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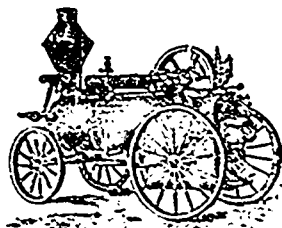
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OR WOOD WORKING MACHINERY,

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For Catalogue C and prices.

Chemical Laboratory, Dalhousie College,
Halifax, N. S., July 31st, 1891.

Within the last few months I have pur-
chased promiscuously, at RETAIL GROC-
ERY STORES in this City, packages of

WOODILL'S

GERMAN BAKING POWDER,

and have analyzed the same by Chemical Anal-
yses. The samples were found to consist of
fresh, Wholesome Materials, properly pro-
portioned. This Baking Powder is well
suited for family use, and has been employed,
when required, in my own house for many
years.

GEORGE LAWSON, Ph. D., L. L. D.
Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry of
Great Britain and Ireland.

MINING.

DOWN THE EAST SLOPE.

THE SCENE OF THE TERRIBLE EXPLOSION OF FEB'Y, '91.

From *Stellarton Journal and News*.

How soon in these days of successive thrilling events does an incident, which at the time of its occurrence formed the all absorbing topic of the day, cease to be a theme for conversation and pass, seemingly, out of the memory of all except those more directly affected. The great disaster which occurred in Springhill on Feb'y 21st of last year—the most dreadful calamity that ever occurred in the Dominion—was for a short week or two on everybody's lips, filling the mind and heart, and then it was numbered, as it were, with things that are old and its place taken by some other event. But though not now much spoken of, the great event will not in this generation cease at times to be alluded to, the causes discussed and the incidents in connection therewith related.

No one visiting Springhill to-day, had he never heard of the disaster, would by anything about the works or in the town be led to imagine that so dreadful an event had occurred so recently. The disaster, though accompanied by fearful loss of life, was unattended by any great damage to property. In a few weeks after its occurrence, just as soon as the workmen had recovered from the shock, work in the pits was gradually resumed, and to-day in the various slopes of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Co. there are more miners employed than at any previous time.

The explosion occurred in the east slope on Saturday morning, 21st Feb'y, '91. The day was what would be called dull. The barometer was low, but not unusually so. Everything was running smoothly; there was no disturbance of air; the reports of the deputies indicated nothing unusual; so smooth ran everything that the general manager gave permission to several of his assistants to attend a meeting of the Mining Institute at Maccan. A shot was fired in No. 3 bord of No. 7 balance; the shot, it is supposed, ignited gas which had lodged in the crevices of the shattered rock on the high side of the bord; the ignited gas in its turn distilled gas from the coal dust; the flame extended, gathering fuel and force as it proceeded, and in a few short seconds the deadly work was accomplished.

The writer, who the second day after the event had visited the spot where the explosion originated, had a desire to revisit it. An expression of the desire to Manager McInnis evoked a ready offer to accompany him on the trip. Coal companies as a rule are not solicitous that outsiders should visit their mines, and are therefore slow in providing the proper outfits for a subterranean exploration. In this instance I was lucky. A great divine from Montreal had recently visited the pit, and for him had been procured a set of overalls. They did service on this occasion. Companies should be kind to strangers, especially to those with a reportorial bent.

We climbed into a coal box, the rake was shoved over the bank, and after a quick descent the 1900 foot level was reached. We turn to the west. The air is sweet and plentiful. There is no smell of powder smoke, for powder has been abolished in all the pits. The strongest smell is that given off from the tarred canvas used for brattice. The roads are free from water, moist in most places. No. 1 balance is passed and then No. 2. These balances were not affected by the explosion. Its force had been spent before coming this short distance out. We pause for a moment at the foot of No. 3. Here it was that Pk. Hennesey and Ed Charlton worked and had so marvellous an escape, the flame passing over them but scattering them none. Past No. 4 to No. 7. Between 4 and 7 the old slant is pointed out. Some thought that a derangement of the air at this point on the morning of the calamity was the cause of the explosion. I recalled this to Mr. McInnis' mind. He said it was impossible; that even if the door in the slant had been left open all day it would not have materially affected the air current, at all events not sufficiently to have caused injury. Reaching the foot of No. 7 the question was put, "Do you wish to go into No. 3 bord?" The reply was, "Certainly." The pillars are being drawn, and we are therefore enabled to ride up on the cage. We pass on till we come to the spot where the fatal shot was fired. The mark of the punch hole is still on the wall. The timbers are standing as on the day of the explosion. The bord is thirty feet further in than then, but that is the only difference noticeable. All else remains as on that eventful morning. The water barrel even stands at the entrance to the bord. One can scarcely realize that 'twas at this spot the explosion started. There is nothing to indicate that it had played so important a part. It is an insignificant looking room, a small affair, incapable, one would say, of having been the seat of a direful event. The quantity of gas held in the crevices of the stone could not have been large, nor could the quantity of dust floating in the air have amounted to much. And yet there was sufficient of both to light the match which fired the train. So little damage was done in this room that many doubted that here originated the explosion. The theory is now established that not in the place where an explosion is started, but at a place distant, most damage is done.

Down again to the level. On our way to the face we pass the head where the Nearinga worked. We halt at the face of the level for a few minutes to take it all in. From the slope to where we sit the distance is 4,500 feet, or not much less than a mile. The level since the date of the explosion has been driven 1,000 feet. No. 7 balance, where the explosion occurred, is 3,000 feet from the bottom, but the level at the time of explosion was in past No. 7 500 feet. There are many miners employed in this level. Up No. 6 balance there are thirteen pairs drawing pillars, and two pairs in No. 7 balance. Inside of No. 7 there are two shutes, one with men working in it, the other available for pieces. How much further the levels may be driven it is impossible to say. It all depends on the quantity and quality of the coal met with.

(To be continued.)