

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

THE MARITIME MINING RECORD is published the second and fourth Wednesday in each month.

THE RECORD is devoted to the Mining—particularly Coal Mining—Industries of the Maritime Provinces.

Advertising Rates, which are moderate, may be had on application.

Subscription \$1.00 a Year. — Single copies 5 cents

R. DRUMMOND, PUBLISHER.

STELLARTON, N. S.

April 10, 1918

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Referring to the fuel situation the Port Hood Greetings has an article from which we make the following extract. Perhaps in asking that the federal government acquire the Mines, and Coal areas, as well as the Inverness Railway, Greetings is asking more than the government will be willing to concede. To buy all the Mines and Areas from Port Hood to Chimney Corner, would involve the expenditure of a very large sum of money. In the event of the federal government acquiring the Mines, the Record presumes the payment of royalty would be made to the local government, and that the Mines would still be subject to the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and would have to be worked as the Department of Mines directed. The Record is not sure whether the federal Government would have rights not now possessed by the operators of our Coal Mines. We think, with Greetings, that the present railway should be acquired and extended to Chimney Corner.

Coming right home, touching this vital issue, we beg to point out to the powers that be, that the Inverness Railway and Coal Company's line—sixty two miles in length,—is now a feeder to, and connects with, the Canadian Government Railways, at Point Tupper, that it taps the Coal Mines at Port Hood, Mabou and Inverness, and is within a few miles of large deposits of Coal at St. Rose, to which point this railway can be easily extended, that all the coal areas in question contain immense deposits of coal, and are practically in their virgin state. That under the very grave conditions relative the shortage of fuel supply, present and prospective, the acquiring of the railway above referred to and the coal mines adjacent thereto by the Government of the Dominion, will be in the public interest and the outlay therefor amply justified.

CORONERS AND MINING FATALITIES INQUEST.

The assurance is given that in due time there shall be repaying if there be no fainting. And it is true at least at times, if one keeps pegging away, he may be gratified with the results. The Record has for a long time expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which Coroner's inquests into mining fatalities have been conducted, and has advocated a drastic change. The bill introduced into the House

of Assembly consolidating the Coal Mines Regulation Act, contains a lengthy amendment which must be satisfactory to all who desire that a thorough investigation should follow every mining fatality. Were the Record to follow the course of some well known newspapers it might claim some credit for the introduction of the amendment. We are content to say that the similarity of the views of the Commissioner of Mines and the Record, is a move of gratifying coincidence. There is no necessity for restating the reasons why the old mode of holding inquiries was unsatisfactory, beyond saying that inquests on the whole, were very disappointing in failing to make plain why the accident occurred, and in placing the responsibility for its occurrence. It is possible that there may be minor changes made in one or two sections of the amendment. These effected and the Record will be entirely satisfied that the change from Coroners to Special Examiners will meet with general approval. The proposed amendment reads:—

Special Examiners To Replace Coroners..

50. Where any accident occurs in any mine from any cause resulting in the loss of life, no Coroner of the County in which the accident occurs, shall hold an inquest touching the death of such person, but the following provisions shall have effect:—

(1). The Governor-in-Council shall appoint in each of the districts into which the Province is divided for the purpose of holding examinations for Certificates of Competency under this Act, one or more competent persons to be called Special Examiners, who shall have all the powers and privileges of Commissioners appointed under the provisions of Chapter 12, Revised Statutes, 1900, "Of Enquiries Concerning Public Matters," and all the powers and privileges of the Inspector under the provisions of Section 49 of this Act, as well as all the powers and privileges of a Coroner, except as in this Act otherwise provided.

(2). Such Special Examiners shall hold office during pleasure.

(3). The Commissioner may appoint any person or persons possessing special knowledge to act with said Special Examiner in holding any enquiry.

(4). Such Special Examiners shall make enquiry and report respecting the death of each person, separately, or may make one report upon the cause of the death of all such persons, and shall at such enquiry report as to whether such accident was or was not preventable, as to whether any neglect either caused or contributed to the explosion or accident, and as to whether there was any defect in or about the mine, or the modes of working said mine, or in the observance of this Act or any General or Special Rules and shall send to the Inspector a copy of his findings in these respects.

(5). If, upon such enquiry, the Special Examiner is of the opinion that death was caused by explosion or accident and resulted from culpable negligence or that there is reasonable ground for suspecting the same, he shall forthwith file a copy of his report with the Clerk of the Crown for the County in which the accident occurred, and transmit a copy thereof to the Attorney General, together with a notice stating that in his opinion it is ex-