

"No fee shall be charged by the board of examiners to candidates who have been prepared at any school established under authority of this Act."

"The Governor-in-Council shall cause each teacher of the schools of instruction for miners to be supplied with a proper outfit of instruments to be used for the purpose of instruction. Such instruments shall be held as the property of the province."

"The rent of rooms or buildings, the cost of fuel and light, and other incidental expenses in connection with the schools, shall be a provincial charge, and shall be paid by the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines."

The night schools came to the front in 1890, as shown by the following, (Chapter 52, Section 115): "Where it appears that in any community of fifteen years and upwards, desirous of obtaining instruction in the ordinary branches of an English education, the Governor in Council may authorize the establishing of a night school for their benefit."

After the mining schools had been in operation for a time it was found that the instructors had not the time, and, in some cases—as all had risen from the ranks—had not the qualifications necessary to give instructions to candidates for the higher class certificates, and therefore the government tried the experiment of sending a qualified mining engineer to the schools to supplement the instructions of the teachers. This plan was in vogue for several years. It would have worked all right had the government been one in a position to appoint two supervisors and not schools have been in operation and have done an untold amount of good, and not the least to be appreciated is the effect they have had on conduct if we may not say character. And the beauty of the thing is that the idea of these useful schools did not emanate from educationists, scientists, or politicians, but from the common people, the technical college is the mining schools expanded and extended. And yet one would have believed that technical education in Nova Scotia is a brand new idea.

coal. It is known that the full height of the coal was never worked, perhaps more left in bench or roof than extracted. It is further said that the old Foord pit is to be unwatered. To the bottom of the old shaft the pit can be unwatered by tank, the quickest and the surest method if the machinery is in order. The water to the deep will probably be taken out by tapping and by way of the Allan Shafts. The water from the shafts and latter on from all the workings, possibly, will be handled by an efficient electric pump. It is further reported that all of the works at Stellarton will be electrified. That means that a great many things will be electrocuted, the boilers and the bank-head at the Albion, etc., that is if the electrical works are established at the Albion Shafts, and not at the back mines. The back mines it is said are to be the scene of the most active operations, and will therefore for the present receive the most attention. There has been a report in circulation for some time and which will not do, to the effect that the Vale is to be shut down. It will be pleasing to the people of Thorburn, and highly satisfactory to the people of keepers of New Glasgow to be told that the report is utterly without foundation. There is no present intention of shutting down the Vale. We express the opinion that nothing will be done to till the Foord pit is unwatered and explored. If it is out, then the coal in the old workings underneath are found as hoped for, in short, if the fire is out, then the coal in the old workings may go down by balances or other means instead of being full programme of operations has not yet been completed. By and bye we may be in a position to give some things definite.

The present efficient staff will continue as of old, though there will be important additions. A new comer will be chief engineer. Mr. Chas. J. Coll will continue as General Manager, Mr. Geo. Gray, Chief Accountant and Purchasing Agent, and Messrs Higson, Harry Coll, and Blenkinsop, Superintendents.

#### TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The following is part of the evidence given at Glace Bay before the Royal Commission:—John Moffatt grand secretary of the Provincial Workmen's Association, was the next witness called. Mr. Moffatt stated to the Commission that he was a practical miner, and had begun work in the mines as a driver. He had not attended the technical schools until he had become a full fledged miner, and took the full mining courses, beginning with the most important mining subjects. Though the classes were of great benefit, he felt that a man would be more thorough by self study. His one year Scranton correspondence course cost about \$60. This course he considered well graded in mining, but men could not get sufficient benefit from it. The working man could get more benefit from following an evening school. He thought it would be a good thing if the miners would seek an education, at the same time meet their friends socially at such classes, etc., is what is needed here, and he felt with proper advertising they would be well attended. An instructor in technical education travelling with apparatus to

#### ACADIA COAL COY. DEVELOPMENTS.

Numerous and varied reports are in circulation as to what the Acadia Coal Co. purpose doing. Some of them, no doubt, are well founded, while others are merely speculative. A report that is reasonable is that an effort will be made to extract the coal, of which without doubt there is a large quantity, in the old Bye pit workings, or perhaps to be more correct, the coal in the vicinity of the so-called Bye pit. Some old staggers have questionings as to where the mouth of that famous pit was situated. The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. is getting at the present time say 700 tons per day from a mine abandoned half a century or more ago, and a similar thing should not be impossible in the case of the Bye pit. A slope sunk in a convenient place should enable the company to get much coal at comparatively small cost. In some of the old pits there is much of what might be termed virgin coal, that is solid