

pany on July 1st, 1913. The accident lists published in this report show that for the first six months of 1913, this company had 11 men killed; for the last six months, 3. Of serious accidents which incapacitated the workmen for over five weeks, the first six months shows 40 men, and the last six months, 17. A corresponding decrease is noticed in the minor accidents.

"To decrease the accidents requires as honest an effort as to decrease the costs, or to increase the production. To issue general rules without seeing that these rules are observed may be a protection in damage suits, but will not diminish the number of accidents."

It is clear that many of the accidents might have been prevented. If conditions are to be improved the miners must be taught the necessity of greater care and the managers must insist on the enforcement of the regulations. Many managers and many miners are careful. Some are not.

Possibly the fault is that the mines are not inspected frequently or carefully enough. The inspectors are faithful in the performance of their duties, but there are not enough of them.

### PORCUPINE

The gold mines at Porcupine are showing up remarkably well as development progresses. There is now no doubt whatever that a large production can be profitably made.

The Hollinger and Acme will both yield handsome profits from operations, both having fairly high-grade ore and a lot of it. On a smaller scale the Porcupine Crown is also doing well. The McIntyre has been less fortunate until lately; but better ore has recently been encountered. These properties are at present in a condition which augurs well for the future of the Pearl Lake section of the Porcupine district.

At the Dome mine the ore is considerably lower grade than at the Hollinger, but it has been proven that the deposit is very large.

Porcupine never looked as well as it does to-day. Its future as a gold producing district for many years is assured.

### WEEKLY PAY

The members of the Provincial Workmen's Association are pressing the Nova Scotia Government to enact legislation providing for weekly pays instead of the bi-monthly pays now customary in Nova Scotia. The attitude of the coal companies can hardly be favorable to the request. At the mines of the Dominion Coal Co. during the summer of 1913 the average daily output in the week following pay-day was 1,800 tons less than the average daily output in the week preceding pay-day. On the Monday following pay-day it is not unusual for 1,500 men to absent themselves from work, and the output will fall from the maximum of 18,-

000 tons on the day before pay, to about 14,000 tons on the day after pay. This theme could be greatly enlarged upon, because it touches many debatable points having to do with social conditions, and it is largely bound up with the utterly preposterous liquor laws of Nova Scotia, and their utterly farcical administration, or it would be more correct to say their non-administration. If the coal companies oppose a change from fortnightly pays to weekly pays, it is because they fear two dislocations of their operations compared with one. The extra cost for clerical labor involved in a change from fortnightly to weekly pays is no bagatelle, but to put the matter frankly and even brutally the great fear of the operator is the "pay-day drunk." Imagine the moral obliquity of a community which legislates that liquor shall not be sold, and then with cynical deliberation sets to work to "milk" the liquor seller by means of fines, mutually arranged to help the local finances and yet not discourage the liquor-seller too much. Why not admit the necessity for the sale of liquor, license it and control it. Anything would be better than the present immoral and hypocritical attitude of the public towards the liquor traffic, which forces men to drink fearful decoctions in the vilest surroundings, and makes a lawbreaker out of every man who wishes to do something that in many countries is part of everyday social etiquette.—F. W. G.

### THE VANCOUVER ISLAND RIOTS

The Vancouver Island strike riot prosecutions by the Government of British Columbia have been ended. In one case—that of an Italian organizer, sent by the United Mine Workers of America from Ohio to work in the interests of that body—an exemplary punishment of four years' imprisonment with hard labor was meted out, the activities of the convicted man having been adjudged largely responsible for the worst of the excesses committed at Extension colliery by the strikers. Other convicted men were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, a number of them to one year in a Provincial jail, a few to longer terms, others to shorter periods, and still others were given their freedom on suspended sentence during good behavior.

In all, 217 persons were arrested, this number including a few youths. In connection with disturbances at Extension there were 50 arrested, at Ladysmith 73, at Nanaimo 76, at Cumberland 6, and at South Wellington 12. Altogether 164 were committed for trial at a higher court, nine were dismissed, and charges against 44 were withdrawn.

The cost of the prosecutions has been roughly estimated at \$150,000, but the figures are unofficial. Then there has been a large expenditure in connection with keeping the militia in the strike zone. Prominent business men of Nanaimo and Ladysmith urge the retention of the militia, fearing a renewal of disturbances if the uniformed men be removed.

One mine-owning company only—the Vancouver-Nanaimo Coal Mining Co.—has recognized the United Mine