

plant will soon be in good working order and ready to give account of itself. The elaborate steel bank head is now doing duty, and development work in the mine is well advanced. Of course coal cannot be produced without men, and married men cannot be coaxed to the mine if there are no houses to be had. And even single men find it difficult to secure board. Until these hindrances are removed the Allan shafts cannot produce the promised two thousand, nor yet a thousand tons per day. It is said houses will be built the coming summer sufficient for a large number of men. With the completion of these houses big outputs from this mine may be looked for. The Vale mine of the Acadia Coal Co. did exceedingly well for an old and unpretentious mine. The output was not far short of a hundred thousand tons. The main deep is now over 6000 feet from the surface. The ace is looking as if through time it might reach Stellar-ton. Some improvements are being effected to permit of a less crooked haulage. Considering the lowness of the coal the pit is doing wonders. It is expected that the output for 1908 will exceed that of 1907. At the Vale as elsewhere there is a cry for more houses and more men. Harry says give him these two and in return he will give 1200 tons per day.

The Marsh mine of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. is plodding along with an average yearly output of about 37,000 tons. That the output is not greater is not chargeable to limited pit room and appliances but to the fact that the quantity raised meets the requirements of the steel works at Trenton to which all the product is shipped. The coal from this mine is carried over the Acadia Coal Co.'s railway, and by agreement between the companies no coal can be carried other than for use of the Steel Co.

The mines in Inverness County have made encouraging progress during the year. First in importance comes the colliery of the Inverness Ry. & Coal Co. The shipments last year from the Inverness mine show a decided increase over those of 1906 and if the present intentions of the management are carried out the present year should show continued advance. Among the improvements contemplated by Mr. Beaton besides those noticed on another page, is the erection of a tippie, large enough to accommodate the full rake of loaded boxes. At present the boxes require a good deal of handling, and consequently the number of men on the bankhead, though not in excess of that at some other collieries, constitute an item of cost worth reckoning with. In order to dispense with some of the deck hands Mr. Beaton is ready, when the heads of the company sanction, to dispense with the present single box tippie and substitute one that will receive the number constituting the rake. The full rake would be drawn into this tippie without removing the hoisting chain from the forward box. The boxes would be discharged at one revolution, the contents being emptied into a pocket or a series of pockets having a common outlet above the picking table. A door in the pocket would permit of the tables being fed with coal so that full opportunity might be had for picking. The boxes when emptied would, on release of a lever, run down the bank head and over the brow of the slope without manual assistance. In such a scheme, of discharging coal from the tubs as they come from the pit, there are great possibilities and the Record hopes that the necessary sanction will be given Mr. Beaton.

Development work at Mabou has progressed in a most satisfactory manner during the year. The slope has been extended, levels driven, and balances broken off, looking to a respectable output for the present year.

The extension of the slope and the regularity of the pitch is very gratifying to the owners, furnishing as they do evidence of the probability of a very extensive field of excellent coal, much larger in extent than geologists some years ago were willing to admit of. The slope too has been straightened which will permit of much more rapid hoisting. This was a difficult and a dangerous piece of work, but was accomplished without accident and in a remarkably short time. With the manner in which the straightening and timbering has been done the keenest critic can find no fault. Mr. J. W. Johnstone, the manager; owing to long delayed financial affairs of the company has not heretofore had a fair chance. It is thought all arrangements are now complete and that he will have opportunity this year, to show us the stuff Mabou is made of.

All the circumstances considered the Port Hood mine has had a fair year. Of course the output was not so large as in some former years, but it is hoped gradually to recover lost ground.

The daily press of Cape Breton has taken so much pride in narrating all happenings at the collieries of the Dominion Coal Co. and the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. that it is unnecessary at this time to make extended notice. The Dom. Coal Co.'s shipments have fallen short of expectations through circumstances, however, over which the company had no control. The season was backward and the Hub mine was out of commission. These with shortage of labor and off days, played havoc with expectations. The mines are in good shape and development work is well in advance of requirements. A new colliery is being opened on the Lingans area which is expected by next July to be producing 200 tons per day. The Hub is once again in operation and will help towards what is hoped to be a big year. If there is no labor trouble—and why should there be, the Record looks for extended shipments even in the face of the talk of depression. But as prices may have in some cases to be lowered, though the companies feel like asking for an increase; any demand on the part of the men for higher rates must tend to discourage and disadvantages if not to nigh disaster. Of course the workmen have a right to reject any offer of a company which they consider objectionable, yet it may be the better policy to give the offer a trial before condemning and rejecting it in toto.

Numbers 1, 3, and 5 collieries of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. will during '08 pursue the even tenor of their 1906 and 1907 ways. They may do a little better but very much better is not to be looked for. The company however anticipates much larger outputs this year than last. A new colliery Sydney No. 4 is being opened out and this year will be a producer. In all probability this will be a machine mine. The management have set their face against any elaborate superstructures, therefore the surface works and plant, while sufficient for all requirements, will be of modest design and unpretentious in appearance. The No. 2 mine at Lloyds Cove, which has been closed for a year or two, is being unwatered and it is expected that this mine will be a producer in a moderate way in the early spring. The coal tapped by this slope is excellent for steam purposes. The company's own requirements for this class of coal for their works at Sydney Mines, Wabana and elsewhere is considerable.

The McKay mine near North Sydney is doing splendid work for so primitive looking a mine. The coal produced this year will go chiefly it is understood to the I. C. R.