

BELLEVUE EXPLOSION.

A report of the terrible mine disaster at Bellevue, Alta., in which 18 miners lost their lives, will, ere this, have reached our readers. It is a mark of the age that such slaughter excites but passing comment—so sated are newspaper readers with tales of death and calamity in industry.

What does it matter? A few wage-slaves more or less, they are plenty. A readjustment of figures in the office, a job or two for the attorney, and society forgets. But property has been destroyed. "Ah! There's the rub." Offering human sacrifices on altars of stone has gone out of fashion. But there are other altars. Gods have come and gods have gone, but Property remains, and great is its toll of victims.

We cannot at this time express an opinion as to the cause of the Bellevue occurrence, but it is known that other mines in Alberta are sadly lacking in proper safety equipment, one in particular, at Taber, being so dangerously full of gas that the miners recently refused to enter it. Such, however, must be the conditions to which workers in mines will be subject until mines, with all other industries, are run and managed for the use of those who labor instead of for the profit of idlers.
