

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

"IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY PATRIOTIC CANADIAN TO USE HIS BEST ENDEAVOR TO PRESERVE TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA THAT WHICH JUSTLY BELONGS TO THEM." **C. H. Duggan,**

The Sec'y. of a newly formed branch of the U. M. W.'s. in a review of the situation says: "It is reported that there are one or two traitors in the camp trying to make mischief. This no doubt refers to P. W. A. men who do not believe that the U. M. W. was or ever will be half as good as the P. W. A. for Nova Scotia miners. But instead of the 'one or two' who are holding aloof being traitors is it not really all the other way. Are not the one or two the real loyalists and all the others the traitors. That is what a majority of people in Nova Scotia would be inclined to say.

A great society altogether is the U. M. W. of America. Great in being greatly behind the times, far away in the wake of Nova Scotia. The delegates to the Ohio branch of the great U. M. W.'s, after, by resolution, declaring that the employment of impractical miners, chiefly foreigners, caused a larger per centage of mine explosions, raised the initiation fee of unskilled miners. Is not that rich? Why should the U. M. W. be actions. Why should they take unskilled miners into their ranks? Why not do as is done in Nova Scotia, keep them out of the mine? If there are any unskilled miners in Nova Scotia the blame lies wholly with the mens examiners, and not with any one else. The miners boards can keep all 'unskilled' miners out of the pits. What a great society the U. M. W. and what a paradise for our N. S. miners, Aint she.

The face of friend Floyd of the Drummond colliery is these days wearing a smile that the whole force of the Geological Department at Ottawa can't rub off; and the other officials, notably Malcolm Blue, are going about as jauntily as if great good fortune had befallen them. And so is the realization of their hopes. Though the McCulloch Brook bogie was haunted in their faces, they still hoped to see another lift driven in the already long Drummond main slope. And they have seen it and rejoice. Six months ago the famous, or infamous, fault was shifted back for the fifth time. This was to be the final shifting; the spot was definitely indicated where the fault would begin and the coal end. The fault is still in hiding and the coal is still at the face. The slope is now down a distance of 7,870 feet far enough for another lift (the eighteenth) of say 500 feet. The coal at the face bears no look of disturbance, but is bright and clear, and of eleven feet in height. This is good news to the Intercolonial Coal Co.'s shareholders, and especially good news to the citizens of Westville, as it means extended life to the Drummond mine.

The Dominion Coal Co. began banking at the Central station on the 4th. of January, ten days sooner than at first intended.

Some time ago the Free Lance, Westville, said of the MINING RECORD, that it should be in the hands of all the miners in Pictou County and now comes the lively Inverness News giving it as its opinion that every miner in Inverness should read the RECORD. It is very nice of our contemporaries to say so, as the RECORD did not go fishing for compliments.

On Sunday morning the 17th. it was discovered that a large flow of water was coming out No. 1 level, East side of the Mabou mine. Mr. McGillivray, who was employed by the government in keeping the mine free of water, pending some financial arrangement of the company, summoned Johnston on looking at the flow of water, some 1000 to 1500 gallons a minute, concluded that the pumps were not big enough to cope with it. Indeed one of the pumps was at that time submerged. This level has been standing for over a year. At the time it was driven it was perfectly dry, and indeed was quite dry until this accident happened. The level is in about 520 feet from the slope; a balance is driven up 120 feet, but no bords broken off. The distance from the mouth of the slope to the level is 1400 feet, and the cover is supposed to be 478 feet. Attempts were made to get in the level far enough to see where the water, which was salt as ocean water, was coming from. Owing to falls and to the rate the water was coming out this was rendered impossible. The opinion is that the water is coming through a fissure in the rock. Why it did not flow before this is the puzzle. This section of the mine had several falls the time the mine was in the hands of a receiver, and no attempt was made to clean it up and retimber it. Mr. Anderson from the Mines Office and Mr. A. McKay, agent for the company, came to Mabou the end of last week, when it was decided to save everything that could be saved and let the mine fill up. Mabou coal is, perhaps the best for metallurgical purposes in the province, and it is a great pity to see a valuable seam destroyed owing to incapable and extravagant management on the part of those at the head of affairs. Mabou is now closed indefinitely and it will take a strong company to put life into it again. The property, however, may be worth the expenditure of a large sum,