

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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MODEL MINES.

We have a few 'model mines' in Nova Scotia. Take for instance Dom. No. 2. There are others but the naming one will suffice. While they may not have turned out all that their designers expected, still they are not traps. They are well managed, both below and above, and on a fairly economical scale. While we agree with some of the things in the following extract from the 'Mine Workers Journal', we think the article loses its force from the severity of the terms employed:—

"You can talk 'model mine' until all the miners are dead as a result of explosions, says the 'Mine Workers' Journal.' A model mine, as Mine Inspector Harrison truthfully says, has come to be regarded as the only one in which those explosions occur. The old, weather-seared, storm-beaten, mine that has been sending out its product for probably half a century or more is no longer looked upon with suspicion and apprehension and has no good reason to get jealous of the modern model mine. Because a splendid tippie is built, a modern hoisting apparatus installed, a splendid battery of boilers are all gathered together, and the buildings kept clean and the engine room made to look better than the average miner's home; this does not constitute a model mine, although people have come to think it does. You can have all these, and every minute they are in the mine. Yes, their lives are threatened when they approach the landing for the purpose of descending into it. A dwelling house may be well painted on the outside and look well to the passer-by, and yet, internally it may be a house of death and pestilence that threatens the life of the whole community. These so-called model mines have come to be looked upon in this light by all practical coal miners, who have come to regard them as shams, and the stories put in circulation at such times, as being an attempt made by designing persons to mitigate the blame that is due the operators of such places to lessen the claims that may be made for damages by the widows and orphans of those who have lost their lives through the carelessness, or perhaps incompetency of the underground management of this so-called 'model mine.'"

A model is usually the product of the brain of some genius. It is perfect in all its parts and when put in operation every part has a certain duty to perform. If any one of these parts by reason of neglect or incompetency become de-

ranged, or fail to do the work assigned, the model does not perform the work of the designer. It ceases to be a model until put in working order. A model mine, to be worthy of the name, must perform all the duties desired of it by its designer and this it cannot do if the airways are neglected. If the gas or gases are allowed to accumulate, if other dangerous conditions are not attended to, it then becomes a model in name only, and is more dangerous than the ordinary kind."

THE COST OF LIVING.

A certain class of would-be-looked-upon-as-reformers, but who very well may be styled unthinking agitators, in season and out of season, assert that it is impossible for the workmen to live anything like decently, in any manner adequate to his physical well being, owing to the greatly increased cost of living. About two years ago the Ladies Home Journal set a commission to work to find out exactly what foundation the commonly repeated allegation had in fact. After a thorough investigation the conclusion arrived at was that the cost of necessities had not increased. This conclusion was supported and maintained by what appeared indisputable evidence. We were a little surprised at the conclusion for we had been of the opinion that there had been an increase in the cost though not to the extent many declared. An article which lately appeared in a paper published in a mining district incited to an investigation on our own account. We have before us as we write two store pass books. The one refers back to 1877—1878—eight years before the Pictou strike, which was successful in establishing a minimum wage, for day laborers, of a dollar a day instead of from eighty to ninety cents which had been the wage till then. The other is dated thirty years later, when the minimum day laborer's wage is a dollar and forty. From each passbook I have selected about a couple of dozen of the most prominent necessities from the grocery and provision classes. Prices fluctuate a little so we have taken the average for three years, in the respective periods around 1878 and 1898.

PRICES 1878		PRICES 1898	
		Same Quantity	\$1 04
2 Gallons Molasses	\$1 10	"	1 10
20 lbs Sugar	2 60	"	7 25
1 Barrel Flour	9 25	"	70
2 lbs Tea	1 00	"	15
5 lbs Rice	21	"	45
10 lbs Oatmeal	40	"	44
2 Gallons Kerosene	80	"	64
4 lbs Cheese	68	"	40
5 pkgs Spices	50	"	45
8 lbs Soap	82	"	40
2 Doz Eggs	28	"	40
Biscuits and cakes	54	"	40
4 lb. Currants	40	"	10
1 lb. Starch	10	"	56
8 lbs Codfish	54	"	1 50
10 lbs Pork	1 40	"	60
4 lbs Lard	68	"	84
5 lbs Raisins	90	"	2 00
9 lbs Butter	1 92	"	60
2 doz. Herring	60	"	50
1 Bushel Potatoes	45	"	
	\$25 25		\$20 52