

Protests against injustice to particular industries or localities are always open to the accusation of special pleading or particularism. Enquiry will show, however, that nothing has been accounted of more paramount importance in the economic councils of the Allies than this particular question of the maintenance of the coal supply. The Government of Canada would have excellent precedent if they decided to appoint a Royal Commission to enquire into the reduction of the production of bituminous coal in Nova Scotia.

PORCUPINE, KIRKLAND LAKE AND BOSTON CREEK

While the construction work at the two big mines of the Porcupine camp continues to absorb most attention, the developments on the McIntyre and the West Dome have the most interest for the outside world. While the shareholders of the McIntyre have not yet received the annual reports, statements containing some statistics have been given to the press, and from these it is seen that the first reports of the discoveries on the McIntyre were not exaggerated. The orebody on the 700-ft. level, it is true, was shallow, but the extent of it at that level and for 30 or 40 feet below it made great compensation. The 1,000-ft. level is also responding to development. Beyond the 25-ft. orebody first cut, there has now been opened up another wide orebody through the first long crosscut from the McIntyre Extension shaft to the No. 5 shaft. The heads to the McIntyre mill are running very high and the production during the months of May and June will be far above normal. The Jupiter is now producing regularly and 75 tons of ore a day is being sent to the McIntyre over the surface tramway. This ore is weighed and carefully sampled, before it leaves the Jupiter rock house, and it is mixed with the McIntyre ore to be treated.

Surface developments at the Hollinger, in the prosecution of their work for the extension of the mill, are proceeding apace; although there is some difficulty experienced in getting surface labor. It is a fact that there is not yet any great scarcity of skilled labor, either underground or on the surface, at Porcupine, but there is a very decided shortage of unskilled labor, both in the regular work of the mine and for additional construction. Many of the foreigners who were in the camp last year have gone to the United States and operations have so increased that the existing supply is barely sufficient to meet the needs.

Additional energy will be given to the controversy between the exponents of ball mills for first crushing and adherents of stamps, by the decision of the Dome to throw out all their stamps and put in three more large ball mills. This is the most interesting since at the other end of the camp the Hollinger was as emphatic in upholding the merits of the stamps, when they decided to install 100 more stamps, after tests with ball mills. The Dome already have two ball mills installed, but only one of them is at present treating ore. The other will be this month.

The Dome record for the month is easily the best that they have ever attained. The production was 39,300 tons for the month of May and the grade took a sudden rise after the low point obtained in April. The result was that the increase of bullion was the most material for many months. Another most satisfactory feature is that costs are still kept down. While they ran \$2.46 per ton, or five cents more than the pre-

vious month, it is to be noticed that milling showed a decrease of three cents a ton and is now down at the record low cost for the camp of seventy-two cents a ton. The Dome is still handicapped by the fact that they cannot reach their stopes on the sixth and seventh levels and nearly all the ore from the higher grade orebodies that is going to the mill is still from development. Of the 39,300 tons sent to the mill, over 26,000 still comes from the open pits on the surface.

The central shaft is itself now finished to below the 700-ft. level and the steel head-frame is well advanced towards completion, but the hoist for the man-way cage has not yet arrived and according to advices may be delayed for some time yet. The hoists for the ore cages are on the ground and will be installed at once.

Continued success is being obtained with the diamond drill on the West Dome Consolidated. Following the success obtained in the No. 1 hole, four more veins have been cut in the No. 2 hole with the diamond drill, above the 950-ft. level, or 700 ft. vertical. The three first veins to be cut were much lower grade than that found in the first hole put down. They run from \$7.50 to \$8.60 a ton and average from five to six feet wide, but the fourth vein cut showed far more mineralization than the others and will undoubtedly run much higher. It is at least 10 ft. wide. As far as can be ascertained this latter orebody will be a continuation of the ore cut in the No. 1 hole. The shaft is being continued down to the 300-ft. level and the vein still shows a reassuring amount of free gold; although it is still comparatively narrow. The other drill hole sunk on the north side of Edwards lake had not opened up any ore of any value for as far as the 1,000-ft. level.

The discovery of some high grade ore in a small quartz vein on the Hollinger property adjoining the McCrea claims at Boston Creek, has aroused very much interest. This is due not only to the surface value of the discovery, but to the fact that Benny Hollinger has once again found gold in the new district, and that this is something new. The discovery was made by Paddy Barrie, one of Hollinger's partners. He had left work on a much larger quartz vein, to do a little prospecting and in pulling the moss off this quartz vein on the side of a hill, he suddenly discovered some remarkably rich ore. This vein apparently has strength and persistence, since it has been traced for several hundred feet on the neighboring property of the O'Donald. There is no doubt that active operations will be conducted on both these properties at once.

Of far more actual importance, although not attracting so much attention, is the discovery of very rich ore below the 100-ft. level of the R. A. P. Syndicate. The R. A. P. Syndicate is sinking from the 100 to the 200-ft. level, and ran into about a foot of very high grade ore in their shaft. There is much free gold and fine sulphides in a blue quartz and the gold exists in considerable quantities in the wall rock. A drill is also being run in the east drift of the 100-ft. level and results are most reassuring. There is now in the face about two feet of high grade ore and the zone of enrichment is probably $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide.

At Kirkland Lake, the Lake Shore has opened up a patch of very high grade ore on the 300-ft. level. This patch of ore is extraordinarily rich in altaite, and there is almost as much free gold as in the Tough-Oakes ore. There is now about 400 ft. of ore developed at the 300-ft. level of the Lake Shore, and the mine is now most promising.

Prospects in Kirkland Lake are being held up by lack of any definiteness in the power situation. In the