

Economic Aspects of the Coal Strike.

Interesting Inaugural Address by Prof. Riley of the U. N. B.

SUBJECT DISCUSSED FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT.

Dr. I. Woodbridge Riley, Professor of Economics at the U. N. B., addressed a large and appreciative audience at the Opera House last evening on "Some Economic Aspects of the Recent Coal Strike." Dr. J. R. Inch, chief superintendent of education, occupied the chair and seated on the platform with him were the following gentlemen: Judge Barker, Judge McLeod, Judge Gregory, Rev. Willard McDonald, Mr. Geo. A. Inch, Rev. Dean Partridge, Dr. Scott, Dr. Thomas Harrison, Dr. Bailey, Prof. E. B. Jack, Prof. Clawson, Prof. Raymond, Ald. Moore and others.

The lecturer, who was introduced by Dr. Inch in a few well chosen remarks, spoke for nearly an hour holding the undivided attention of the audience. His address was as follows:

"The traveller on the Black Diamond express will know he has entered the anthracite belt when he sees the culm banks, those long ridges of refuse, the breakers those buildings which look like a series of immense coffins on stilts. The coal as it comes in big lumps from the mine passes into the top of these tilted structures and comes out at the bottom in various sizes and freed from impurities. It has been broken by toothed rolls, screened in circular cylinders, and jigged in oscillating sieves. Aside from these automatic devices the slate picking is done by the breaker boys whose wages average seventy-five cents a day. Since these smutty faced youngsters have but recently joined the union and required the right to vote for strikes and lockouts, our concern is not with them but with the men who work around the breakers and washeries and the men who work underground. The former include engineers, firemen, and pumpmen. The union's demand for an eight hour day was to enlist these employees in the strike. They receive good wages, engineers sixty to eighty dollars a month for long hours but light work and others in proportion. These were the company men, apparently satisfied, and many refused to go out when Mitchell made for them his demand of a reduction in the hours of labor of men employed by the day. If already the visitor to a colliery is confused by the clatter of the breaker, the maze of tracks, the pumping of the Cornish engines, the streams of drainage water and the whirr of the ventilating fan, these things are on the surface, and in daylight to go to the shaft house and be let down the inclined plane in a dirty coal car is to get where most of the public is in regard to the coal problem and that is in the dark. The real complications of the industry now begin. To explore the workings of a modern mine would be to explore mile after mile of a geological honeycomb. But to employ the simple and classic language of Bill Nye: After penetrating the Jurassic and Triassic we reach the Jackassie.

At the bottom of the shaft is the mule, beloved of the mine owner because he is the only creature in the diggings that does not go on a strike.

But to return to the economic aspects. An initial cause of the present trouble is that the miner is not the simple unit of labor, the single workman, but is himself an employer of labor. What goes on in the chambers and drifts by the dim light of a flickering light is this. The miner drills the hole in the coal seam, inserts the powder, fires the blast which knocks the coal down, and then takes his rest, while his helper pulls the coal out and loads it into the mine car. A miner in four to six hours, with easy work, can ordinarily knock down enough coal to keep his helper busy for eight to ten hours or longer. The miner is paid about a dollar a car, and the usual day's work is six cars, holding about 3,000 pounds of lump coal, coal "bouy," and slate. When these cars are whisked to the surface and weighed in the company scales then arise the complications concerning Mitchell's third and fourth demands. These are "payment

for a legal ton of coal, and that the coal we mine shall be honestly weighed and correctly recorded." Returning to the individual output, of his \$6 gross earnings for the day the miner pays \$2 to the labour and keeps \$4 for himself, out of which he must pay for the powder he uses, oil, wicks, fuses and the sharpening of his picks. In some places the unit of pay is the square yard of coal in the seam and in others a weight unit of 2,750 pounds, it being claimed by the operators that on an average it will take 2,750 to 3,000 pounds of gross coal (that is, coal as it comes from the seam) to net one ton of 2,250 pounds of coal as prepared at the breaker for market. The miners claim that, where the unit of payment is the mine car, the car of today is bigger than in years gone by and continually growing. One of their jokes is that the mine car is made of live oak. Just here to assert that the operators by false weighing and unfair dockage unjustly recoup themselves for the ten per cent increase of wages due to the last strike is to assert that the mine bosses who do the weighing and docking are in collusion with their employers and in conspiracy against their fellow members in the union. So again the statement that nature and not the miner is responsible for the late partings in the car is met by the counter statement that the miner seldom stays to superintendent his assistant as he loads up the car with whatever has been blasted out. But company weighing and docking for impurities are only minor causes of the coal strike. The real cause, according to the Editor of the *Scranton Tribune* was that the miners' helpers, who are mostly foreigners had got it into their heads that the miners were not making a fair division. They were organizing a mine labourers' movement to force the miners to divide even. The operators have nothing to do with hiring the helpers. They are hired by the miners themselves. To avert a sub strike among their "botties," as the laborers are called, the miners swung the general strike, ostensibly for the points set forth in their published demands, but in reality to enable the union to control discipline and thus put it beyond the power of the labourer to revolt. This explains the first of Mitchell's demands—"an increase in wages for men employed on piece work. It also opens up a large question—the economic struggle between the English-speaking miner and his foreign helper. It is significant that where there has been no race friction there has been no disturbance. The men who have received the highest wages and have stuck to their posts are chiefly British, the Scotch engineer, the Welsh fireman and the English foreman. These men, be it noted, are mostly employed above ground. Down below comes race mixture and trouble. Or more generally and more exactly, alongside of the Anglo-Celt is now to be found the Slav, 150,000 strong, and with the bray of the mule and the language of the Emerald Isle is to be heard Russian, Bohemian, Slovak, Polish and Lithuanian. Some claim that in the decade after the civil war the railroads entering the hard coal fields became coal-land owners and mining companies, and in order to compete with the independent operators they brought from Austria, Hungary and South West Russia, ship loads of cheaper labor. It is further alleged that the coal carrying companies thus set in motion economic forces whose workings today are manifested in the strike of 147,000 mine workers. This latter statement is fallacious. In encouraging the importation of foreign labor the anthracite operators only took advantage of economic forces. Men naturally go where work is good. With the immigration of those outside the Anglo-Saxon family there arose the strife between two standards of living. The Slav, like the Italian, is contented to live in a hut, to wear slops, to eat second-hand food. Being unmarried, as many as fourteen of them, crowded into a single room, have been known to live for a month at a cost of not over \$4 per man. With the English speaking miner things are different. His ideal may not be love in a cottage, but it is not hell in a hut. Which standard of living will survive? Pessimists claim that the railroad mining companies wish to force all miners to the lower scale in order to make greater profits. Optimists contend that if you force a great supply of labor into the bottom of the

economic tank it will tend to raise the general level of the workingman. Within one generation the ditch digger becomes the ward politician. If the generalizing optimists of the *laissez faire* school are wrong because the strike itself is a particular evil which cannot be let alone, the pessimists are in error. In general, they disregard the law of supply and demand that public wants not private gains determine the final scale of prices. In particular, they disregard the individual ambition of the workman to improve his social condition. With his better clothed and better fed partner before his eyes there is little fear that the alien laborer will be content to remain a pauper laborer. However if abstract causes are not equivalent to a gold watch and chain there are specific facts why the miners' savings in the *Scranton* and *Wilkesbarre* banks are hardly touched. The perquisites of the Pennsylvania miner include the necessities of life. He has free fuel. The culm banks contain thirty per cent. of good coal and no coal baron as yet has been known to go gunning for the children as they roll the pieces down. Again the miner has often a free homestead. The Italian will build his driftwood shanty over abandoned diggings, where the coal pillars have been robbed, even at the risk of a cave in before breakfast. As for the Irishman, with his constitutional aversion to paying rent, the coal land owners do not consider it worth while to evict him from his patch of potatoes or to drive his goat and cow from the common pasturage. For all that the miner's life is a hard one. The breaker boy, who survives throat trouble brought on by the coal dust, may succumb to lung trouble when he goes to work in the dampness and darkness of the mine. The added risks from falling timbers, explosives and fire damp are scarcely offset by the equable temperature of the lower workings, warm in winter and cool in summer, or by the free medical attendance offered by the companies. These dangers and risks are of course increased by the miner's carelessness and by his very bravery. I have known of men who, unmindful of the lightning spread of a mine fire, will touch a match to the living gas jet to see it flash. I have yet to learn of a miner who in danger would desert his butty.

(CONTINUED ON THIRD PAGE.)

THE LIQUOR HABIT.

Rev. J. A. McCallen's Lecture.

On the occasion of a lecture delivered before a large and appreciative audience in Windsor Hall, Montreal, in honor of the Father Matthew anniversary, Rev. J. A. McCallen, S.S., of St. Patrick's Church, and President of St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Society, paid the following grand tribute to the value of Mr. Dixon's new discovery for the cure of alcohol and drug habits.

Referring to the physical crave engendered by the inordinate use of intoxicants, he said:—"When such a crave manifests itself there is no escape unless by a miracle of grace, or by some remedy as Mr. Dixon's cure, about which the papers have spoken so much lately, and if I am to judge of the value of the Dixon remedy by the cures which it has effected under my own eyes, I must come to the conclusion that what I have longed for for twenty years to see discovered has at last been found by that gentleman."

Full particulars regarding this medicine can be obtained by writing to Mr. Dixon, No 81 Willcocks Street, Toronto, Canada.

"Do you believe in political independence?" "I do," the grand old statesman replied. "I have frequently declined to vote with my party when the other side had larger inducements to offer."

Inflamed Nose and Throat

And such diseases of the respiratory organs as Bronchitis, Weak Lungs, Cold in the Head, and Nasal Catarrh, are treated with marvelous success on strictly scientific principles by Catarrhazone. The medicated vapor of Catarrhazone quickly traverses every air passage possible to be reached by any treatment. All soreness, pain, congestion and inflammation are at once dispelled, and by means of the healing powers of Catarrhazone the vitiated tissues are quickly restored. Where Catarrhazone is used colds last only ten minutes, coughs half an hour, and Catarrh, Consumption, Asthma and Bronchitis flee as from fire. A trial will convince anyone of the startling merit of Catarrhazone. Costs \$1.00, small size 25c. At Druggists, or Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont.

Dr. Hamilton's Pills cure Constipation.

Promising.

Landlord—In one word, when are you going to pay your arrears?
Hard Up Author—I will satisfy your demands as soon as I receive the money which the publisher will pay me if he accepts the novel I am going to send him as soon as the work is finished which I am about to commence when I have found a suitable subject and the necessary inspiration.

Paper of the Ancients.

The interior bark of trees was formerly used to write upon, and its Latin name (*liber*, a bark) seems to intimate that its use was as ancient as the art of writing itself. In one respect the bark was superior to the leaf. It could be rolled into a volume, while the leaf would crack if subjected to such a process.

The Unbridged Channel.

The teacher asked the boy in the geography class whose French grammar is the one bane of his life:
"What separates France from England?"
"The irregular verbs," answered the boy earnestly.

All That Was Necessary.

"You must abandon all business cares for the future," says the physician.
"But I fear that I have not yet accumulated sufficient money," protests the multimillionaire.
"Sufficient?" repeats the doctor.
"Why, my dear sir, you have enough money to pay physicians' fees for the rest of your life!"

Bananas, English Style.

At English tables spoons are served with bananas. If the bananas are served as a single fruit course, however, sherry is usually sent around with it. A few drops are poured upon the plate, and the banana, stripped little by little of its skin, is dipped into this and thus eaten.

A Natural Development.

"Hello, Stavers! Haven't met you in some time. Still a bachelor, I suppose?"
"Not a bit of it. I've branched out in matrimony."
"Indeed! Olive branches, of course?"
—*Richmond Dispatch.*

The population of Russia doubles from natural increase once every sixty years.

Completely Fagged Out.

The world is full of sickly, despondent, tired, enervated people, all hoping to be well some day. The surest road to health is along the way of taking *Ferrozone* after meals. *Ferrozone* is a great appetizer and enables one to eat plenty of wholesome food without fear of indigestion or dyspepsia. This results in the rapid formation of an abundance of red, vitalizing blood, which will restore the nerves, increase flesh and vigor, and nourish and feed every organ of the body. *Ferrozone* is an ideal restorative and invigorant. It is a tonic of unequalled merit that anyone can use with benefit. Price 50c. per box, or six boxes for \$2.50, at Druggists, or N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont.

A school teacher, in a village not a hundred miles from St. Stephen, attended church on a recent Sunday morning and, on putting a five cent piece in the contribution box, was surprised by having four cents in change handed back to her. She tells it for a fact.

"Cleanliness is next to godliness." Dirt and depravity go hand in hand. This is just as true of the inside of the body as the outside. Constipation clogs the body and clouds the mind. Constipation means that corruption is breeding in the body, poisoning the blood with its foul emanations, befogging the brain with its tainted exhalations. Constipation is the beginning of more diseases than, perhaps, any other single disorder. The consequences of constipation are legion. Headache, pain in the side, shortness of breath, undue fullness after eating, coldness of the extremities, nervousness, indecision, lassitude, dizziness, sallowness, flatulence, and a score of other ailments are directly caused by constipation. Cure constipation and you cure its consequences. The quickest cure of this evil is obtained by the use of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They are small in size but wonderful in result. They cure permanently. They contain no injurious ingredients. The use of them does not beget the "pill habit." Ask your druggist for them.

Send 31 one-cent stamps, the expense of mailing and customs, and receive Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser in paper covers. This work contains 1008 pages and 700 illustrations. For 50 stamps it can be had in substantial cloth binding. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Girl and Her Play.

Once upon a time there were a young lady and a young gentleman playing a two handed game of euchre.
"I offer you a solitaire diamond," said the young man as he played the ace of that suit.
"The best I can do is to give you my heart," the young woman answered as she played.
"Then your whole hand goes with it," he said.
"Yes, Charles, dear," she replied.
Moral.—There is such a thing as playing into the other player's hand.

Roman Gormands.

The ancient Greeks and Romans drank wine freely at their feasts. Wine was their beverage. Indeed Bacchus held high carnival among them, and the Roman would gorge himself with food and then empty his stomach by artificial means and resume his seat at table and eat and drink to his fill again.

Mistake in the Programme.

"She married him to reform him."
"And what was the result?"
"She wishes she had reformed him to marry him."

When a fool gets angry, he opens his mouth and shuts his eyes.—*Chicago News.*

Cramps are Like Burglars.

They come unexpected and when least welcomed. Be armed with a one-minute cure in a bottle of *Nerviline*, which relieves cramps and stomach pains in five minutes. In Colic, Summer Complaint, Diarrhoea, Indigestion and Nausea, *Nerviline* is a remedy of remarkable potency, and acts promptly and satisfactorily at all times. The composition of *Polson's Nerviline* expresses the highest medical progress of the age, which accounts for its superior merit. Price 25c.
Hamilton's Pills are Good Pills.

Miss Elder—I'd have you to know that I have remained single from choice. Perhaps you don't believe it, but I've had men at my feet. Miss Younger—At the shoe store?

In a cemetery in Middlebury, Vt., is a stone erected by a widow to her loving husband, bearing this inscription, "Rest in peace—until we meet again."

Corns Cured in 24 Hours.

When Putnam's Painless Corn and Wart Extractor is used, Corns, Warts and Bunions can be removed in one day. No pain, no bother, no suffering. Try "Putnam's."

Got a talking machine at home? Yep. What'd you pay for it? Nothing. Married it.

Lever's Y-Z (Wise Head) Disinfectant Soap Powder is a boon to any home. It disinfects and cleans at the same time.

I believe one can get anything one wants by advertising in the daily papers," maintained the young man. "Why don't you advertise for a wife, then? asked the mischievous girl. "I said anything one wanted," observed the young man reaching for his hat.

A STUBBORN COLD OR BRONCHITIS

yields more readily to Scott's Emulsion of cod-liver oil than to anything that you can take; and if persistently used a few days, will break up the cold.

When you awake in the night choked up and coughing hard, take a dose of the Emulsion, and you will get immediate relief, where no cough medicine will give you relief. It has a soothing and healing effect upon the throat and bronchial tubes.

Most people understand Scott's Emulsion is a great body builder—but it is equally good to allay inflammation and cure colds and violent coughing.

Send for Free Sample. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, Toronto.