

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

Strong efforts are being made in Cumberland Co. to organize in better shape the listless U. M. W. locals.

Maxwell, of Dominion No. 1 is off on a well earned holiday. He was given something before leaving where-with to help him on his way.

Four Belgians were before the court at Port Hood last week charged with unlawful assembly at Inverness last October. Two were acquitted while the other two got the smart sentence of three months in jail. The lesson should not be lost.

The Maritime Coal Ry. & Power Co. are making comparatively quick shipments from their wharf at the Joggins. The Springhill barges have been secured by the Company. In less than four days seventeen hundred tons was loaded, and on a later occasion a thousand tons in two days.

Dom. Nos. 14 and 15 are on double shift. In a short time No. 16 will be started, but before much coal can be handled, railway extensions and improvements will have to be made. The distance between No. 12 and 14 is, say, a mile while No. 15 is only 200 yards from No. 14 while No. 16 is about the same distance from No. 12. Within the radius of a mile four collieries producing about 1200 tons each, before long, be in operation.

The British Amalgamated Engineers Society has a pension fund of close on a million and three quarter dollars. Its drawings for trades union purposes are a way ahead of the U. M. W. of A., though its membership is only a third of that claimed by the American order. It was this society which taught the world a lesson, by its failure to win, that a big fund was not an essential to success.

It is stated that the veteran explorer for coal, Pat. Nevilles, visited the bore hole being put down in Antigonish County. The bore hole is down 560 feet, thirty of this in shale. Mr. Nevilles told the borers to keep on believing and in order to strengthen their faith told them there were three thousand feet of shale yet to go through. No, he didn't say oil yielding shale, just shale. It is to be hoped Mr. Nevilles in this instance was at his old trade—joking.

Another mining disaster of magnitude has occurred in the United States. The southern coal producing States have been most unfortunate this year in this respect. Great explosion has followed great explosion and the loss of life has been fearful. The latest explosion which happened in Alabama is responsible for the sacrifice of over a hundred lives. It is said the accident was due to a lighted lamp. The U. M. W. by the stand they took on the permitted explosives question have demonstrated that the lives of the workmen are not their first care. Admitted that they do get cheap coal in the United States, but at what a cost of lives.

The P. W. A. are asking the Labor department to send down a commissioner before granting the request of certain restless people at Sydney mines for a Board.

The Sydney Post is seeking a place of repentance and cannot find it though it is seeking it with tears. When the Post, for months, encouraged and abetted and be-fooled the strikers it was laying up for itself wrath against this day. And it could have avoided it all had it listened to the Record. Poor Post.

Not more than 18 000 tons of bituminous coal, including dust, found its way from the U. S. to Quebec in April. A little over 40,000 tons of anthracite was imported in April into Quebec and the lower provinces, Nova Scotia's share of which was 2,157 tons, two-thirds of the quantity going to Halifax.

A Cumberland illiterate writer makes Jas. B. McLaughlan, sign his name, "McGlocklin". Though that may be how they pronounce it in C. B. it is not the proper spelling. James should apply to Parliament for liberty to change his name. The one he now goes under has caused him and his friends much speculation.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Steel Workers Benefit Society was held in Sydney last week. The report of the Treasurer showed that the society was continuing to do excellent work. Close on twenty thousand dollars were paid out during the year to beneficiaries. The Reserve fund is close on thirty thousand dollars. The 'benefits' may be increased shortly, if the proposal of the company to increase its grant, conditionally, is acted upon.

New England's coal consumption is off and on about sixteen million tons, exclusive of anthracite. Of the bituminous about eleven million tons are carried by vessel and five million by rail. In 1908 the average price of soft coal at the mines was, Pennsylvania \$1.13 Maryland \$1.31 and West Virginia \$1.09. And yet the Free Coal League imagines we can with our coal costing, at the mines from \$1.75 to \$2.75 run the U. S. operators to the wall.

Seaman Terris told the Amherst News that "the strike at Springhill would be continued until some settlement was arrived at, and that the International Lodge had pledged its support to the men until next March. The men were determined to stand together until the grievances were adjusted." Seaman did not go into particulars. He did not say that the 'some settlement' might be similar to the one entered into at Glace Bay. Their big grievance at Glace Bay was recognition. They settled at Glace Bay without it. And it may be the same kind of settlement that Seaman means for Springhill. There is room for a compromise. Mr. Cowans may waive part of the reduction for an immediate return to work.