

Around the Collieries.

The editor of the Eastern Chronicle having expressed his determination to die a Presbyterian, the editor of the Greetings utters this pious wish:—"A fasan a bh'aig Nail Cha e riann ns." Possibly the retort may determine him, after all, to die a Christian.

The male employees of what formerly went by the name of the Rifle Sight Company came out on strike the beginning of last week against the employment of females in the factory. A local paper hints that in their action the men were backed by the American Federation of Labor, headed by a Mr. Dane, who, it is said, has antipodean proclivities.

After a long search a nomenclator has been found to give names to the several collieries of the Acadia Co. Previously when one referred to the third or McGregor slope he might mix them up and say "Back Mines." The Allan Colliery was referred to as the "Allan Shaft." From henceforth the slope on the third seam will be called Albion Mine, the McGregor slope, the McGregor Mine, and the Allan shaft the Allan Mine. The Record is pleased that there is now a fixed name for the Third Seam slope, which had never been properly christened.

The slope of the Albion mine has been concreted sides and roof for a distance of fifty feet down, and inscribed over the arch on the armorial block is the word "Albion."

The claim is made that Cumberland in the matter of recruiting has done better than any other county in Nova Scotia, in proportion to population presumably, is meant, as the total from Cumberland is not equal to that from Cape Breton. It is stated that the large number of recruits from the colliery districts has badly handicapped outputs. If one is to judge from outputs from Springhill for the past two months this handicap amounts to a fifth or a sixth of the normal production. It may be said that all the collieries in the province are suffering from a shortage of men, due to the war. In some districts the demand at present cannot be met by the supply. The Record is of opinion that the demand, upon the mainland collieries at any rate, will not abate but rather increase as the months pass along. As a rule one does not look for an exceptional demand during the winter months, but this winter may prove an exception. There will be an increasing demand for railway and general industrial purposes, as there is not only a revival in railway traffic, but in those industries which are large coal consumers.

For many years previous to 1914 the Record joined in the general lamentation of Nova Scotians interested in the coal trade over the large increases in the importation of American bituminous coal. There is this year some consolation in the fact that as compared with 1913 and 1914 there has been an extraordinary decrease. Were the decreased shipments due solely to the declension of general Canadian industries the consolation would be robbed of its zest. But the decline is not solely

due to this cause otherwise the sale of provincial coal would show a more noticeable falling off. From figures in the Coal Trade Journal it is shown that for the eight months of 1913, ending August, Canada imported some 8,500,000 tons of American bituminous coal as against 4,600,000 tons for a similar period in 1915, a decrease of, roughly, 46 per cent. In comparison with 1914 there was a decrease of 1,400,000. The decline in imports from 8,500,000 in 1913 to 4,600,000 in 1915, is very remarkable. The shipments of Nova Scotia coal to Quebec may this year show a decrease of eight to ten per cent., that is shipments by water. This we think goes to show that Ontario has suffered much more of trade depression than Quebec, and Nova Scotia less than either. The Minister of Finance may regret that the lessened imports 1915 compared with 1913 affects his department adversely to the tune of some two million dollars.

Mr. Robert Smillie, in his presidential address to the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, expressed strong opposition to conscription, the agitation for which, he said, was sadly out of place at a time when we had raised such a fine army by voluntary means. He suggested that the agitation had behind it, not merely the raising of men for the Army, but the conscription of industrial workers, which would mean the establishment here of German militarism.

Professor Pollard, lecturing at University College, London, said that Germany had contributed nothing to the science of navigation or the discovery of new worlds. She had been rather a pedlar than a pioneer of civilization. The German idea of neutralising the sea was an absurdity. There was nothing to be said for a freedom of the sea which would confine the British fleet to territorial waters and leave to German arms liberty over the lands of other nations. It was not "a place in the sun" that Germany desired, but control of the sunshine.

The list of articles asked for by the Lancashire and Cheshire regiments for Christmas puts on definite record some of the changes which we all know to have taken place in the masculine mind. Nearly all the battalions ask for chocolate, and several of them mention "sweets." These things would not have occurred to the Peninsular soldier, nor had he, one fears, that excellent craving for "toilet soap" which is revealed by the list. There is a great demand also for pencils, pens, and writing pads, reminding us that this is the first great European war fought by armies of lettered men.

As in one sense a father to from 10,000 to 14,000 employees, for many years I have suffered and lost so much from employees that killed themselves and ruined their families, that I could not and cannot be in favour of the use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage, and with nothing but good will to you as a gentleman, I will say that personal interest to serve my business can never bribe me to change my principles.—Mr. John Wanamaker, in a letter to a distiller customer.