

in, and pays more money with fewer hours of labor than any other class of work entailing bodily effort. Mining of itself is not a hazardous occupation, and if to-day it can be classed as 'notoriously dangerous' it is because a lack of discipline, combined with the attitude of labor, has made it so. Nature was very lavish with her coal deposits, but she did not deem it seemly that her gifts should be held too cheaply so they were entailed, in the form of gases, which man's ingenuity must remove before he can lay bare her bosom and delve into the heart of her treasures. And over her heart were written the words, "When entering here leave all flame without."

Has man risen to the level of nature's test? Year after year has he torn aside the mantle, and dug and delved his way, into the very vitals of his lavish mistress, until writhing in her agony, a convulsed and outraged nature has spurned him forth, burned and broken, or buried him deep in the tomb of her indignation. For, always, man has carried the flame; always has he broken that simple law of nature, and always has he paid the final penalty of,—not ignorance but disobedience. For man did rise to the level when he produced the safety lamp.

The ideal coal mine would be one in which the work of mining was carried on without the introduction of any agency which could produce flame. This is, of course, unattainable, but the ideal is not a necessity, and the necessity was never made impossible to man; only difficult at times to attain. The first necessity then in this instance is the use of a flame, for light giving purposes, which shall be so confined within a given circuit, as to be rendered harmless. There are many types of Safety Lamps, but only a few that fulfill the many conditions required, to produce a safe lamp. Even then we must admit that so far there has not been produced a perfectly safe Safety Lamp. But with the proper use of the best types the danger of igniting an explosive mixture is practically impossible.

The second necessity in the mining of coal is the use of explosives for blowing down the coal, and so far man has not distinguished himself in meeting this necessity. He has rather allowed things to drift and turned his attention to making war explosives rather than mining explosives. But taking the best we can get to day and knowing how to use it, there should be very few lives lost at the end of the year, due to the use of explosives. There is a third agent of the mining industry which, by the majority of mining men, is probably considered a necessity; that is 'Electricity.' The writer does not so consider it, since its work can be done equally well by another agent, that has the added advantage of increasing the factor of safety. As to a question of cost it is not yet proven that compressed air need step aside for its rival, electricity. This brings me to a summing up of the conditions which warrant the statement that 'Coal Mining should be one of the safest occupations.'

First—No coal mine should be operated with any other than safety lamps.

Second—No other than a detonating or high explosive fired by a battery should be used. Such explosive to be subject to Government tests and

approval.

Third—No other flame or heat producing agent should be permitted past general assembling points.

These three conditions would of course call for strict rules and Regulations governing the use of each. In this way the responsibility would rest directly on the officials to see that the Rules were properly and intelligently carried out. This of course would mean many changes from the present system. The breaking of such regulations by workmen should constitute a criminal offence, and an iron bound discipline should characterize the handling of all mine employees.

The Canadian Consolidated Coal Co. are to be commended for appealing to the Government to have Dr. Hugh Fletcher, one of the most distinguished and celebrated Geologists in Canada, advise with them and suggest to them the most likely places in his opinion where the body of coal can be discovered on the areas owned by the company. We understand that Dr. Fletcher visited the property last week. He had an interview with the manager of the mine at the Richmond colliery and gave him directions where in his opinion some prospecting should be done. It is his intention to visit the property and make a thorough survey of them at an early date when it is hoped he will be able to lend such assistance to the company as must exist between Cleaveland and Port Malcolm. The persistent and untiring efforts of the Managing Director, H. M. Peal, will we believe yet be crowned with success as they deserve to be. His faith in the existence of a great basin or body of coal on his areas is, we believe, well placed and will materialize.—Eastern Journal.

Intercolonial Railway.

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Will sell round trip tickets at FIRST CLASS ONE WAY FARE, to all points on the Railway.

Good Going December 21st. Returning January 4th, 1909.

THROUGH ISSUE.—To points beyond Montreal in Canada, Port Arthur Ont., Detroit, Port Huron, Sault Ste Marie, Michigan and East thereof. Good Going December 31st, and Jan. 1st, returning January 4th, 1909.

FIRST CLASS ONE WAY FARE to MONTREAL added to TREAL.

Going Dec. 24th; 25th, 28th., 29th., 30th., 31st., and Jan. 1st, Return Jan. 5th, 1909.

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Will sell Round Trip Tickets at FIRST CLASS ONE WAY FARE To all points on the Intercolonial Railway. Going December 21st, 1908 to January 1st, 1909. Returning January 4th, 1909.

THROUGH ISSUE.—First Class One Way FARE to points beyond Montreal in Canada, Port Arthur, Ont., Detroit, Port Huron, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and east thereof.

Going December 24th. and 25th. Return December 28th. Going December 31st, 1908, and January 1st, 1909. Return January 4th, '09.

FIRST CLASS ONE WAY FARE to MONTREAL added to MONTREAL.

Going December 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th., 25th., 28th., 29th., 30th, 31st., January 1st. Return till January 5th, 1909.

For Fares to points on local connecting lines apply to nearest Ticket Agent.