

they occupy extra large lots and are built on wide streets, they average but four to an acre, hence about twenty-five acres of land per colliery is required for housing alone. Adding 125 acres for colliery buildings, railways, roads, pole lines, pipe lines, and drainage ditches, we find an average of about 150 acres per colliery required for surface rights, or about 2000 acres for a layout such as is undertaken here.

The lands surrounding the houses are for the most part owned by the Company, and are all laid out and the streets graded by the Company's engineers. In quite a few cases the miners buy lands and build their own houses, and this custom will no doubt increase as the whole section becomes more settled. The Company encourages the men to become their own landlords, and assists them pecuniarily in many cases.

About two-and-one-half miles of standard gauge track is required for colliery yard at each bankhead, with an additional amount of branch line to reach the main railway, making an average of about five miles of track to be laid for each colliery opened. This track is all laid with 60 lb. rails, while the main line, which is subjected to heavier traffic, is laid with 80 lb. rails. All tracks are built in a most thorough and up-to-date manner, as nothing less would suffice for the enormous and ever-increasing traffic.

As development proceeds and output increases, larger expenditures become necessary for increased screening appliances and picking belts by which the various grades of coal are sorted and impurities removed. More recently a washplant or coal washery was demanded through which the lower grades of coal are passed to more effectually remove sulphur and other objectionable materials. To this end the Company has erected a large coal washer of the Baum type, claimed to be the best in the world, and capable of washing one hundred and twenty tons of coal per hour.

As a matter of economy the refuse from the picking belts and the slack coal from the screens is used under boilers for power raising. A great change has been effected in recent years by the introduction of electric power in place of steam, and the tendency now is to eliminate all steam around the collieries of the Lingan Basin, except for heating purposes. Up to this year these collieries have been supplied with electric power from a generating station located in the centre of the Glace Bay Basin some eight miles distant, but as a part of the equipment a larger generating station situated in the heart of the Lingan district is now nearing completion. This station is to be operated by turbine-driven generators of from 2000 to 4000 kilowatt capacity. The boiler plant consists of three Bettington boilers, a description of which was published in the Special Nova Scotia edition of the Canadian Mining Journal, published in September last. When completed the entire equipment of this district, including air compressors, coal hoists, ventilating fans, bankhead machinery, screening plant and underground pumps will all be electrically operated.

In the matter of protection both for men and property underground, the Draeger life saving apparatus has been adopted, and the erection of