

The long-standing wage agreement between the Dominion Coal Company and its mine workers expires at the end of 1918, after having run continuously—with supplements and modifications—for a period of fourteen years. This agreement, while existing only between the Dominion Coal Company and its employees, has really dominated the wage agreements elsewhere in Nova Scotia.

In view of the critical stage at which the coal industry has arrived it is to be hoped that wise and moderate counsels will prevail in negotiating a new wage agreement, because it is to be doubted whether since the era of depression in the coal trade that paved the way for the formation of the Dominion Coal Company twenty-five years ago has the outlook of the industry been so uncertain. In fact the logic of events will eventually force the coal operators, as it did in 1893, to realize that in consolidation of interests lies the only hope of healthy survival.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Kirkland Lake.

Interest is increasing in the southern section of the Kirkland Lake Gold Area, the chief properties in this section are the Ontario-Kirkland, Canadian-Kirkland and Hunton-Kirkland properties. Interest attaches to the Ontario-Kirkland through the fact that the company expect to have their new \$15,000 mining plant in operation by the middle of the current month, when the work of sinking the main shaft to a depth of 300 feet will be proceeded with at once.

Mr. D. Angus, of the Right of Way Mines, Cobalt, and Mr. George E. Drummond, of Montreal, are understood to be negotiating for purchase of control of the Canadian Kirkland, which is located a short distance south of the Kirkland Lake Gold property, and to the west of the Ontario-Kirkland. The Canadian-Kirkland occupies a leading place among the undeveloped properties of the Kirkland Lake Camp. A number of large well-mineralized veins have been opened up with the limited amount of development work already done. Two of these veins have been found to contain free gold and the assays as a result of careful sampling show a very encouraging grade of ore. The geology of the property is exceedingly favorable for the deposition of commercial ore bodies.

Negotiations involving purchase of control of the Hunton-Kirkland are also under way. Exceedingly rich specimens of gold ore were taken from the Hunton-Kirkland property in the early days of the camp from the surface workings. Just prior to the outbreak of war, the property became involved in a deal with English interests.

Lightning River

The case heard recently before Mining Commissioner T. E. Godson, K.C., regarding the claims in the Lightning River district known as the Howie Cochenour has been dismissed. Mr. R. N. Austin entered claim against W. M. Cochenour, L. B. Howey, M. R. Howey and George F. Martin for an interest in the claims above referred to, but the claim was disallowed. Work at the property has been suspended for the time being at least, owing, it is said, to the difficulties and high cost of transportation. It is understood that while good encouragement has been met with, the cost of operation has led to the discontinuing of the work. It required about four days for a team of horses to

make the road trip from the railway to the mine with about half a ton of supplies. Whether or not plans are being made for a resumption of work at some later date has not been announced.

Hollinger Makes New Record.

It is evident the output of the Hollinger-Consolidated for the year 1918 will exceed \$6,250,000. This entirely eclipses any previous records of the company and is the greatest yearly production from any precious metal mine in the Dominion of Canada. This is all the more remarkable when the prevailing conditions regarding gold mining in general are taken into consideration, scarcity of labor and high cost-of materials of all kinds. The Hollinger has been operating with but about half the men required and utilizing about half of their large milling equipment. During the year several miles of new underground work has been done, during the course of which a number of large and important ore bodies have been added to those previously known and a large amount has no doubt also been added to the already huge ore reserves. The 425 foot level continues to constitute the main source of ore supply. The property is developed in such a manner as to permit of great economy in mining. All levels above the 425-foot might be termed auxiliary levels, as all the ore from these workings finds its way through various passes to the main haulage way where it is loaded onto cars and conveyed by electric power to the main shaft and hoisted to the mill for treatment. Not far under 1,500 tons of ore are hoisted at the property every twenty-four hours or approximately 45,000 tons per month. Under normal conditions and working the property to full capacity the amount of ore hoisted annually will probably be about 1,000,000 tons. It is estimated that the monthly output of the mine has been around \$520,000 with a net profit of about not far under \$300,000, for at least a few of the twelve months. It will probably be some little time after the close of the year before the official statement of the company will be available and the result of operations in detail made known. However, from a careful study of the statistics available it is expected that the net earnings of the company will be about three million dollars or equal to about 11 per cent. on the issued capital.

With the prospects of sufficient labor to operate at capacity early in the new year, it would appear that 1919 has great possibilities of showing an even greater production.

To Drill O'Donald Claims.

Arrangements are said to have been completed for the commencement of a diamond drilling campaign on the O'Donald claims at Boston Creek. The full extent of the work planned has not been made known yet. The O'Donald claims have been under option to various interest since the commencement of development of the Boston Creek area, and are said to have much merit. They are well located and should benefit materially from work being done on properties in the immediate neighborhood.

Tellurides on Campbell Claims, Catherine Township.

Very satisfactory results are attending development work on the Campbell claims in Catherine township near the Miller-Independence. The claims are situated in a direct line with what is considered to be the strike of the main vein of the Miller-Independence. One strong vein opened up on the property contains tellurides as well as visible gold. The property is owned by Duncan Campbell of Haileybury.