

## AROUND THE COLIERIES.

If some of our legislators had their own way, they would put such restrictions upon capital that it would not come this way at all.

The two months of this year show a gratifying increase in coal shipments over the two months of last year; it is to be hoped increases will show month by month.

Last month with 23 days there were raised at Sydney No. 5, 11,715 tons of coal, an average of 510 tons a day. Up till the middle of March the average had reached 625 tons. This beats all previous records.

Both haulages in Sydney No. 5 are operated from the one motor on the surface. A test of four days was made as to the cost of electrical haulage, and the management is more than satisfied with the results.

The endless haulage system has been in operation for two or three weeks now in the South side of Sydney No. 5. The system works smoothly and has done so from the start. It is a duplicate of the haulage on the North side.

Sydney Mines was to the front at the meeting of the Mining Society in the matter of articles contributed. There were as many 'papers' from Sydney Mines as from all other sources combined. Brown, Johnstone, Robertson, Preston, Graham, Dep. Insp., and Nicholson all contributed to the success of the meeting.

The main slope is now dowed close on five thousand feet. The levels on No. 8 lift are being driven. Without further development work, there is sufficient coal 'in sight' to last for three years. The new system of working will enable all the coal to be taken out and not fifty per cent. only, as is declared is the average extracted in other parts. This reference is to the Joggins colliery.

Dr. Ellis' paper on the oil shales of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and his comparison of values of these and of those in Scotland, read before the N. S. Mining Society was well received. There was a lively discussion after the reading. Another splendid paper was that of Dr. McLeish on the 'Clays' of Nova Scotia. The excellence of the clays in some districts was a revelation to a majority of the members.

The other day the Joggins colliery had to its credit as a days hoisting over a thousand tons of coal. The Maritime Coal Railway & Power Co. three years ago said to the Commission on Old Age Pensions that as soon as the output reached 200 tons, the Company would become contributors to the Relief Fund. On this being told the men present at the meeting of the Commission, the scornful reply came, "But it will never reach 200 tons." A thousand tons is a splendid output, more than some mining men of experience ever expected to see. It all depends on the management.

The fire that occurred in the back mines, Stellarton, a short time since, was soon sealed off when the Draeger men set to work, but the unprotected men did their full share towards that end.

Mining matters were on top in Halifax last week. The question of 'recognition of trades unions' occupied first place and drew large audiences to the gallery of the House. On the floors of the House those who knew nothing of the subject were equally zealous with those who knew something.

It has been suggested to the Mines Department that the returns of shipments of coal given in the Mines Report should be made up as in former years, to the end of the calendar year and not for the government fiscal year, as at present. It is asserted that in all the other provinces of the Dominion the mines reports for the year are made up to the end of December.

Members of the Mining Society express the opinion that a gradual improvement is shown in the make up and the contents of the Report of the Department of Mines. Next year there will likely be a table showing the quantities of coal cut by mining machines and by hand.

The address of Mr. T. J. Brown at the Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Mining Society, was most interesting and instructive, interspersed with bits of caustic humor. It will, when read by some of our mining experts, make them sit up and consider. In next issue we will give his address as it is worthy to be placed before all classes of mining men, the practical as well as the theorist.

Brother Nickerson, M. L. A. is the one champion of the rights of fishermen. When he attempts the double role of champion of mine workers, he flaps about like a fish out of water. He cannot understand why coal can be carried more cheaply to Montreal than to Yarmouth. Some of his colleagues might take him to C. B. in the shipping season and show him a modern collier. He might then be able to see a distinction and a difference between a 200 ton sailing vessel and a 7,000 ton steamer, and be assured that a steamer often makes a return trip in the time a sailing vessel makes the single journey.

The Legislative Committee of the P. W. A. were before the government last week in reference to sundry additions to the Mines Regulation Act. One of these is to provide means of travel in mines where the distances are great. It is felt by the men that the long walks are not only fatiguing but run away with a lot of time. The several suggestions are to receive the consideration of the government. Representatives of the U. M. W. had conferences with the leader of the opposition. They supplied him with many pointers. The several suggested amendments to existing laws were promised his earnest attention. With this statement the delegation considered their case as good as won.