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THE FEDERATIONIST understands that the miners of Ladysmith have decided to nominate J. H. Hawthornthwaite for the seat in the provincial house made vacant by the appointment of the recently-elected liberal member, P. Williams, to office under the new Workmen's Compensation Act. Just when the bye-election will be pulled off is not yet known, but whenever it does come, we hope to be able to chronicle the triumphant election of the irrepresible "Jim" and his re-appearance in the house where he for many years so persistently and ably defended the interests of the workers against the equally persistent and stubborn encroachments of the interests of the masters and exploiters of industry.

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It is not the province of The Federationist to indulge in fulsome flattery of individuals, or to throw bouquets at either deserving or undeserving persons. As a rule men in public life act according to the light that is within them, and are probably as little deserving of flattering approval when they do that which we deem right, as they are of our disapproval and harsh criticism when they do that which in our opinion they should not have done. In the matter of judgment, the workers are by no means infallible. They are doubtless as prone to mistakes as any other people. They have frequently placed their political trust in men only to have such trust betrayed. The miners of Vancouver Island will not need to greatly refresh their memories to recall at least one or more instances within their own experience confirming this. But at least in the case of J. H. Hawthornthwaite, they made no mistake. He did not betray them, nor did he at any time fail to show that he fully understood the position of their class in present-day society and used that knowledge as a compass to direct his every political act. It is only by and with that knowledge that any representative of labor can tread the straight and narrow path of political righteousness, no matter how honest and well intentioned he may be. In attributing that knowledge of the working class and its real interests to the redoubtable "Jim," The Federationist disclaims any intention of swelling him up by means of flattery, or currying favor with him in expectation of favors to be thus conjured forth from the future. This humble tribute is offered more in the way of a pat upon the back to the Island miners for their fortunate selection of a representative in the past, and their wise choice at the present time, utterly regardless of whether such selection has been due to their rare judgment or is merely the result of a lucky throw of the political dice.

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With all due apologies to the McBrides, the Bowers, the Brewsters, the John Olivers, and a horde of capitalist political hacks of similar dull lamination, "Jim" Hawthornthwaite comes by far to being the nearest approach to a "live wire" that has appeared in the house of gas at Victoria since the "memory of man runneth not back to the contrary." Many a shock did he administer during the dozen or more years he was in the house. There has been no ginger there since he left. It is up to the miners of the Newcastle district to return him to that cave of the winds, to the end that its dull gloom may once more awaken to the echo of Labor's voice, and there again be a great rattling of dry bones in the charnel house of graft and exploitation, and a repudiation of the equally dry and in-nutritious husks of capitalist panaceas and promises. All hail to the miners of Ladysmith. As they raised the standard of political revolt in 1903, may they again raise it by returning "Jim" Hawthornthwaite at the coming bye-election, is the fervent wish of The Federationist.