment, together with other unforeseen matters, have been the means of somewhat retarding the progress of the work of our organization, but notwithstanding the many adverse conditions we can congratulate ourselves that our District, from a trades union standpoint, compares very favorably with that of the majority of the districts within the United Mine Workers' organization.

Our membership is less than it was twelve months ago. On the 30th November, 1913, there were 5608 members; on the 30th November, 1914, there were 4976 members. This is not a matter for surprise, especially when it is taken into consideration that Hosmer Mine, with a local of 500 members, has been abandoned, also the same can be said of Burmis, where there were over 100 members. In considering this it must also be observed that the mines in previous years were developing and extending their operations, whereas in this period, through lack of trade, they have been compelled to curtail their operations, with the result that there has been a surplus of labor which has been unprecedented in this western country. I would state that your District Officials were successful in establishing a Local in the newly opened territory known as the Brazeau Country. In connection with this, I would briefly mention that when International Board Member Rees and myself visited Nordegg, at the request of the men working there, we were confronted with a certain amount of opposition from ex-members of District 18, who for some reasons were antagonistic towards the District. However, after going into the matter thoroughly, the men readily solicited organizing and becoming attached to District 18, an agreement on behalf of the Local was entered into with the Brazeau Collieries Ltd. This company has since that time joined the Western Coal Operators' Association, consequently the next agreement will be negotiated through that association.

The Hillcrest Explosion

The Hillcrest Explosion has been a matter of much concern to your District Official. I do not intend to refer to this from any sentimental point, but rather to circumstances of fact, briefly stating, however, that beyond the extensive calamitous results which can only be appreciated by those who were closely affected through this catastrophe, it becomes the duty of every member of our organization to do all they can to assist those who are left to mourn the death of those unfortunate victims.

Immediately on the receipt of the news of the accident, your officers used every endeavor to protect the interests of the ones affected. An appeal was made to the Alberta Government to appoint a Commission to make a thorough investigation into the cause of the explosion. Much disappointment was felt when it was learnt that the Government had seen proper to appoint a judge to carry out the work of the Commission, as your officers had urged the Government when appointing such Commission, to place the investigation in the hands of practical men—men who were known in the mining industry for their ability to cope with such an investigation. Arrangements were made with Mr. Norman Fraser, mining engineer, to look after our interests, also Mr. J. R. Palmer, solicitor.

The Commission was in session for a number of days, during the course of which it appeared to be the aim of the company's representative to prove that the company had not been neglectful in any way, rather than try and elucidate the origin and causes of the explosion. These explosions are becoming all too frequent in our midst, it is, therefore, our duty to advocate safety measures at all times, and to do all that we possibly can to minimize the possibility of such disasters.

The question of relief to those concerned in this matter has been one which has received the earnest attention of your Executive Board. It would be quite proper here to state that your officers have diligently kept in touch with this most important feature in connection with this unfortunate affair. A public subscription list was opened throughout the Pass and eventually a relief committee was appointed by the Government. Notwithstanding our persistent request to the Alberta Government that the miners should have a representative on the Board of Commission appointed by them to administer the relief, we have been denied that privilege.

The matter of distributing rests entirely in the hands of this committee appointed by the Government, whilst the work of this Commission up to this time may be beyond any reasonable criticism, I still contend that the Government acted in a most arrogant manner by not including on the Commission a direct representative of those who are the most effected, namely the sufferers.

The District have on hand the sum of $4,471.41 being the amount which was received by the District (see Auditor's Report) for this fund, your Executive Board decided to turn this over to the General Fund, but in view of the proximity of the Convention it was considered advisable to leave the matter over that you may adopt measures for their guidance, and I would recommend that the money be retained by the District for the benefit of those who cannot now

(Continued on Page Four)

MIRACULOUS CURE OF ASTHMA

Suffered Terribly for 15 Years Until He Tried "Fruit-a-tives"

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Dec. 22nd. 1913.

"Having been a great sufferer from Asthma for a period of fifteen years (sometimes having to sit up at night for weeks at a time) I began the use of "Fruit-a-tives". These wonderful tablets relieved me of Indigestion, and through the continued use of same, I am no longer distressed with that terrible disease, Asthma, thanks to "Fruit-a-tives" which are worth their weight in gold to anyone suffering as I did. I would heartily recommend them to all sufferers from Asthma, which I believe is caused or aggravated by Indigestion". D. A. WHITE

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CAPITALIST PEACE AND WAR ENGAGED IN A SPIRITED CONTROVERSY

Two Views of Victory

Capitalist Peace and Capitalist War Engage in a Spirited Controversy as to Their Accomplishments.

War stood upon a mountain top and watched his latest achievement with satisfaction. Bombs were falling from the skies upon a crowded city and the siege guns had battered down a hospital at ten miles.

Peace approached and looked on with an air of supreme boredom.

"How consummate is my cuning!" exulted War. "By aid of civilization I am able to kill tens of thousands where before I could kill only hundreds. At the sound of the trumpet and to the music of meaningless songs they go forth and slay one another for my sport."

Peace sneered.

"And you call yourself cruel?" she said scornfully. "The death you deal your victims is swift and they die happy in their illusion. Bah! You are a bungler when you try to inflict suffering upon humans. It is I who kill most cruelly and make the death most prolonged."

"Listen to the wailing of the wounded and the shrieks of the dying," challenged War.

"Listen to the pain-laden of the sweatshops that are mine," retorted Peace. "Listen to the deadening agony of heart, mind and soul that I can stir, the death-in-life that dully drags itself along to the end without hope and without inspiration. Out there on your battlefield the flags fly, the martial strains are sounding and men's hearts are uplifted by the war illusion with which your permit them to turn the pain of their wounds to exaltation. There is no alleviation of suffering on MY battlefield, all dull, unendurable but unending pain."

"I kill more men than you," snarled War.

"Statistics will show you that you do not," insisted Peace. "Also you are a most pitiful tyro at inflicting suffering. My power in this regard has increased with the knowledge of the centuries, while you have become more and more merciful."

"It is a lie!" shrieked War. "See, they are sacking the convents! They are mistreating the women."

"I have more refined suffering for women," said Peace complacently. "I can starve and subdue womanhood into worse horrors than becoming the prey of your soldiers."

"Now they are impaling the children upon their lances and bayonets," cried War. "Is not that great cruelty?"

Again Peace laughed in scorn.

"I take children into my factories," she replied. "There they are ground up slowly in my mills. You kill too quickly."

Riderless horses, torn by shrapnel, passed by, dragging their dying bodies torn by wounds.

"See," pleaded War. "Have you anything like that?"

"You are so primitive that you make me laugh," retorted Peace. "In my laboratories they cut up animals bit by bit and watch over their sufferings, recording each evidence of agony. This they do in the name of science."

With a howl of baffled rage, War dashed from the mountain top and disappeared into the smoke of battle.

Peace stood upon the peak. From below there came to her the sound of moaning millions, the sonorous, ever-ascending chorus that voiced the pain of the world. Her lips parted in a smile of contentment, for she knew that she had caused the greater part of this.—W. O. McGeehan.

The District Ledger

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"BE JUST BEFORE YOU ARE GENEROUS"
—Buddha.

The destruction of churches by German artillerymen has been referred to as an act of vandalism and the severest wordy condemnation meted out to the perpetrators by the British press throughout the world.

We do not hold a brief for any of the participants in the present titanic struggle, but hold all forms of militarism in the uttermost abhorrence, yet we do contend for a display of that fairplay and justice so much prated about and so seldom practised. Let us first find out the meaning of the word "vandalism." Upon looking up the dictionary authorities we learn : "Vandal; the name of one of the most barbarous of the northern nations that invaded Rome in the fifth century, notorious for destroying monuments of art and literature. Vandalism: The spirit or conduct of vandals."

So far the term applied to those who demolish churches or other monuments of art and literature is, therefore, quite in order. We do not deny the commission of atrocious acts, in fact quite readily acknowledge they are of daily occurrence inasmuch as the prosecution of war itself does constitute the very antithesis of real civilization from our angle. Nevertheless before pronouncing judgment must ever remember there are always two sides to a question.

We admit vandalism has been rampant and still is.

When charged with the wanton destruction of churches and other structures of antiquity and architectual beauty the Germans replied they were quite justified in so doing owing to the use made of their towers for the purpose of making observations. This was the explanation given for the bombardment of the cathedral at Rheims to which most emphatic denials were made by the French, and as the ordinary individual is obliged to take one man's word to be of equal value as another's until proven otherwise, no satisfactory conclusion was attainable.

We now present the testimony of an impartial witness and in doing so wish to emphasize the fact we are discussing the one specific subject and in no-wise condoning or excusing other charges which might be cited touching the acts of the factors involved.

There is one of the Wesleyan Methodist chaplains, Rev. O. S. Watkins, with the Expeditionary Force in France, whose evidence can be accepted as trustworthy because it is not given for the purpose of calling attention to acts of vandalism but as a spontaneous tribute to the remarkable coolness displayed by a British officer while making observations, coupled with a stoicism when wounded which the narrator of his deeds considers should entitle him to wear the V.C. This is the story told by the Welsh divine of Lieut. F. Davidson, of the 119th Battery, Royal Field Artillery:

[illegible] our gunners had found it impossible to locate certain German guns which were fast rendering our trenches untenable. The country was so flat that there was no possible point of vantage from which the gunners could 'observe' except the steeple of the church at Lourges. It was the duty of Lieut. Davidson to 'observe,' so he calmly went to the church and seated on the top proceeded to telephone his information to the battery. In consequence German battery after battery was silenced; the infantry, which at one time was in danger of extermination, was saved, and the position was successfully held. The church was reduced to scrap heap; for seven solid hours he calmly scanned the country, and telephoned his reports. At dark his task was done. There was the crack of a rifle—the German trenches were only a few hundred yards away—and a bullet passed through the back of his neck and out through the mouth. He walked to his battery, gave them his final information, and then "I think I'd better go and find the field ambulance for the beggars have drilled a hole in me that needs plugging." Among brave men who are daily performing heroic deeds the observation is quite frequently heard: "If anybody is entitled to the V. C. Davidson of the gunners is!"

Such intrepidity under trying circumstances be[illegible] our judgment in reaching a conclusion of the question immediately under consideration. The question at issue is not one dealing with personal bravery [illegible] other monuments of art was effected out of pure wantonness or as a consequence of war's exigencies, and Rev. Watkin's eulogy of a brave man likewise unconsciously proves the truth of the German contention in the case cited

War is by no means a parlor game, but possesses a code of ethics (we use the word "ethics" advisedly) peculiarly its own; perhaps "rules of procedure" would be more in harmony with its manifestations, so tersely summed up in the sentence, "All's fair in love and war."

Placing sentimentalism aside and looking at the war game from a cold-blooded standpoint, either parties to the combat must adopt such measures as they deem may best subserve their interests, and if for the purposes of observation a church or any other building is suitable, then it will be utilized, and neither sacredness nor architectural beauty will act as a deterrent.

We regret the destruction of these mute evidences of man's marvellous handiwork in ages past, but of which the great mass of humanity have had but little opportunity for visiting owing to the bread and butter problem engaging their every attention. Yet the destruction of monuments of art and literature though deplorable, are as specks of dust compared to the human anguish wrought by war's fell blows. Monuments of brick and stone may be restored, but the mental anguish suffered by combatants and non-combatants alike, has no compensating feature save as it may encourage the world at large to determine to take such action as will make the recurrence of so colossal a tragedy as is today being enacted an impossibility. In all sincerity we say: Speed the day when the word "civilization" shall be fully exemplified.

GET TOGETHER PLAN

Latterly many of those participating in various investigations regarding the prevalence of industrial unrest have advanced certain schemes for the lessening of the social evils and one of the latest is the "Get-together-plan," i. e., the employer and employee not having much acquaintance with each other personally has had the tendency to make them misunderstand each other and therefore mutual mistrust is the consequence. To remedy this state of affairs more communion ought to exist between the two. This sounds very nice on the surface, and whilst it was practicable in the early stages of development of manufacture or hand tool days, in these days of the huge machine and the gigantic corporation the gulf between the worker and the employer is constantly widening, in fact it is not within measurable distance. It is quite true there is a certain amount of personalism possible in the smaller establishments, but in gigantic institutions like railroads, steel-works, mining corporations and others of like ilk whilst there is undoubtedly a link between the different officials and the employees in subordinate positions, the real employing factor is made up of thousands of units under the nomenclature of shareholders who, in many instances, know nothing more of the scources of the revenue received than that contained in the dividend cheque.

For the sake of illustration we will take the case of one of the most powerful of Canada's financial institutions and we find the real employers (the shareholders) scattered all over this continent on both sides of the imaginary boundary line, in many of the villages and cities of Great Britain and Ireland, South America and in fact in all quarters of the globe, then to these there is a vast portion of the investment tabulated under the head of "estate of," which means original shareholders now deceased.

The many schemes advanced, when subject to analysis, have but little merit to accomplish the purpose claimed for them, but are the result of those fearing a collapse which spells disaster to their interests angling around to see what steps can be put forward to prolong their enjoyment of the products of labor. In some rare instances, in specialized industries the pill has been slightly more artistically gilded and the recipients deluded themselves into the belief that they are favored mortals, relatively speaking they are, but the reason is not attributable mainly to humanitarian impulsion, but because it pays. Paradoxical though it may seem we, too believe in the "Get-together-plan," but applied differently to that desired by various spokesmen in the recent industrial commissions.

Our "Get-together-plan" is for the workers in all branches of industry, both in the production and distribution departments, to get together and ascertain for themselves the real cure for all social ills, but this is not attainable until they work co-operatively, not under profit-sharing schemes with its myriads of parasites to be provided for, but under a genuine democracy where all shall serve and all enjoy.

SWITZERLAND

This famous little republic occupies a most unenviable position among the contestants in the bloody struggle now being waged in Europe. On the northern boundary she has Germany for neighbor. The glories of her beautiful Lake Maggiore, the theme of the artist's brush and the poet's pen do not belong to her alone, but are shared by her southern friend, Italy. Her western line, bulging out somewhat like a bear's head with Geneva as the snout, scrapes acquaintance with the citizens of la belle France from Belfort on the north-western extremity for one hundred and seventy miles down to the snow-capped peaks of Mont Blanc. The north-eastern corner touches the territory of the dual monarchy Austria-Hungary

Although her population is approximately only four millions, yet there are four languages spoken by the Swiss, Germany being spoken by more than half, French by less than a quarter, the Italian [illegible] is the vehicle of communication by about 250,000, whilst the ancient Romansch is the mother tongue of about 40,000.

The Swiss, like all mountain-bred peoples, are aggressive and liberty-loving, as is clearly demonstrated by the radical tendencies of her government. She has no standing army; military training, however, is compulsory on every citizen, commencing with the boy at the early age of 8 and continuing until the age of 45 is reached. The severest competitive examinations determine the respective higher positions.

SECOND CONTINGENT LEAVES VICTORIA

Goes East in Three Special Trains—Vancouver Men to Leave Soon—Enlist More Men

VANCOUVER, B.C., Feb. 16.—Hundreds of men are enlisting daily for the third contingent to be enrolled in Vancouver for the front. The men of the second contingent from Victoria have left for the east in three special trains and the Vancouver section of the second contingent is expected to leave in a few days.

LONDON, Ont., Feb. 16.—Col. Denison, commander of the 4th infantry brigade of the Canadian expeditionary force, is in the city inspecting the troops of the second contingent. Col. Denison said he expected the second overseas force would leave for England any day now.

Canadians Doing Well at Front

OTTAWA, Feb. 16.—A telegram announcing the safe arrival of the Canadian contingent in France was read in parliament today. It was from the colonial secretary to the governor-general, as follows:

"Your ministers will be glad to learn that the whole of the Canadian contingent is doing well at the front, having safely crossed over to France."

OTTAWA, Feb. 16.—Hon. R. Lemieux has given notice of a resolution providing for the sending of all mail matter to Canadian soldiers on service free of postage.

I. O. D. E.

Treasurer's report shows receipts $1161.60; disbursements, $1038.76, leaving a balance in hand of $122.84.

At the annual meeting of the Mount Fernie Chapter I. O. D. E. the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Regent—Mrs. Moffat.
1st Vice—Mrs. Herchmer
2nd Vice—Mrs. R. W. Wood.
Secretary—Mrs. Trites.
Assist. Sec.—Mrs. H F. McLean.
Treasurer—Miss M. Hogan.
Standard Bearer—Mrs. Whimster.
Councillors: Mrs. Stalker, Mrs. Klauer, Mrs. Bonnell, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Irvine, Mrs. Carlile.

Mrs. N. E. Suddaby was apointed to represent the chapter in the National Council.

Acknowledgment has been received from the secretary of the Belgian Relief Fund, Vancouver, of the $215 sent forward from here.

The following donations are acknowledged:

Mrs. W. Lancaster—2 pair socks.
Miss F. Lancaster—2 pr. socks.
Mrs. Paton—1 belt.
Mrs. McLean—1 cap, 1 belt.
Mrs. Bateman—1 belt.
Mrs. McMillan—1 pr. socks.
Mrs. N. E. Suddaby—1 belt and wool.
Mrs. Robichaud—2 pr. socks.
Mrs. Duthie—2 pr. socks
Mrs. E. Wright—1 cap.
Mrs. Bonnell—5 pair wristlets and wool.

A social evening under the auspices of Loyal Orange and True Blue Lodges will be held at the K. P. Hall on Feb. 26th, commencing at 9 o'clock. Music and refreshments. Admission, 25c.

DEATH OF A BRILLIANT MARKSMAN

The death of Christopher Johnston of McAdam, N.B., is announced in the St. John's Times and Star. The deceased gentleman was a member of the first Canadian rifle team sent to England in 1871, which won the Kolapore Cup for Canada.

William Johnston, of Fernie, H. C. Johnston, of Seattle, Mrs. Chas. McNabb, of Waldo, B.C., and Mrs. Arthur Dunn, sons and daughters respectively, survive.

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS

All members and visiting brethren of the Ancient Order of Foresters are cordially invited to attend a social which will take place in the K. P. Hall on Victoria Avenue, Thursday, Feb. 25. We hope that every Forester will be in attendance and bring his wife or sweetheart as the committees having charge intend to make the event a most enjoyable one.

CONCESSION TO MINERS

Ontario Government Will Keep Claims Open for Soldiers

TORONTO, Feb. 12.—Miners who have gone and those who are going to the front will be relieved from the obligation to work their claims so many months in each year, and the claims will be kept open for them, the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, minister of lands and forests and mines, announced today. The miners also will be relieved from paying their licenses.

FERNIE LAND DISTRICT

District of Kootenay

Take notice that WILLIAM SCHAD, of Hull River, farmer, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands:

Commencing at a post planted at the north-east corner of Lot One Hundred and Seventeen (117), west 10 chains more or less to the north-west corner of Lot 117; thence north 10 chains more or less to the north-east corner of Lot 6838; thence east two chains more or less to a point on west line of Lot 2960, thence south to south west corner of Lot 2960; thence east 10 chains more or less to a post of Lot 10278; thence south 10 chains [illegible] movement containing 10 acres more or less.

WILLIAM SCHAD,
Applicant

February 16th, 1915.

Classified Ads.—Cent a Word

TO BE SOLD CHEAP—A number of tables and kitchen chairs. Apply, Ledger Office.

TO RENT—Two Furnished Rooms; reasonable. Apply 110, Howland Ave.

FOR IMMEDIATE SALE—One red cow; 3-year-old; calved second calf on 18th January. Price $5.00. Apply F. M. Thompson Co., Blairmore, Alta.

ALBERTA JUDGMENT IS REVERSED BY SUPREME COURT

Difference Over Payment for Medical Services in Camps Settled

OTTAWA, Feb. 12.—In the Supreme Court the hearing of appeals from Western provinces was continued, Larose vs. Winter, an Alberta appeal, being taken up.

The appellants were sub contractors under Webster for Railway construction. The contract was verbal and the appellants, pursuant to the general custom in railway work as they claimed, collected from each man in their employ seventy-five cents per month for medical services. One, Mr. Milne, was employed by Webster for such service at the above rate, but claimed before long that the amount was not sufficient and brought action against the appellants and respondent for the value of his services. The respondent paid into court the amount represented by seventy-five cents a man per month and was relieved of further liability, the appellants having to pay the difference with costs and the same to a hospital which services to other debtors. The action against Webster was to recover the amounts so paid and money paid for services to other debtors. The action was dismissed at the trial and on appeal the full court of the province sustained the dismissal by an equally divided court.

Judgment was reversed.

W. L. Scott for appellants and W. N. Tilley for respondent.

ALIEN HAS EQUAL RIGHTS WITH ALL BRITISH CITIZENS

Judge Taylor Gives Decision in Case of Austrian Against C. P. R.

An alien so long as he is well-behaved and law-abiding has equal rights with a British subject in a British law court. This was held to be the case in Judge Crawford's court when an Austrian, who had not become naturalized sued the C.P.R. for damages for injuries received while loading rails for the company near Wetaskiwin. The company claimed that being an alien the plaintiff had no rights in the Canadian courts and they further pleaded that since coming out of the hospital, he had signed a document settling his claim for $45. At the time of the accident, which was of a very serious nature, the man was earning $15 per week. The accident occurred last April and the plaintiff was still unable to work.

In giving judgment in favor of the alien his honor said that similar judgments had been entered in Manitoba and British Columbia, which held that under the order-in-council passed last August alien enemies who were engaged in lawful avocations and were peaceable citizens were entitled to the same treatment in the courts as British subjects. His honor gave judgment for half pay from the time of the accident until the present date, and $4.00 per week until the plaintiff was fully recovered. As to the document signed by the plaintiff agreeing to accept $45, his honor held that he did not know what he was signing and could not be bound by it.

COAL OPERATORS REJECT MEDIATORS

Colorado Mine Bosses Say Commission Is Not Needed Now

DENVER, Col., Feb. 13.—Seventy of the coal operators of Colorado—exclusive of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company—who claim to produce 61 per cent of the coal mined in the state in answer to the proffer of "good offices" made January 19 by Seth Low, heading President Wilson's commission on mediation, declined tonight to accept the offer, pointing out that the relations of the employers and employes of the coal region were now amicable, and suggested it would be wise for the commission to remain out of the state.

Object to Mediators.

The operators signing the letter objected to the presence of Patrick Gilday and Charles W. Mills on the commission on the ground that the former was until recently an officer of the United Mine Workers of America, while the latter, they assert, is under the domination of Gilday.

Referring to the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company's plan of internal conciliation the letter says:

"The plan of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, to which you refer, was adopted by the company without advising or consulting with any of the other operators. While we are sheptical as to its success, we shall watch the experiment with interest."

The letter to Mr. Low is signed by 70 Colorado coal operators, representing as many corporations and practically all coal producers of the state, except the Colorado Fuel and Iron company.

Prominent Signers

Among the signers are J. C. Osgood, chairman of the board of directors of the Victor American Fuel company, and D. W. Brown, president of the Rocky Mountain Fuel company. These companies, the second and third largest in the state, respectively, acted with the Colorado Fuel and Iron company in opposing the demands of the United Mine Workers of America during the recent strike, in an informal association of coal operators.—Spokesman

Shiloh's Cure

QUICKLY STOPS COUGHS, CURES COLDS, HEALS THE THROAT AND LUNGS. 25 CENTS

Report of Secretary-Treasurer

(Continued from Page Three)

be reached on account of the war. It is only equitable and fair that these foreign speaking people should receive every protection at our hands, and when peace may be proclaimed we shall be in a position to give same assistance in case the Commission should not recognize their claims from the General Fund.

Compensation

Regarding the compensation claims in connection with this matter, I have to report that after many interviews between your officers and the officials of the company the following agreement, which gives all details and is self-explanatory, was entered into.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

In the matter of an agreement under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1908, and the Amendments thereto,

Between

DISTRICT 18 of the UNITED MINE WORKERS of AMERICA, representing the Dependents of the deceased workmen named in the Schedules attached hereto and marked "A," "B," "C" and "E" respectively, hereinafter referred to as the Applicants,

And

THE HILLCREST COLLIERIES LIMITED, a body corporate hereinafter referred to as the Respondent.

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 19th day of June A.D., 1914, personal injury was caused to each of the persons named in each of the Schedules "A," "B," "C" and "E" attached hereto by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment of the persons named in the said Schedules and that on the said 19th day of June A.D. 1914, each of the said persons named in the said Schedules died as a result of said injury.

AND that on the 11th day of December A.D. 1914 the following agreement was entered into by and between the Applicants and Respondent, that is to say:

1. That each and every of the said persons named in Schedules A, B, C and E died at Hillcrest in the Province of Alberta, on the 19th day of June A.D. 1914, as a result of personal injuries caused to them, and each of them by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment of each and every of the said persons named in the said Schedules hereto attached, and that at the time of the said accident the said persons were workmen and employees of the said Respondent within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1908, and Amendments thereto.

2. That each of the said fifty-seven (57) deceased persons named in Schedule "A" hereto attached died leaving dependents wholly dependent upon the earnings of each of the said fifty-seven (57) deceased persons and that the Respondent admits liability under the said Workmen's Compensation Act to the extent of $1800.00 in each of the said fifty-seven (57) cases referred to in the said Schedule "A" hereto attached.

3. That each of the persons named in Schedule "B" hereto attacheu were at the time of their death citizens of Austria and their Dependents if any reside in Austria, and no application shall be made for Compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act in their behalf until peace shall be restored between Austria and Great Britain, PROVIDED, however, that but for such residence the liability of the Respondent to pay Compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act to the Dependents of each and every of the said persons named in Schedule "B" would have been hereby admitted and this agreement is without prejudice to any right of the said Dependents to apply for Compensation when peace between Austria and Great Britain is restored.

4. That each and every of the persons named in Schedule "C" hereto attached died leaving Dependents partially dependent upon the earnings of the said deceased workmen, the extent of said dependency having as yet not been ascertained. It is agreed, however, that the extent of such dependency and consequent liability shall be determined by agreement between the parties hereto on or before the first Monday in February, A.D. 1915. PROVIDED that in the event of the said parties being unable to agree as to the extent of such dependency and liability as aforesaid, the matter shall be referred to the Judge of the District Court of the District of Macleod, who shall without the necessity of formal applications or notices make an award in each and every case brought before him taken from the names set out in the Schedule "C" hereto attached.

5. That as to the deceased persons named in Schedule "E" hereto attached the parties hereto have been unable to agree as to whether the deceased left Dependents or as to the extent of the liability of the Respondent in the event of their being Dependents. The Applicants, however, agree to submit to the Respondent proof of Dependency, either wholly or partial, and should the parties thereupon fail to agree as to the extent of Dependency or liability, the matter shall then be referred to the Judge of the District Court of the District of Macleod for his decision under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and the Respondent agrees to waive all objections as to formal Applications and notices upon any such reference and in each case where the Dependents were wholly dependent upon the earnings of the deceased workmen set out in Schedule "E" the case shall be dealt with as set out in Paragraph 2 of the Agreement, dealing with the Deceased Workmen under Schedule "A," and in all other cases under Schedule "E" where partial dependency is established each and every of such cases shall be dealt with as set out in Paragraph 4 of this Agreement dealing with deceased workmen as set out in Schedule "C" hereto attached.

5. It is agreed that in discharge of all liability hereunder the Company shall pay into the office of the Clerk of the District Court of the District of Macleod the sum of $3000.00 monthly until the said liability is fully paid and discharged. The first payment to be made on the first day of June A. D. 1915, and the Respondent shall be charged interest on all unpaid balances at the rate received by the Clerk of the Court on investments made of compensation fund received under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

7. That an account of all monies expended by the Respondent for funeral expenses or for the direct benefit of any Dependent or Dependents, shall be submitted to the Judge of the District Court of the District of Macleod for his approval and shall upon his order be deducted from the Compensation due to such Dependent or Dependents.

8. That the parties recommended to the Judge of the District Court that the monies paid into the Court in pursuance of this Agreement by the Respondent be paid out to the Dependents in amounts to be fixed at his discretion, if possible the following basis is suggested:

(a) To each widow the sum of $20.00 per month.
(b) To each child the sum of $5.00 per month.
(c) The balance of the said each $3000.00 to partial Dependents until their claims are fully paid and discharged.

9. It is agreed that either party shall have the right upon reasonable notice given to the other to apply to the Judge of the District Court of the District of Macleod to vary any term of his Agreement as he or they may be advised.

10. It is agreed that the deposit of a signed copy of this Agreement in in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court of the District of Macleod shall constitute and become an Award by the Judge of the said Court as Arbitrator within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1908, applicable to each of the cases referred to in the said Schedule hereto attached.

You are hereby requested to record this Memorandum, pursuant to Paragraph 8 of the Second Schedule of the above-mentioned Act.

Dated this 31st day of December, A.D. 1914.

For District 18, United Mine Workers of America—
W. L. PHILLIPS, President.
A. J. CARTER, Sec.-Treasurer.

For Hillcrest Collieries, Ltd.—
C. B. GORDON, President.
J. B. MACKIE, Managing-Director.
FRANK J. SMITH, Sec.-Treas.

I would respectfully ask you to consider this from a broad-minded point of view, as you will realize that the situation was a very delicate one for your officers to handle, whilst it may have been possible to prosecute the Company for damages under the Common Law, circumstances warranted them accepting the agreement. It was deemed better to get something tangible rather than adopt measures whereby these dependents would probably lose all.

Loans by District

It will be noticed from the Financial Report that loans have been made to the Lethbridge Co-Operative Society, and the Trades and Labor Council, Lethbridge, since the last Convention. In negotiating these loans your Executive were guided by the spirit that prevailed on that occasion towards the Co-Operative movement. I might add that these were not concluded until your Executive felt assured of the security that was given in each case. At this juncture it is well to reconsider the advisability of launching out in the Co-Operative movement, experience which is oftimes dearly bought, proves that the precariousness of the average coal camp does not lend successfully to this very desirable object of commercial co-operation, whilst it cannot be denied that the Co-operative System if efficiently managed will benefit the worker, yet the conditions offsetting the benefits may be easily summed up by such experience as the closing of Hosmer Mines. Again, we have a very striking

(Continued on Page Six)

News of The District Camps

COAL CREEK NOTES

Last week Coal Creek lost one of her best citizens when Robert, or as he is more familiarly known, "Bob" Johnston, departed for the land of his birth, accompanied by his family. He entered the employ of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. in 1906, shortly after his arrival in Canada, and three months after his engagement a recognition of his qualifications was shown in a concrete maner by promotion to an official capacity with superintendence of the electric plant, since which time he has satisfactorily filled the duties incident thereto until he decided a little over a week ago to take a well-earned vacation.

During his nearly nine years residence in the camp he has been most energetic in his efforts to advance the interests of the various social elements found in a community like ours. As a player with the justly famous red-shirted sphere punchers, he supplemented his activities in that body with his official duties as treasurer of the club for 5 years, in short, whenever called upon he came forward most willingly, and the high esteem in which he was held was most forcibly proven by the reception accorded Saturday last held under the auspices of the club.

Joe Worthington as master of ceremonies, acquitted himself in his usual feel-at-ease manner, and after a few vocal numbers had been rendered another "Bob" (Billsborough), in a few appropriate sentences, made the presentation of a token of appreciation of a most substantial character: A 23 jewel Vanguard Waltham gold watch, with the following engraved therein, "Presented to R. Johnston by the members of the C. C. L. and A. A. for past services. Feb. 12, 1915." Attached to the time-keeper was a substantial fob with the monogram of the recipient engraved on it.

Bob made a suitable response and then Dr. Workman and J. E. Smith spoke in the highest terms of commendation of the deparing friend, which sentiments were most heartily concurred in by all present, who gave emphasis by lustily singing, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." Among those who aided in making this most enjoyable affair a crowning success were Bill Cole with his "bones," W. Almond with his voice, and Charlie as manipulator of the ivories.

After wishing Godspeed and a pleasant voyage the assembly dispersed feeling satisfied that they had accorded to one of their comrades nothing less than what was justly due him.

One of the pleasing features of Mr. Johnston's visit, although not untinged with regret, will be the meeting of a brother whom he has not seen for 14 years, at present invalided home by severe wounds inflicted in one of the fiercest engagements of the earlier fighting at the front.

Coal Creek Methodist Church.—Sunday, 2.30 p.m., Sunday school and bible class; 7.30 p.m., Gospel service. Wednesday, 7.30 Bible study, solos, etc. Friday, 7 p.m., Choir practice.

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, there will be a pound (lb.) social held at the church.

Presbyterian Church.—Sunday, 2.30 p.m., Sunday school; 7.30 p.m., service, subject, "Fight to a Finish and Win."

J. E. Smith left camp on Sunday to attend the convention at Lethbridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thornton arrived back in camp on Sunday after a three months' sojourn in the Land o' the Thistle.

Albert Markland entertained a few friends on his birthday recently.

The Amateur Dramatic Society are busily engaged on a concert and dance to be held on March 24th. Proceeds to be donated to the widow of the late Tom Mason. Watch for particulars.

Chas. O'Brien and family have removed to Fernie.

Mine Inspectors Williams and O'Brien were visiting the mines up here on Saturday.

The school house now boasts of a Union Jack which is seen floating during school hours.

A grand musical concert will be held in the Grand Theatre on Sunday evening next, Feb. 21st, by the Fernie-Coal Creek Excelsior Band, commencing at 8.45. Collection taken at the door.

Programme

March—"From Dark to Light," Farremond.
Fantasia—"My Old Kentucky Home," J. A. Greenwood.
Duet—"Home to the Mountains" (cornet and euphonium) Verdi.
Waltz—"The Enchantress," J. A. Greenwood.
Overture—"Caliph of Bagdad," W. Rimmer.
Violin Solo—Selected. R. Tolly.
Quick March—"Band Parade," Farremond.
God Save the King.

All lovers of music specially invited.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Bennett desire to express their sincere thanks to all who in any way assisted at the concert. Also the Company for facilities granted re the sale of tickets.

One of our residents was visited by marauders on Saturday night. Evidently they had a penchant for salt pork (and had no intention of observing the Lenten season—Ed.)

The main topic of conversation since the concert has been the case of the Fernieites having to pay to come to the camp, and also on their return. We refrain from comment.

Bert Barnes, the genial manager of the Fernie Co-operative Society, was conducting a business campaign in the camp last week.

Benefit Concert at Coal Creek

Long before the advertised time for commencing, the Club Hall was filled with an expectant throng. The occasion being a benefit concert and dance arranged for the benefit of W. T. Bennett and family. Punctually at 7.30 our genial superintendent opened the proceedings by stating the object of the gathering. Owing to the length of the programme the chairman had to curtail his remarks and could not give full vent to his raconteur abilities. After the remarks, Messrs. Percy, Fawley, Gaskell and Ramsay gave an overture, which was well received. Our well-known entertainer, W. R. Puckey, created roars of laughter by his stories of what took place at a tango tea, while Archie Prentice gave an excellent reproduction of Harry Lauder. Jack Hewitt made a great hit in his scene, "The Palmist," and the peddling certainly qualified him as a patent medicine vendor. The many things happening to Jack Puckey while "Taking His Father's Tea" was told in Jack's own inimitable style. Billy Almond as a yodel singer brought down the house. Mesdames Percy, Watson, Birkett and Miss McQuire (of Fernie) gave vocal selections which were received with loud applause. Also a quintette from Fernie under the direction of J. Quinney contributed their items very creditably. Tom Biggs and G. Ramsay, of Fernie, received due encouragement for the items rendered. The concert lasted three hours, and immediately after the seats had been removed the terpischorean artists indulged in the light fantastic to the sweet strains supplied by Messrs. Percy and Gaskell. A most enjoyable time was brought to a close about 2 p.m. A vote of thanks to all artists, etc., was tendered at the close.

MICHEL NOTES

The Michel-Natal Relief Association will hold a meeting next Sunday evening at 7.30 in the G. N. Hotel. Business of importance. All members and everybody interested, are requested to attend.

The most fashionable and select dance of the season was given by the bachelors of Natal last Friday evening in Martin's Hall. Miners were conspicuously absent.

A well attended meeting was held in the Michel Opera House last Saturday afternoon to hear the report of the Scale and Resolution Committee.

Mrs. P. Zorretta, of the Venizia Hotel, presented her husband with a bouncing son and heir last Monday. Mother and child are doing fine

A meeting was held last Saturday for the purpose of reorganizing the ambulance class. We are sorry that the date had to conflict with the special union meeting, as it prevented quite a number from attending who are anxious to join.

The Michel Local Union are well on with their plans for an up-to-date club to be located somewhere between the twin cities early this summer. The principal feature will be a good library, swimming baths, gymnasium and lecture and recreation nall. Booze will be a secondary consideration, but with 15 cent beer on one end and 5 cent on the other, a little two and half cent fluid in the centre would not be out of place.

It is rumored that a person with a very distinguished and military appearance, who hails from Tonypandy, South Wales, will be in charge of the third contingent which will be organized here shortly.

COLEMAN

(Received too late for publication last week.)

A special meeting of Local 2633 was held in the Opera House on Sunday afternoon, President R. Morgan, presiding. Visiting brothers being invited, there was a large attendance. Vice-President Graham addressed the meeting and gave a resume of the organizing work done by the officials throughout the District. He emphasized the point that until the men themselves took more interest in their organization and everything pertaining to their own welfare, that very little could or would be accomplished. A vote of thanks was accorded him at the close.

A Socialist meeting was held in the Opera House on Sunday evening, Vice-President Wm. Graham occupying the chair. After a few introductory remarks he introduced the speaker of the evening, Comrade Budden, who took for his subject, "War and Its Effects on Socialism." That Comrade Budden is a born orator goes without saying, and anyone thinking otherwise has only to hear him once to be convinced. The able maneur in which he handled his subject reflects great credit on him and was both interesting and educational to the audience.

Another batch of volunteers for the third contingent, now being recruited, left here for Pincher Creek the latter end of last week.

Jas. Young met with a bad accident while at work in the slope, No. 2 Seam of the International Coal and Coke Co., on Tuesday morning. Some cap rock fell, catching him on the leg, breaking it above the ankle. He was conveyed to the Miners' Hospital, where he was attended to by Dr. Ross.

Coleman Hockey Club journeyed to Frank last Wednesday evening and defeated the locals by 5 goals to 1. On Friday evening they had Bellevue for opponents at home, when the net was found 20 times, Coleman having 12 and Bellevue 8. Coleman has now got a cinch on the Frazer Cup for another year.

On Monday evening a test match was to have been played on Coleman rink between Coleman and Frank to decide the championship of the league and by way of further inducement to put all they knew into the game, a trip down Lethbridge way to meet some of the teams there. But through some irregularity on Frank's part Coleman was awarded the game, thus winning the championship and the point. [illegible]

Born

Friday, February 4th, at Carbondale, to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Eday, a daughter.

Wednesday, February 10th, to Mr. and Mrs. Benten, a son.

Mike Brennen and Jas. Russell arrived in town on Wednesday morning after a three months' holiday in the Old Country. They report having had a good time while there.

The regular meeting of Local 2633 was held in the Opera House on Sunday, February 14th, President R. Morgan presiding. Minutes of previous meeting adopted as read. Correspondence received and discussed. Resolutions and recommendations coming before Convention considered and voted on by the members.

Correspondence from International Secretary re exoneration from per capita tax accepted and placed on file.

Secretary's report re installation of meter system in Opera House accepted.

Born—February 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. S. Colgoresy, a daughter.

Joe Rimin got his collar bone broken by being caught between the cars and timber while at work in the slope, No. 2 Seam of the International Coal and Coke co., on Tuesday.

Mrs. D. Macaulay left on Wednesday to join her husband in Drumheller.

Miss Jessie Horne and Mrs. L. Lloyd and family left here on Tuesday night to join their brother Robert in Lethbridge.

Work around here is much the same as usual, the few men who are working getting about three days in the week.

HILLCREST

On Wednesday last a splendid ball was held in the Union Hall. A large number of people attended, and it turned out to be a great success, both financially and otherwise.

The mines here worked three days last week. This seems to be about the limit.

Some of the boys returned from Pincher last week, recruiting had been so good that the complement was raised within two weeks. We understand 500 foot soldiers are wanted at Blairmore next month.

There is to be a change of management here the 1st of the month, Mr. J. Brown is leaving and will be succeeded by Mr. F. Drinnen, of Edmonton.

Mr. Ferguson, from B. C., is in town and a dancing class was started Monday under his instruction. Quite a number of boys have given in their names.

The steam heating plant was handed over to the local officials this week and the Union Hall and store is now a most up-to-date building.

The Co-Operative Society went out of business last week and all the stock was shipped to Calgary.

BELLEVUE

Messrs. Haddad Brothers have bought out the Union Supply Store at Maple Leaf when they will engage in a general merchandise business and hope by courteous treatment and close prices to obtain the patronage of the buying public in that locality.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. C. Burrows, a daughter.

The eldest son of Mr. J. Crawford was rather badly shaken up last week whilst following his occupation as brakeman at No. 2 mine.

One of our German residents who had been imbibing too freely of John Barleycorn, created a disturbance, which cost him $10. It was a fortunate escape for him.

Mr. Dobson, of Regina, is billed to speak here on March 3rd on "Temperance and Its Social Effects." We expect free discussion will be allowed at the close of the lecture. Place of meeting will be announced next week.

Alf Budden, organizer of the S. P. C., will be in Bellevue next Sunday, Feb. 21st.

Mr. Fred Padgett, the genial timekeeper here, represented the Local Orange men at their recent county meeting held at Pincher Creek.

Owing to the number of working days continuing at about three a week divided by two, plus the unemployed, a number of our residents are getting back to the land a little earlier this year, where they will at least be assured a steady job.

We are pleased to report John R. McLeod sufficiently recovered from his recent operation to enable him to rejoin his regiment at Pincher Creek.

The Ladies of the Methodist Church are holding a concert on Friday evening in aid of the general fund. A charge of 25c. will be charged. Everybody welcome.

The regular meeting of Local 431 will be held on Sunday at the usual place and hour. Business important.

The Frank Hockey Team were our visitors for the last game of the series here, and soundly trounced us by 9 goals to 3.

Messrs. Barwick and Burke are attending the Miners' Convention at Lethbridge this week.

The high order of the movies in the Workers' Hall are continuing to draw large crowds. Pack 'em in, Harry!

The local Odd Fellows are still doing business as usual in spite of their magnificent contribution to the Mounted Rifles.

Dr. Moore, McKenzie's genial assistant, leaves tomorrow for the front where he has volunteered to do his part in alleviating the suffering of the wounded soldiers. The doctor has been resident here for some months and leaves behind a host of friends who take this opportunity of wishing him God speed.

COALHURST

The mine only worked two days last week.

Quite a number of Coalhurst residents are trying to sell their furniture and other property so nothing will prevent them from pulling out when they see fit.

George Davis is moving his place on [illegible] Coalhurst to Kipp.

Dr. Rose reports that he has been busier attending the sick the past two weeks than ever before since his arrival in Coalhurst three years ago.

A Socialist meeting for foreign brothers was held [illegible] Tuesday last. The mine being idle was perhaps the cause of so many turning out to attend the meeting.

Thomas Barringham left Coalhurst on Thursday bound for the old country via New York. Bon voyage.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Wallis were visiting friends in Coalhurst last week-end.

Pastor Roach was on a week-end leave from Calgary, and of course spent it in Coalhurst. He expects this to be the last [illegible] he will get as the [illegible] list are expecting to leave any time now.

Joe Graham is on a visit in Coalhurst just now. He reports prosperity on the chicken ranch.

Tommy Gordon and Wm. McNab enlisted last week.

Reuben Lennard quit last week and intends sailing for Australia right away. He says he sure has had enough of "God's Country."

The dancing and surprise parties which were such a distinctive feature of the social life of our local four hundred during the past few months have been indefinitely suspended. It appears that we have two aspirants for social leadership, one is a strong supporter of "ragging" while the other as strongly opposes it.

John Loughran, of Beaver Mines, paid his son, James Loughran, of Coalhurst, a flying visit last week-end. John was on his way to the District Convention.

Died—Sunday, Feb. 14th, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Melling, age two months. Burial took place from Coalhurst, Monday, Feb. 15th.

Alfred Bedwell of the Canadian Field Artillery was a week-end visitor in Coalhurst.

A public meeting will be held in the Coalhurst Theatre, February 25th for the purpose of discussing the question of a Coalhurst Hospital. Everybody welcome. Time, 7.30 sharp.

A dance was held in the Miners' Hall on Monday night under the auspices of the Italian Social Club. Some twenty couples enjoyed themselves immensely until the wee sma' hours.

Chas. Phillips was elected president of the Local Union last Sunday, making the third President for this year. The first two resigned the office.

BEAVER MINES

The Beaver Mine worked two days last week and the haulage crew one day more.

J. Loughran, delegate to the Convention, left here on Friday for Lethbridge and spent the week-end at Coalhurst with relations.

On behalf of the Relief Committee the secretary appealed to the Provincial Government last week for aid in order to assist those who are practically destitute and received the following reply:

"Edmonton, Alta., Feb. 11, 1915
"John Loughran, Esq., Sec.-Treasurer,
Local 481, Beaver Mines, Alta.

"Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 6th inst asking that aid be given by the government to miners who are in destitute circumstances in your town has come to hand during the absence of the Hon. Mr. McLean.

"The Minister is expected to return to Edmonton in the course of a few days, and I shall then be pleased to bring your circumstances to his attention.

"Yours truly,
H. HEFFERMAN,
Secretary.

TABER NOTES

(Received too late for publication last week.)

The mines in this vicinity are still working about one day per week, with prospects of less in the near future.

Prohibition seems to be the popular topic of the day in this camp. The temperance forces had a speaker from Toronto, Rev. Dr. Shearer, speak in the Rex Theatre to-night (Wednesday) to a packed house. The speaker was about the usual run of such orators, religion and sentiment mixed in. When questions were asked for at the close of his remarks, a few were asked touching the economic side, but the curtain was soon rung down.

Hon. A. J. McLean was in town on Saturday and informed the mayor that there would be a further grant of money from the government to help out the town. It certainly is needed, as about everyone in town is up against it. The pick and shovel brigade on the ditch these days is a revelation as to who are affected by the hard times.

Jack Appleton was at Lethbridge on Friday and secured a permit to operate a small mine at Coal City.

George Varvro, Jack Carr and some other volunteers who are training at Medicine Hat, visited home on Saturday and remained a couple of days

GEORGETOWN

Notes received too late for publication will appear next week.

EMPTY BELLIES MEAN EMPTY HEADS

On the other hand, we also know that in order to bring about the ultimate and radical change which the Socialists propose, it will require a better class of workers; a class of workers physically better fitted, mentally better trained, and politically and economically better organized. In other words, we assume that Socialism, as any other proposed change, political, social or economic, can only be brought about when the conditions are ripe for it, and when the machinery for the accomplishment of the transformation is properly organized. We do not expect the capitalists to arise one fine morning and to say: "After all, we have considered the situation, and have come to the conclusion that we have been unjust and iniquitous. We now abdicate our political and economic power, and we will turn over our industries to the collectivity of the nation."

We expect that Socialism will be introduced when a majority or well-nigh a majority, of the population is ready to do so, and when it has power enough—including political power—to force that change—just as every other social reform is introduced. So that the practical program of Socialism, or the practical problem before the Socialists, is to increase their numbers sufficiently to secure that power. They expect to increase their numbers principally through accretion from that part of the population who are interested in their proposed change, and who would be economically benefited by it; in other words, by accretions from the working class. And for this reason, also, the Socialists have a direct motive in striving to elevate the physical and mental condition of the workers. If you take a worker who is badly underpaid and underfed, overworked and ill-housed, you cannot expect him to develop a social idealism. You cannot expect him to grasp a social philosophy or to develop the mental independence, and the courage to battle for a cause and a principle more or less idealistic.—Hillquit.

MINE DEATH LIST LARGE IN BRITAIN

Number Killed in 1914 was 1870, and Injured Amounted to 184,202

LONDON, Feb. 12—The official casualty total of the last year in the mines and quarries of Great Britain is 1870 killed and 184,202 injured, according to a blue book issued by the home office.

The number returned as "injured," large as it seems, included only those who were disabled for a period of eight days or more.

Altogether there are employed in this country 1,236,211 persons, of whom 926,359 work underground.

The blue book reports that a gain in safety in mining is to be noticed over a long period of years, but the gain is so slow as to be almost imperceptible. The death rate, figured per million tons of coal or mineral raised, was 5.81 last year, as compared with 7.48 30 years ago.

The last year included one great disaster, that at Senghenydd, Wales where 439 lives were lost. It is noted that the disasters from explosions were nearly all in South Wales. There were no fatalities from firedamp or coal dust in north Wales or in the four principal coal mining districts of England. Most of the deaths in these districts were due to falls of roof.

The chief inspector of mines emphasizes chiefly the fact that matches and other dangerous articles are frequently found in the possession of workmen below ground.

"I do not mean to infer that the matches are intentionally carried below ground; in most cases it is carelessness. If managers would more generally provide a suitable place at the entrance of the pit for the safe deposit of pipes, tobacco and matches, I think it would do much to prevent the carrying of smoking equipment underground."

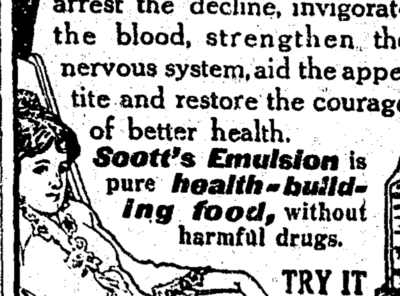
Similarity to war is found in the blue book, not only in the huge casualty list, but also in the records of awards during the year of the Edward medal, which is the Victoria Cross of the mines. For heroism in the face of death the records of the miner heroes compare favorably with those of the battlefield.

The total value of minerals mined in Great Britain in 1913 was $800,000,000, an increase of about $145,000,000 over 1912. The increase, according to the home office's report, was due mainly to the higher value of the coal, which comprised nearly 9 per cent. of the total.

The average price of coal at the pit mouth increased 12 per cent during the year.

GETTING BETTER AFTER SICKNESS

Nothing has ever equaled or compared with the medicinal fats in Scott's Emulsion to arrest the decline, invigorate the blood, strengthen the nervous system, aid the appetite and restore the courage of better health. Scott's Emulsion is pure health-building food, without harmful drugs. TRY IT 14-41



There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only Constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials.
Address F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.
Sold by Druggists, 75c.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

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and peaceful security as well. With a policy in our old line company, you can go off on your vacation or visit the ends of the earth and you know you're secure. The best in FIRE INSURANCE is always cheapest and especially so when it doesn't cost higher. Don't delay about that renewal or about that extra insurance you want but come right in at once and have it attended to.

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Large Airy Rooms and Good Board
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Mrs. S. Jennings, Prop. L. A. Mills, Manager
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CAFE OPEN DAY & NIGHT
Menu a la Carte
On and after February 1st we will make a Special Rate Board and Room by the week or month
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COMMERCIAL HOUSE
Best Accommodation in the Pass.—
Up-to-Date — Every Convenience.
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We will furnish your house from cellar to garret and at bottom prices. Call, write, phone or wire. All orders given prompt attention.
If you are satisfied, tell others. If not satisfied, tell us.
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Groceries, Dry Goods, Crockery and Everything in Shoes
We have just put into stock a splendid assortment of
Prints, Ginghams, Plain & Fancy Crepes
PRICES FROM 15c. PER YARD
These are all choice goods and the newest designs. We suggest you purchase these goods now when the assortment is complete.
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Phone 25 Blairmore, Alta.
The Store That SAVES You Money

Report of Sec.-Treas.

(Continued from Page Four)

example of what may happen at Hillcrest, circumstances of this character are all too prevalent, it is, therefore, essential that the workers proceed with much caution when attempting to organize on the Co-operative lines, a great many more arguments could be advanced in support of this recommendation, but I feel convinced that the majority of workers in our District are fully cognizant, through practical experience, of the many phases that enter into the situation, that I need not go further into the matter. With reference to the outstanding loans of Fernie and Coalhurst, I am of the opinion that the Convention should seriously consider the advisability of continuing to show these on the balance sheet as an asset. To my mind they only create a false impression regarding the actual financial standing of the District, and unless there is some definite policy laid down by the Convention in order to collect these loans it would be more proper to place them in a suspense account and not continue to show them as an asset.

Sick and Accident Societies

Regarding a general Sick and Accident Society, your Executive Board were instructed to collect data and promote some scheme for the mutual benefit of the membership at large. I have to report that owing to the adverse conditions your Executive did not deem it wise to propagate any collective scheme but felt rather that it would be wise to leave the matter over until a more opportune time. I might state that there is being carried on a sick and accident fund in connection with a majority of the locals.

Unemployed

The distress through the lack of employment has been most acute throughout practically the whole of the District. Your Executive Officers have been appealed to time after time for financial assistance from various Locals, and as you are well aware, the Constitution makes no provisions that enables them to give any assistance, no matter how urgent and necessitious the circumstances may be. The question has been, to say the least, most embarrassing. Your officers, however, after persistent requests from some of the Locals, having an earnest desire to adopt means to alleviate the distress, recommended the following scheme for the consideration of the membership:

Re UNEMPLOYED QUESTION

In view of the present industrial depression which is unprecedented in our history, we feel compelled to move immediately in a concrete manner.

As an Executive Board, we appreciate the position that Constitutionally we cannot disburse our funds for charitable purposes, our function being mainly to protect wages and establish better conditions whenever possible. In order to further such policy, strikes are sometimes inaugurated, and we support our membership as liberally as possible during such periods, hence the necessity of maintaining our funds for such contingencies.

Our idea in connection with the present distress is to establish the nucleus of a fund which will have for its object the providing for all necessitous cases in our midst.

However, in view of the abnormal suffering, we recommend a departure from our Constitutional rules, and would ask our membership to endorse the following scheme:

1st. That on December 1st next we place Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) from our treasury into a fund to be known as the General Associated Relief Fund.

2nd. That an assessment be placed on all our members earning over fifty dollars ($50.00) per month on the following scale. The first $50.00 to be non-assessable; amounts from $50.00 to $75.00, 2 per cent; $75.00 to $100.00, 5 per cent; $100.00 and upwards, 10 per cent.

3rd. That wherever practicable to divide up work, if the division will not reduce the party employed to a wage less than Fifty Dollars ($50.00) per month.

4th. That all Local Unions place all possible finance into the aforementioned General Fund.

5th. That disbursements be so arranged that each recipient be treated alike in proportion to number of family.

6th. That a pro rata amount from the General Fund be allotted to each so as to ensure an equitable distribution of relief.

7th. In the event said proposals are endorsed by our membership, we immediately notify Dominion, Provincial and Municipal authorities of our plan, pointing out our inability to fully cope with the situation and petition them to establish some law, making it compulsory for all parties to support these suggestions, otherwise to inaugurate another more practicable scheme.

8th. That Local Unions be requested to furnish necessary data regarding the conditions of those requiring relief.

9th. In submitting the above we fully realize the fact that we cannot suggest any policy which will not meet with certain criticism. However, something has to be started and we are prepared to accept the responsibility for submitting the foregoing proposals for your consideration.

On behalf of the Executive Board,

W. L. PHILLIPS, President,
A. J. CARTER, Secretary-Treas.

These recommendations were rejected by a large majority, consequently your officers were necessarily compelled to refuse to give any assistance from the District funds.

Other methods have been employed to meet the situation. Appeals have been made to the Dominion Government, also the Governments of B. C. and Alberta. In conjunction with the officers of the provincial federations of labor we have drawn the attention of the respective governments to the deplorable conditions that have existed in many of the camps, and it is only through these persistent pleadings that the matter has received any attention from these Governments who are supposed to legislate for the welfare of their people. In dealing with this matter I think it is quite in place to touch on the political side of the question. Premier Sifton said, when your representative met him in Edmonton: "This unemployed question is nothing new, perhaps through the general depression it is a little more acute." Premier McBride, expressed himself practically in the same manner. Is it not time that the workers began to see the futility of sending members to the legislature who frankly confess that they are unable to cope with the unemployed question?—a matter which is today concerning the workers more than any other. If society is to progress as it should progress, if every person is to be given the inherent right to live, which the laws of humanity demand, then most assuredly it is the duty of the worker to use every endeavor to elect men who will at least attempt to make it possible for every individual to be able to secure a decent living.

Preferential Ballot

Election by the Preferential System was adopted at the last Convention. Immediately following elections were held for the delegates to the Rocky Mountain Convention and the Trades and Labor Congress. The results obtained by this method were very far from the expectations of even those who had advocated the change, in fact, the tellers were unable to make a practical report. Your Executive then appealed to the membership for an expression of opinion regarding the new method of voting, and from replies received, it was evident that the sentiment was against the Preferential form of voting. Following out the decided action of the majority of the Locals in this matter, your Executive felt justified in carrying out the election for District Officers on the old system.

Exoneration

The matter of applications from the various Locals for exoneration from payment of District Dues and Assessments was one which demanded the earnest attention of your Executive Board, and after giving the same very careful consideration, concluded that they were warranted in exonerating all members who may not earn thirty ($30.00) gross per month.

The following is a recapitulation of receipts and expenditures:

In connection with this feature of my report I have not deemed it necessary to set out a mass of details inasmuch as the quarterly statements have been submitted which covered these matters.

Recapitulation of Receipts

	Per Cap.	Def. Fund	Assess.	Sund.	Total
1913 December	$1349.25	$2738.50	$48.50	$ 79.81	$4226.06
1914 January	1457.28	2939.50	47.75		4444.08
February	988.75	1977.50	39.00		3005.25
March	2043.45	1375.25	17.25	550.00	3985.25
April	1378.00		7.25	50.00	1435.25
May	1198.20	1743.55	2.50	72.00	3016.25
June	1295.65	1948.20	23.50	123.02	3390.37
July	1251.90	1980.30	27.75		3259.95
August	1351.65	2063.85	40.50		3456.00
September	1380.10	2105.65	32.00		3517.75
October	1330.49	1851.76	28.50		3210.75
November	1212.45	1404.15	17.50	3688.39	6322.49
	$16,257.14	$22,154.61	$330.00	$4,563.82	$43,306.57

Recapitulation of Expenses

	Officers sal. and expe.	Relief	Print.	Law costs	Sund.	Total
1913 Dec.	$ 886.90			$ 750.00	$1335.95	$2972.85
1914 Jan.	620.05		$ 96.27	368.50	3123.00	4408.62
Feb.	674.25		28.50	401.00	2708.65	3812.50
Mar.	671.35		591.35		2722.90	3984.90
April	771.25			428.00	2365.96	3565.21
May	719.80				659.72	1379.52
June	869.50	$ 100.00	327.10	150.00	610.07	2056.67
July	553.45		195.25		2565.49	3314.19
Aug.	674.70				2219.60	2894.30
Sept.	1041.25	3000.00	132.50		507.59	4681.34
Oct.	770.30	1000.00	34.45	200.00	231.70	2236.45
Nov.	836.45			2864.80	83.45	3784.70
	$9089.35	$4100.00	$1405.32	$5362.30	$21,134.08	$41,091.05

In the attached Auditor's Report you will observe that there is a deficit of $5929.42 in the Per Capita Tax Account. This is not due to an increase in the expenditure, but rather to the falling off of the membership in comparison to the last term. As I previously pointed out at the beginning of the report, there is an appreciable difference in the membership, consequently the revenue this term must of necessity be much less, even though it be taken into consideration that 5 cents extra per capita tax was paid for nine months out of the year.

In closing I have to thank my colleagues for the assistance I have received at their hands, also the local officers and members generally, which has enabled me to carry out the duties of my office. It is with much pleasure that I have to report that harmony and diligence has reigned within your Executive Council during the term. I hope that this, perhaps the most important of the Conventions ever held in District 18, will be carried out to the best interests of those whom you represent, and that each delegate will recognize the responsibility that has been vested in him and will do all that he possibly can to safeguard and promote the welfare of our organization.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. CARTER, Secretary-Treas.

AUDITORS' REPORT - DISTRICT 18

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th NOVEMBER, 1914

EXPENDITURE

To District Board Officers:		
Salaries and expenses		$ 9,089.35
Miscellaneous Charges:		
Law costs (nett)		5307.49
Annual Convention Expenses (Lethbridge)		1497.95
Printing and Advertising		1405.32
Hillcrest Explosion Inquiry		1175.40
Office Supplies and General Expenses		1157.46
Salary of Secretary to Local Unions (T. Harries)		1050.00
Election and Convention Expenses		751.20
Relief to Local Unions (per contra)		600.00
Alberta Federation of Labor Dues		596.40
British Columbia Federation of Labor Dues		352.00
Sundries		223.85
Independent Chairman's Expenses		105.85
		$23,312.27

INCOME

By District Local Unions:		
Per Capita Taxes (Rates 25c. and 30c.)	$16,221.99	
Assessment Dues (Locals Nos. 949, 2829 and 2352)	333.00	
		$16,554.99
Sundries:		
Canadian Bank of Commerce, Int. on Savings Ac.	$ 217.86	
Relief Donations for Local Unions	$ 600.00	
Miscellaneous	10.00	
		827.86
		17,382.85
Balance:		
Deficit Revenue for year ended 30th Nov., 1914		5,929.42
		$23,312.27

(Signed) W. A. HENDERSON & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Acadia Building, Lethbridge, Alta., 28th December, 1914.

APPROXIMATE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th NOVEMBER, 1914

ASSETS

Loans—			
Fernie Local Union			
Balance at 30th Nov., 1913	$20,181.67		
Add interest at 4 p.c. for year to 21st Aug., 1914	807.30		
		$20,988.97	
Frank Local Union:			
Balance at 30th Nov., 1913	$ 3,000.00		
Less Repaid	2,990.00		
Balance deemed irrecoverable	10.00		
Coalhurst Local Union:			
Balance at 30th Nov., 1913		852.95	
District Ledger:			
Balance at 30th Nov., 1913		1,600.00	
Michel Local Union		600.00	
Western Canadian Co-Operative Trading Co		5,000.00	
Lethbridge Trades & Labor Council		1,500.00	
North Lethbridge Co-Op. Soc. Ltd $2,000.00			
Less divid. at 33 1-3 p.c. paid	693.33		
		1,306.67	
			31,848.50
Cash:			
Canadian Bank of Commerce			
Current Account	$4,131.50		
Savings Account	$ 7,571.82		
Sports Account	266.50		
Relief Account	199.29		
			12,169.11
Income and Expenditure Account:			
Deficit for year ended 30th Nov., 1914			5,929.42
			$49,947.12

LIABILITIES

Defense Fund:			
Balance at 30th Nov., 1913 per Sec.-Treas' statement	$ 8,550.35		
Assessment for year 1914 (rates 50c. and 40c.)	22,091.36		
	$30,641.71		
Deduct Relief—			
Special	$5,000.00		
Donated	3,100.00		
General	427.75		
		8,527.75	
		$22,113.96	
Balance:			
Estimated nett Defense Fund accumulated prior to 30th Nov., 1913, and depleted by accumulated revenue deficits as at that date		$27,833.16	
			49,947.12

NOTE: No account has been taken of dues in arrear or of accounts outstanding.

$49,947.12

HILLCREST RELIEF FUND

Subscriptions donated and promised	$8208.50	
Less Subscriptions collected and received	6948.50	
		$1260.00
Balance uncollected—made up as follows:		
Trites-Wood & Co. Ltd.	$1000.00	
McClary Manufacturing Co.	100.00	
A. McNeil	5.00	
Wm. Maxey	5.00	
W. R. Wilson (remitted direct to Government fund)	150.00	
		$1260.00

Cash Statement

Subscriptions collected and receipted	$6948.50	
Add Interest on Bank Savings Account	47.91	
	$6996.41	
Less Paid Hillcrest Local Relief Committee	525.00	
Balance in Canadian Bank of Commerce Savings account		$6471.41

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th NOVEMBER, 1914

ASSETS

Plant and Machinery:			
As per last balance sheet	$8226.59		
Additions during year	96.85		
		$8323.44	
Less Reserve for depreciation, 10 p.c.		832.34	
			$7491.10
Office Furniture:			
As per last balance sheet	$ 579.28		
Additions during year	15.50		
		$ 594.78	
Less Reserve for depreciation, 10 p.c.		59.48	
			535.30
Deferred Charges:			
Insurance prepaid			191.23
Library:			
Harvard Classics (cost to date)			27.50
Suspense Account:			
Difference in books			23.31
Stocks on Hand:			
Newspaper and Job Dept.		$ 626.45	
General Expenses		25.00	
Fuel		15.00	
			666.45
Sundry Debtors:			
On open account	$2143.72		
Subscription arrears	243.00		
		$2386.72	
Less Reserve for Doubtful Debts		584.00	
			1802.72
Cash:			
Balance on hand			3.80
			$10,741.41

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES

1. Capital:			
Balance at 30 Nov., 1913, per ledger account		$10,793.47	
Deduct 1913 reserve for accounts payable (not entered)	$ 126.06		
Loss for year 1914, per Profit and Loss Account	2779.19		
		2,905.25	
			7,888.22
2. Liabilities:			
Loan:			
District No. 18, balance per Ledger account 30th Nov., 1914			1,600.00
Canadian Bank of Commerce:			
Overdraft on Current Account			345.38
Sundry Creditors:			
On Open Accounts		14.46	
On Accounts Payable		108.22	
On Outstanding cheques		136.13	
			258.81
Contingent:			
On Prepaid Subscriptions			649.00
Reserves (Deducted per contra):			
Depreciation		891.82	
Doubtful Debts		584.00	
			$10,741.41

HENDERSON & CO., Chartered Accountants.

Acadia Building, Lethbridge, Alta., 28th December, 1914.

TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th NOVEMBER, 1914

To Newspaper Department:			
Publishing expenses, stock used, etc.	$ 730.44		
Correspondence	1034.21		
Wages and salaries (say 66 2-3 of $6597.95)	4398.63		6163.28
			$6163.28
To Job Department:			
Stock used, etc.	820.57		
Wages and salaries (say 33 1-3 of $6,597.95)	2199.32		3019.89
Balance: Gross profit carried down			2016.19
			5036.08
To Miscellaneous Charges:			
Heading competition	$ 234.20		
Freight and express	165.50		
Repairs and renewals	98.37		
Fuel	50.00		
Interest and discount	90.78		
Insurance	218.76		
Donations	119.90		
General expenses	1502.28		
			2479.79
			$2479.79
To Balance:			
Brought down			$ 614.60
To bad debts written off per app. 1	$ 747.77		
To reserve for doubtful debts	525.00		
Reserve for Depreciation:			
Plant and machinery, 10 p.c.	$832.34		
Office furniture, 10 p.c.	59.48	891.82	2164.59
			$2779.19
By Newspaper Department:			
Advertising	$5380.11		
Less allowances	174.12	$5205.99	
Paper sales	458.90		
Less Allowances	6.15	452.75	
Subscriptions less commission	633.48		
Deduct prepaid Subs.	$649.00		
Less subs. in arrear	243.00	406.00	
		227.48	5886.22
Balance:—Gross loss carried down			277.06
Job Department:			
Printing		$5118.71	
Less allowances		82.63	
			5036.08
			5036.08
By balances brought down			
Job department gross profit		$2016.19	
Deduct: Newspaper Department gross loss		277.06	
		1739.13	
Reserve from 1913		126.06	
			1865.19
Balance carried down			614.60
			$2479.79
By Balance: Loss for year			$2779.19

Baby's Cough

must have attention, otherwise you run grave chances of Consumption, Pneumonia, or Congestion of the Lungs. To avoid these risks, apply PEPs without delay. Unlike ordinary cough mixtures, syrups, etc., PEPs do not contain opiates or harmful drugs, and are therefore best for children. All liquid cough medicines, lozenges, etc., go to the stomach, and every mother knows how easily baby's stomach is deranged. Once put baby's stomach out of order and all sorts of trouble arises.

PEPs heal the lungs, throat and breathing tubes without disordering the stomach.

As a PEP dissolves in the mouth, healing, health-giving pine fumes are given off which are breathed down direct to the seat of the trouble, quickly healing the inflamed membranes.

As soon as baby's cough is heard, don't waste time on useless remedies. Try PEPs. PEPs are also the adults' best cure for coughs, colds, bronchitis, asthma, hoarseness, and all throat, chest, and lung ailments. All druggists and stores, or PEPs Co., Toronto, Winnipeg, or Montreal, 50c. box.

FREE TRIAL Send this article, name of paper and 1c. stamp, for free trial package.

Peps

IN ENGLAND TODAY

Tailor! tailor! What are you doing,
So busy with needle and thread?
"I make me a coat for a young soldier
laddie
Who soon to the war will be sped."

Cobbler! cobbler! Why are you
working
With leather and wax-end and awl?
"Making boots for the feet of a braw,
bonnie laddie
Who must answer his country's
call!"

Artisan! artisan! Why do you labor
Wih iron and steel and with fire?
"I fashion the sword for a brave, noble
laddie,
'Tis the soul of his heart's desire."

Woman! woman! Why are you
weeping?
Why are your eyes so dim and red?
"I mourn me, alas! for my own dearest
laddie—
He numbers in France with the
dead!"

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, Toledo, Ohio.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Directory of Fraternal Societies

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock in K. P. Hall.

Noble Grand, J. Pearson
Secretary, J. McNicholas,

ESTHER REBEKAH LODGE NO. 20

meets first and third Thursdays in month, at 8 p. m., in K. P. Hall.

Noble Grand—A. Biggs
R. Sec.—Sister Price

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., J. Combe.
K. of S., D. J. Black.
M. of F., Jas. Maddison.

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE

Meets every Monday at 7:30 p. m., in K. of P. Hall.

Dictator, F. H. Newnham.
Secretary, G. Moses.

LOYAL TRUE BLUE ASSOCIATION

Lady Terrace Lodge, No. 224, meets in the K. P. Hall second and fourth Friday of each month at 8 p. m.

MRS. J. BROOKS, W. M.
W. 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. CRICHTON, W. M.
J. SKILLING, Rec. Sec.

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Beware of Imitations Sold on the Merits of Minard's Liniment

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Skates, Sticks, Pucks
Ankle Supports etc.

CURLING
Rocks and Brooms
Best quality only

Snowshoes
In great variety

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Hardware and Furniture
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Full supply of following for an appetizing meal to choose from.
Beef, Pork, Mutton
Poultry, Butter
and Eggs
Try our Cambridge Sausages for tomorrow's breakfast.
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Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Gents' Furnishings
BAKER AVENUE
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Deafness Cannot Be Cured
by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. [illegible]
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Sold by Druggists.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

SHILOH
[illegible]

Report of International Board Member

Lethbridge, February 15, 1915.

To the Officers and Delegates, Twelfth Annual Convention District 18, United Mine Workers of America

Greeting:—

In submitting my report to you this year, I do so fully realizing the responsibilities that rest on the shoulders of every delegate, as well as officers and members of our District generally.

True, each one of us should be striving daily to better our conditions. However, no matter what we do the period just prior to negotiating an agreement is fraught with anxiety.

I note the local press, particularly the Lethbridge Herald, is apparently greatly concerned with our welfare, and on January 15th, in their first column, they remind their readers that we would be in session today; possibly fearing Secretary-Carter might forget to issue the Convention Call.

The tone of their article reads so much like the usual award of an independent chairman that no miner should be in doubt as to their impartiality.

You are all aware of the many official changes which have taken place in our organization during the life of our present agreement. It would hardly be proper for me to make any comparison of the capabilities of the various administrations, suffice to say, regardless of the personnel of any administration their efforts would avail but little without the support of their constituents; hence your co-operation is absolutely essential at this time.

Our Demands

Our Locals will present the suggested changes required by them to this Convention, and same will have to be very carefully considered.

Whilst fully appreciating working conditions throughout the District, as well as America and Canada generally, I feel that owing to certain things that have happened during the past three years we must review some of them at least. Bentley's Decision, the Coal Creek and Michel Yardage Decision and the Carbondale make-up decision, are among some of the masterpieces.

Owing to the decision of Mr. Bentley our District has a condition unlike any other District in the U. M. W. of A.. In other Districts where the miners are "made-up" they receive precisely the same wage as a miner who works company work, whilst we have the miners taken to do company work receiving $3.30 per day, and the miners in a "make-up" place, $3.00 per day.

In the presentation of our case re Yardage Dispute, ex-President Smith certainly had all the weight of evidence; citing various authorities, text books, and presenting plans in order that the case might be made intelligible to the legal mind of the arbitrator. In this case facts were ruthlessly ignored; precedents and previous awards thrown to the winds without cognizance.

Strange and inconsistent though it may appear to the naturally biased mind of a miner, when President Phillips presented four or five cases recently to a Circuit Court Judge, the learned gentleman, in order to support his award, which was as usual against us, went back as far as 1908 to cite what he considered a precedent, hence the independent chairmen are as harmonious as a tune full of discords in their ways of doing business; but they scarcely ever vary in the grand finale, for we find that out of the vast number of cases that have been presented to the so-called independent chairmen, very few awards have been in our favor.

Many complaints have been lodged with the Minister of Labor and others by your presidents, past and present, against certain men acting as independent chairmen, seeking, if possible, men conversant with coal mining for such work, but as yet we have not been heeded, hence the mode of settling disputes, possibly more than anything else, certainly needs changing this time.

I will not make any further comment in my report, but will voice my sentiments in Convention.

General Work

I have tried to assist my colleagues at all times in furthering the work of the organization; most of my time has been spent in the District, but owing to the distance to travel, quite a little time is taken up by attending International Board meetings.

International Board Meetings

I have attended all these meetings, with the exception of one that I was forced to lose, owing to being away up at the Brazeau Mines negotiating a contract, and not receiving word in time. However, as it happened it was well that I did not attend, because it was only a short special board meeting, and we were extraordinarily busy in the District at the time, owing to being short-handed, and the Hillcrest Disaster and Enquiry happening at this time, I was forced to negotiate the final agreement for the Brazeau Mines alone. Hence, as already stated, my absence from the one board meeting was warranted.

It is neither customary nor proper to detail the work of the International Board, so I will pass on.

District Board Meetings

I have attended all the said meetings but one, which I failed to attend owing to being forced to keep my bed just at the time. I was extremely sorry that I was unable to attend said meeting, because the Hillcrest Mines were idle at the time, owing to what was considered a violation or want of contract. I might add that said Coal Company at that time sought to evade the agreement and when taken to task, played up the compensation cases of the widows left by reason of the explosion, feinting liquidation, etc. I feel myself that, whilst it may be said everything is fair in war, nevertheless said action was rather a contemptible way of forcing their side of the case, inasmuch as they recognized no man wishes to be placed in the position whereby it might be said of him, that his action deprived widows and orphans of their compensation.

Some criticism might be offered in this convention owing to certain actions taken by the Board, particularly with reference to the Unemployed scheme, which some few imagine and claim was a political move on the part of the officers. Let me assure you, the Board has nothing to be ashamed of owing to same. I am ready and willing to answer both the honest and shallow-minded critic for the part I played in the Board when this scheme was launched.

I have done whatever I could to assist in organizing both inside and outside our District. I say inside, because recently in visiting a Local, which was at rather low ebb, it was found necessary to get the Secretary of the Local and the Checkweighman to sign the check-off.

Secretary Carter and myself organized a Local in the Brazeau, and when doing so it was distinctly understood that no attempt would be made to negotiate an agreement for two or three months.

Later Brother Carter, Graham and myself attempted to negotiate an agreement with the company, but unfortunately failed. We fully realized the awkwardness of the situation there. The men were in a camp over 100 miles from the main line; some of the men did not approve of the attitude of the officers at the time, however, we considered we were doing the best thing for all concerned.

The mines were then laid idle, and as previously stated owing to certain circumstances in the District, I had to leave for the Brazeau alone toward the end of June. It was rather a difficult task; the camp was awkward to approach owing to the regular trains being discontinued. However, after several days discussion, local meetings and conferences with the company officials, I succeeded in obtaining an agreement which was accepted by the majority of the men.

Said agreement did not by any means contain all our demands, but having in mind the bearing prices paid in adjacent camps have upon prices for a new camp, I am in no way ashamed of it.

Accompanied by Vice-President Graham, and another time alone, I did what I could to organize the Drumheller District. In said District there are many good men who are anxious to organize, but when left to themselves the indifferent element that we sometimes find in new camps, seemed to dominate over the others, consequently the organization is not established there. In many of these new camps, men complacently jog along, oft times tolerating eating and sleeping accommodation unfit for human beings, until suddenly the jarring note of a big slash in prices reaches their ears—it is then the District [illegible]

I have not visited any other camps in the Northern Field, and recently we (your officers) decided not to attempt to further organize that field at present for reasons which will be explained to this convention.

Vice-President Graham has visited other camps, hence he will, no doubt, deal more fully with this question.

Special Convention B. C. Federation of Labor

It fell to my lot to attend this convention as a representative of our District Executive Board. The task, I can assure you, was not an enviable one, realizing, as we did, that the Vancouver Island men were clamouring for a general strike in British Columbia, and having in mind our agreement, the fact of the District covering part of British Columbia and Alberta, the unfavorable conditions, etc., we felt the position taken up by our brothers on the Island was not the correct attitude to adopt. I tried to advance the viewpoint of the District Board as carefully as possible in order to avoid offence and misconstruction, and if this convention desires a full report I can present the report I made to our District Board.

Alberta Federation of Labor Convention

Owing to the prevailing conditions, possibly accentuated by the European War, I attended said convention in order that I might lend whatever assistance I could to any move having for its purpose the relieving of distress. Noticing some little apathy, it became my lot to open up the discussion of the question of relief for the unemployed. Our official organ has kept you posted with the various meetings, etc., subsequent to that time, suffice to say, some little has been accomplished, but I fear more will have to be done if the authorities wish to keep us out of the European War zone.

The attitude of a few individuals in said convention was really astonishing, evidently their petty political jealousies so warped their minds that they feared anything even resembling a miner was going to decapitate them. I cannot pretend to explain the reasons for all the actions of some of the miners' representatives. One individual, who like many others, evidently has lofty aspirations (but in his case the realization of them are as far away as Tipperary) wrote up the work of the convention for the "B. C. Federationist." Had he stayed with the truth nothing would have been said, but in his anxiety to slate District 18, and more especially a section of its members, truth had to take second place. Said report appeared during the time I was away in the States, during November and December, otherwise the Federationist may have been reproducing one or two interesting letters.

Constitutionally we are bound to affiliate with such provincial bodies, hence it behooves the miners to take a hand in making this body a live wire.

Rocky Mountain Association Convention

A joint report of this Convention by Brother Herman Elmer and myself is submitted for your approval. I trust you will not overlook the necessity of this convention passing certain resolutions as suggested in order that the next International Convention will have to handle same.

Accidents

We naturally deplore the all too frequent accidents which happen from time to time in our midst. The Hillcrest explosion tore from our midst many of our stalwart fighters. Their families need all the sympathy and attention that this cruel world can give. No deed however commendable can counteract the loss sustained by the many widows, parents and other relatives. We sincerely hope that the scant consideration called for by law, namely compensation, will be paid to most of the dependants without litigation. No doubt Secretary Carter will make a report on this matter.

Again we commenced the present year with an explosion at Coal Creek. The only fortunate feature in connection with same was that the mine was idle, otherwise we know not what would have occurred.

The loss of Mine Inspector Evan Evans, who was one of an exploration party, is to be deplored. Naturally many wonder how he came to lose his life whilst wearing the apparatus used in B. C. for mine rescue work. Having in mind the death of Fred Alderson at Bellevue, the condition of some of the rescuers at Hillcrest, and again this party at Coal Creek, I feel this matter should receive special attention during the enquiry re the B North Explosion, as well as the cause of the accident. Evidently in this case it is not the fault of a miner, as there was no one in the mine.

Accidents should and must be lessened and it behooves each Local to rigidly inquire into the cause of all fatal and non-fatal accidents with a view to minimizing same.

Visiting Locals

Visiting the various Locals from time to time as I have been able to do has afforded me great pleasure. However, too many meetings are being held on Sunday to make a rapid tour of the District. I had intended covering as many Locals as possible during the last few weeks prior to this Convention, however, I have only about half completed the task; the National Board Meeting convening as it did on February 2nd prevented me visiting any more.

I have and will endeavor to the best of my ability to keep our membership posted as to the important happenings in our organization.

The District Ledger

The Ledger causes the officers quite a little work, the policy of the paper having to be carefully scrutinized and many other matters incident to its publication necessarily entail considerable attention.

I have been pleased to hear many of our members complimenting the Ledger upon its educational value, and trust they will continue to support it. The present is a poor time, I know to solicit subscriptions, but those not already subscribing would do well to get on the list as early as possible, thus helping to maintain the most progressive paper in the west, from an industrial standpoint.

We must remember that maintaining this standard costs money, hence you have to consider whether the financial loss (if any) of the past year, and again the more likely increased loss due to the dearth of advertising, is not fully offset by the tendency of our paper to promote a more intelligent understanding of the working class movement among our membership.

United Mine Workers' Journal

We should also remember the above paper is now issued in magazine form, and has made a very commendable appearance. The Journal now appears in three languages thus catering to a much larger proportion of our membership. Every member should read the Journal in order to familiarize himself with the conditions in other Districts.

Policy of Our Organization

During the past few months many of our members have seriously questioned the advisability of our organization maintaining its present policy. The advantages and disadvantages of "sectional strikes" have been fully discussed. I agree with those who state that we have to adopt new methods if we wish to accomplish some of the many tasks which need undertaking at present. However, in fairness to our International Organization, let me explain briefly that their work which may appear slow, has been going on all the time. The policy of the present administration, endorsed by International Convention, as been to carry the organization into the unorganized districts, and considerable success has been met with in this respect.

The numerical strength of the organization has wonderfully increased during the last two years. Our experience during the past has brought me to the conclusion that drastic changes in policy must be made. To this end we should frame strong resolutions in this convention, forward them to our headquarters and further we ought to use the Ledger and the Journal, especially the latter, seeing it is widely read in other Districts, in order that we may prepare the material attending the next International Convention for the task which confronts them.

Auditors

I am prompted to suggest a slight change in the manner of auditing our District accounts. I feel convinced that it would be unwise to adopt the method once decided upon—i.e., that two members be elected for said position by referendum vote. I believe we should maintain the present policy of having a chartered accountant audit our books annually, but in order that the strictest surveillance possible might be made, I would suggest that the Convention appoint two men who have the necessary qualifications for the work, to audit the books of the Secretary-Treasurer (and if possible, the Ledger) annually. Our auditors to audit after the close of the half year in June; the chartered accountant to audit after the close of the fiscal year in November for the whole year.

In order that there be no misunderstanding, the idea in brief, of two members auditing annually, is so that they can question any item which may appear in the accounts to be extravagant or uncalled for; the chartered accountant naturally does not question why monies are spent so long as they are duly credited or debited, and have corresponding vouchers and receipts. The auditors appointed by Convention could in this way note the annual expenditures, and I am of the opinion some such plan would meet with the general approval of our membership. My idea would be if some scheme was adopted, to still adhere to our present practice; the Secretary-Treasurer to issue a quarterly statement to Local Unions, and the Manager of the Ledger prepare a quarterly statement for the District Executive Board.

Local Strikes

The policy of the International Organization, as is well known is unalterably opposed to strikes in violation of contract. However, in view of the arrogant and arbitrary treatment meted out to our men by different companies, together with the indescribable actions of so-called independent chairmen the wonder is that so few cessations occurred during the life of the present agreement.

The employer, entrenched as he is, may persist in his domineering attitude [illegible] and conniving must not be questioned by us. [illegible] never afford to allow anyone to legislate away our right to strike, because crude and barbaric though our method of striking may be, it strikes more terror to the heart (pocketbook) of our master, than the logic of our ablest men, presenting our status of a dispute.

Other Strikes

Our International organization has had its share of strikes recently. The history of the Colorado strike plainly reveals the fact that President Woodrow Wilson's wishes were subservient to the whims and desires of John D., Jr. We all deeply deplore the loss of men like Louis Tikas, the Greek, who was brutally murdered in cold blood, whilst a prisoner. His action in appealing to the bloodthirsty scoundrels (who were recruited from the underworld to act as gunmen for the employers) for quarters for the defenseless women and children of Ludlow, was evidently considered criminal by Lieutenant Linderfelt, his murderer. We also deplore the loss of our women, children and innocent babes in the massacre of Ludlow, but the day when Calumet and Ludlow will be forgotten is far distant.

Our brothers and their families fighting the despots in Eastern Ohio, who have tried every possible scheme imaginable to break the back of the strike are certainly to be commended, and whilst we are facing a peculiar situation ourselves, nevertheless if we can in any way assist the Ohio people who are so valiantly battling against the giant corporations, struggling through the depth of winter, by all means let us do so.

We cannot help but despise the attitude of certain ex-officials of our organization, who are evidently preying upon the little confidence they still enjoy with the hope of inducing the Eastern Ohio men to return to work on the masters' terms. My judgment may be hasty, however I can only imagine a hireling of the capitalist class engaging in such nefarious practices. I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of our entire membership in wishing our Eastern Ohio brothers every success in their titanic struggle.

European War

In order to be up-to-date, it will not be proper for me to conclude my report without commenting upon the much discussed subject—War. I believe this Convention should go on record in no uncertain manner decrying same. Let our language be so plain that ambiguity and misconstruction will be impossible. We must remember the city we are meeting in seems to hold the record for detaining aliens, pro rata with its population. We must also remember the recent warning of the British Government to Socialists and others in Great Britain, wherein they state in part "Any action that may be CONSTRUED to mean the attempting to keep men from enlisting, will be considered a treasonable offence." Hence, let us not attempt to keep any men from going to the front, but by all means induce the present flag-wavers and oratorical spellbinders (who would like to go, but——) to go to the front. When we see such characters let them understand that, if they went to the front themselves, they would possibly induce a greater number to enlist than by staying at home flag-waving.

However, I feel that there is no law to prevent a number of sane and sober-minded individuals, who happen to be useful members of society, from expressing their abhorrence and demonstrating to the workers at large, especially in view of the cosmopolitan make up of our organization, that we have no quarrel whatsoever with one another. The only thing that will cause the cosmopolitan proletarian to go to war is the capitalist holding on to that which does not rightfully belong to him. The worker when driven to that point by education and intelligence will not cease fighting until every parasite is annihilated.

I am sorry that Herman Elmer and other members of our organization have been interned as prisoners of war; more so when I think of the insidious and unmanly action of the party who laid information against Elmer. Needless to state his solemn obligation to his brother man was immediately set aside when he felt he had a chance of courting the favor of his masters by causing the removal of a scholar like Brother Elmer.

Conclusion

In conclusion, let me state that the relationship of the officers as well as the Executive Board, has been of a most cordial nature. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking my colleagues, and the membership generally for their kindly assistance. Further, let me state I fully appreciate the confidence reposed in me by again electing me for another term, and whilst a minority may hold the opinion that a man has to pamper and cajole his fellow men for votes, such is not my policy.

My earnest hopes are that every question will receive the consideration it deserves; that the delegates will all assist the President in properly conducting the Convention. That interchanges of opinion will not savor of personalities and that our judgment will be calm and deliberate. Let us not be unmindful of our duties to those who sent us here, and let our work be such that it will not only redound to our credit, but that it will be felt throughout the organization. With best wishes, I am,

Yours fraternally,

DAVID REES,

International Board Member.

REPORT OF DELEGATES TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The Convention was called to order by President Drinnan at 10 a.m., May 25th, 1914. The following districts were represented: Montana, three delegates; Wyoming, three delegates; Vancouver Island, one delegate; Colorado, one delegate; Washington, four delegates, and District 18, two delegates.

The Convention adjourned till 10.00 a.m., May 26th, to give J. McLennon from Colorado and Wilkinson, Montana, time to arrive and participate in the deliberations of the convention.

The second day session was called to order by the President at 10 a.m. The call for convention was read by the secretary, also an explanation given why it had been necessary to postpone the Convention from the 4th to the 25th of May.

The secretary read his report to the Convention, which stated that at the last Convention of the above body, Harlin of Washington, and Wilkinson of Montana, had been delegated to interview the representatives of the coal operators of Washington, Montana and Wyoming re the formation of an Interstate Joint Conference with the aforementioned Districts in 1914. Needless to say the operators had refused to entertain this move.

Reference was made in the Secretary's report of the strikes on Vancouver Island and Colorado, in which he emphasized that we must win these strikes, but no solution was offered as how to accomplish this end.

A committee of six was elected to go over the Secretary's report and bring in some recommendations.

At the third day's session the committee brought in their report, which was discussed pro and con.

Finally a resolution was introduced calling on our next International Convention to try and make arrangements for the expiration of all contracts of the U. M. W. of A. at the same time, and to change the date of the expiration of same from the Spring of the year to the Fall. This was carried.

Another resolution, calling the attention of all organized bodies to the Colorado and Vancouver Island strike situation, and asking for financial assistance, was also carried.

The attention of the Delegates was called to a bill presented before the United States Congress by Congressman Bryan of Washington, providing as a solution to the Colorado strike situation, that the government take over the Mines and operate same on behalf of the people. A motion was offered and carried that the delegates to the Rocky Mountain Association favor the Bryan Bill.

It was decided that the next Convention of the Association be held in Denver, Colorado, in 1916.

The old officers were elected by acclamation.

In summing up the work of the Convention, your delegates are forced to state they failed to see the necessity for calling same, as nothing has been accomplished by this body that could not have been done by the various Districts themselves without going to the expense of sending delegates to Seattle.

However, in line with the arrangements made at the last Convention, it was almost necessary to meet in order to receive the report of the committee who interviewed the coal operators of Washington, Montana and Wyoming. Although your delegates before going were of the opinion that nothing could be accomplished in this Convention, in view of the fact that the Interstate movement of the bigger Districts had failed to negotiate contracts as an interstate body this year. Further, it will be noticed there is no Convention next year. We are also of the opinion that there will be nothing doing in Denver, Colorado, in 1916, unless the International Convention takes definite action upon the matter.

The only recommendation of any value is the resolution, to be submitted to the next International Convention, suggesting to that body, that all our District agreements expire on one and the same date, and in the Fall instead of the Spring of the year.

Some delegates suggested to the Convention that this matter be taken up immediately by the Districts comprising the Rocky Mountain Association, bearing in mind that the agreements of Montana, Wyoming and Washington expire some time in the Fall of this year, and the agreement of District No. 18 expires in March 1915, and that by cooperation these four Districts would perhaps be able to negotiate agreements which would expire on one and the same date, instead of waiting another two years for the International Convention [illegible]

The majority of the delegates, however, were of the opinion that the Vancouver Island as well as the Colorado strike had to be settled first, and that the International Convention pass on this measure before the Districts comprising the Rocky Mountain Association should take any steps in this direction.

Your delegates were firmly of the opinion that was the wisest course to pursue, inasmuch as groups of Districts have failed to accomplish the desired end, hence, the necessity of the next International Convention definitely deciding this shall be done, we feel that this Convention should place itself on record at this time in order that it will come forward as a District request in the next International Convention.

In conclusion, we must state that the benefits we all logically expected would accrue out of our affiliation with the Rocky Mountain Association are nil, and that the money expended by sending delegates to these conventions is absolutely wasted, and could be used to better advantage for educational and organizing purposes in our District.

Respectfully submitted,

H. ELMER,

D. REES.

BARGAINS! BARGAINS BARGAINS!

SPECIAL 5 to 50 cent SALE

Commencing Saturday February 20 and Continues for one week

Our toy Dept. on the second floor will be alive with good values. We have gone through our entire stock and picked money savers from same. You will find in this assortment, Crockery, Enamelware, Tinware, Brushes, Cutlery, Kitchen Utensils, Stationery, Smallwares, Ladies' and Children's Hosiery, Towels, Pillow Cases, Gloves, Mitts, Ladies' Aprons, Ladies' and Children's Felt Slippers. A special feature of this Sale is that all goods will sell at from 5 to 50 cents. Goods are all taken from our regular stock and not brought in especially to run a cheap sale. You will find exceptional good values throughout, and it will certainly pay you to visit this floor.

Dry Goods Dept.

PAY DAY SPECIALS

Pongee Silk

In a good quality; very suitable for men's Shirts, ladies' and children's waists and dresses. Comes in natural shades only. Regular, 40c. yard.

Pay Day Special ..... 25c. yard

27 inch Flouncing Embroidery

Made on an extra fine quality cambric; makes dainty dress underskirt, pinafores, etc. Regular, 35c to 40c. yard.

Pay Day Special ..... 25c. yard.

Flannelette

Comes in an extra soft finish; just the thing for children's wear. A big selection of patterns to choose from. Also pink and pale blue.

Pay Day Special 12½c. yard

Children's Heavy Stockings

These are extra strong and will stand the rough school wear; fast black; sizes, 5 to 10.

Pay Day Special ..... 25c. pair

Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Department

Ladies' White Blouses

White Lingerie Blouses, nicely trimmed with lace and embroidery; high and low neck; regular value, $2.25 to $4.50.

Special $1.75

Ladies' Cloth Dresses

Ten Cloth Dresses in very good style; come in Bedford cord, serge and shepherd plaid. Sizes, 16 to 38. Regular price, $12.50 to $17.50.

Saturday Special $8.50

Ladies' Petticoats

Ladies' Petticoats, of good quality of moire; come in narrow and wide flounces, black, navy, gray, brown and copen. Regular, $1.00

Special ..... 65c.

Ladies' Trimmed Hats

25 Trimmed Hats go on Sale Saturday. Value from $6.50 to $10.00.

Special $2.00

Infants' Bonnets

Infant's Bonnets' in bear cloth, silk, velvet and Angora wool. **All Half Price.**

Footwear Special

Clearing sale of Ladies' Felt House Slippers at rock-bottom prices. Here is a chance to procure a pair of warm and comfortable slippers in a large variety of styles.

High-cut Romeo Slippers, in several colors. Prices up to $1.75.

Special Pay Day Price ..... 95c.

All-felt or leather sole Slippers. Prices up to $1.

Special Pay Day Price ..... 65c. pr.

Men's Felt House Slippers in a large variety of styles. Prices up to $1.50.

Special Pay Day Price .....75c. pr.

[illegible] wool style. Prices from $3 to $6.

Special Pay Day Price ..... $3.90 pr.

Girls' and Youths' lace and button Boots; strong and serviceable; hard wearing; sizes 8 to 10½. Prices up to $2.25.

Special Pay Day Price ..... $1.75 pr.

A Few of the Special Lines we are Showing

Ladies' Lisle Hose, regular 25c. .....15 pr.
Ladies' Cashmere Hose, regular 35c.....25c. pr.
Turkish Towels, regular 20c, each ....15c. each
Galvanized Coal Hods, regular 75c..... 50c.
Coal Shovels, regular 15c. ..... 10c.
Carpet Tacks, regular 5c. pkt..... 2 for 5c.
Scrub Brushes, regular 35c. ..... 20c.
Scrub Brushes, regular 25c. ..... 15c.
Enamel Tea Pots, regular 65c..... 45c.
Enamel Stove Pots, regular 75c. ..... 50c.
Enamel Potato pots, regular 85c. ..... 50c.
Brown Tea Pots, regular 65c. 45c
Brown Tea Pots, regular 40c. ..... 25c.

Smallware Specials

Pin Sheets, regular 5c, sheet ..... 2 for 5c.
Needles, regular 5c, pkt. ..... 2 for 5c.
Boxes Hair Pins, regular 5c. ..... 2 for 5c.
Bunch Tape, regular 10c. ..... 2 for 15c.
Press Studs, regular 5c. card ..... 2 for 5c.
Bone Hair Pins, regular 10c. card .... 5c. card
Shoe Laces, regular 15c. doz. ..... 5c. doz.
Safety Pins, regular 5c. card .....2 for 5c.
Shoe Laces, regular 5c. pair ..... 10c. doz.

Leather Goods

Regular 50c. Bill-folds and Purses ..... .25
Regular 75c. Coin Trays ..... .50
Regular 25c. Bill-folds ..... .15
Regular 75c. Belts ..... .45
Regular 65c. Belts ..... .35
Regular 65c. Suspenders ..... .40
Regular 40c. Shaving Brushes ..... .20
Regular 25c. Silk Armbands ..... .20
Regular 15c. pkg Bachelor's Buttons .... .10
Regular 10c. Cambric Handkerchiefs .... .05
Regular 25c. Pad Garters ..... .20
Regular 35c. Blk. Sateen Sleeve-protectors .20

Make Your Dollars Work-Buy Specials in our Men's Dept.

A few dollars used wisely covers more of your requirements than twice the amount spent carelessly. We have arranged a display of men's and boy's necessities at prices that cannot fail to convince you of the money saving opportunities being offered this week.

In Our Men's Department Will be Shown the Following:

Men's Negligee Shirts, Work Shirts, Sox, Neckwear, Working Gloves.
Men's and Boys' Suspenders, Sweaters.
Boys' Overalls, Odd Pants, Work Shirts.
Leather Goods and Suit Cases.

The above lines will be sold regardless of cost. Don't fail to see these Specials, they represent a great saving to you.

Spring is Here—You Need a Suit

We have in stock a well selected lot of Serges, Worsteds and Tweeds, ranging in price from $12.50 to $25.00

We are also taking measures for Spring Clothing manufactured by the well-known firms of the 20th Century Clothing Co., Limited, and Coppley, Noyles and Randall. We guarantee to fit you, and do not ask a deposit when taking your order. We have an especially good selection for you to choose from. Prices range from $18.50 to $30.000. Our $25.00 range is a crackerjack. Place your order at once, so that you will be sure to have your suit for Easter Sunday.

GROCERIES

Gold Standard Baking Powder, 12 oz.....	.15
Slab Fruit Cake, per lb.	.30
Royal Mixed Candy, per lb.	.10
Robertson's Assorted Cream Chocolates, per lb	.30
Cowan's Cocoa, 1 lb. tin	.45
Lowney's Cocoa, ½ lb. tin	.20
Braid's Big Four Coffee, fresh ground, 2 lbs.	.75
Sterling Flavoring Extract, 4 oz., per bottle	.20
Okanagan Peaches, 3 lbs. tin	.25
Cooking Figs, per lb.	.10
Holbrook's Kippered Herring, 2 tins	.35
Sherriff's Marmalade, 4 lb. tin	.60
Crosse & Blackwell's Jam, 4 lb. tins.....	.65
Lyle's English Syrup, 4 lb tin	.35
Special Blend Bulk Tea, 2 lbs.	.75
Braid's Best Bulk Tea, 2 lbs.	.90
Okanagan Carrots, 12 lbs.	.25
Okanagan Beets, 12 lbs.	.25
Okanagan Turnips, 16 lbs.	.25
Okanagan Cabbage, per lb.....	.03
Rome Beauty Apples, per box	$1.40

PROVISION DEPARTMENT

Dairy Butter, per lb.	.28
Gorgonzola Cheese, per lb.	.40
Roquefort Cheese, per lb.	.35
Special Candled Eggs, per dozen	.30
Picnic Hams, per lb.	.14
Rolled Boned Shoulder Ham, per lb.	.15
Heavy Hams, half or whole, per lb.	.16
Smoked Halibut Fillets, per lb.	.15
Smoked Haddie Fillets, per lb	.17½
Smoked Salmon Fillets, per lb.	.17½
Smoked Cod Fillets, per lb	.17½
Smoked Bloaters, per lb.	.10
Fresh Halibut, per lb.	.12½

Heavy Fibre Matting

Just the thing for bedroom, hall or porch; small design, green colorings. Regular, 75c.

Special ..... 50c. yard

Japanese Matting Squares, assorted patterns; sizes 9 x 9; regular $2.75, at..... $1.95

Wall Burlaps, dyed green, brown or red; one yard wide; regular, 40c. **Special ..... 27½c. yd.**

Plain sized Burlap, one yard wide; regular 30c.

Special ..... 20c. yd.

Beds and Mattresses

White enamelled iron Beds, brass trimmed; all sizes. Regular, $3.75, at..... $2.95

Mattresses, curled wool fibre filled, cotton padded both sides; all sizes. Regular, $5.50

Special $4.45

Rockers

Golden oak frame, spring-seated, upholstered in good quality leatherette. Regular, $11.50.

Special $8.75

Regular $8.50. **Special $6.85**

Go-Cart Runners

Fit right over your go-cart wheels; very simple to put on or take off. Regular, 50c.

Special ..... 30c. per pair

Pictures

Landscape scenes, size 14 x 20, framed in a dull oak frame. Big value at $3.75.

Special $2.20

Mirrors

Shock plate, framed in natural or white enamel frames. Regular, 40c at 25c

Regular, 70c. at ..... 50c.

Window Shades

Spring and house cleaning are nearly with us, and now is the time to purchase those new shades and save money.

[illegible] Special 85c

Regular 75c.. **Special 55**

Green Shades, trimmed with cream insertion. Regular, $1, at ..... 72½c.

Odd lines of shades clearing at ..... 30c.

[illegible]

The Store of Quality

TRITES-WOOD COMPANY, LTD.

Money Saving Prices

BRANCHES AT FERNIE, MICHEL, NATAL AND COAL CREEK