

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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

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THE COAL TRADE 1910.

While there have been large increase in shipments 1910 over 1909, that is nothing more than was to be expected as the Dominion Coal Co. the largest of the producers fell very far behind in 1909 owing to the long and unwarranted strike. It cannot be said that much progress has been made during the past two years as the shipments are about the same as for 1908.

That there has not been greater progress is due to the continuance of the strike at Springhill and an insufficient supply of unskilled labor. Were one to go over the names on the colliery pay rolls he would be apt to exclaim: "Why, You have more than abundance of underground labor." Seemingly there is abundance while the fact is that the many names on the roll is due to the constant going and coming of loaders. A sufficient supply of loaders is impossible to obtain.

The action of the foreign order, the U. M. W. is responsible for the large decrease at Springhill and also for the decrease consequent in the shutting down of Chignecto colliery. The advent of the foreign order was the biggest curse that has befallen the coal trade in many a year.

The mainland makes a poor showing for 1910 though one or two individual collieries show increases. The credit for the large increase is due Cape Breton where the larger concerns made capital showings.

The approximate of shipments, made in the middle of December was a trifle optimistic, allowance had not been made for stormy weather or for so much holiday absenteeism.

The past year was a good year for the colliery workers. There was no idle time at the collieries and the wages were fair. The operators one and all declare that there was not nearly so much profit for them as the capital invested and the risks involved demanded.

If coal mining be a hazardous employment, then putting money into coal mining for profit is a hazardous investment, and this is true however scornfully the statement be thrust aside. Said a leading operator the day. "I wish to heaven the government would take Dr. Kendall seriously and operate a coal mine and then the dear coal croakers would get a surprise."

Two events of the year which may have far reaching and beneficial effects, were the sale of the 'Cowans' areas at Port Morien and the transfer of all the property of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Co'y to the Dominion Steel corporation. Already on the property at

Port Morien has a trial pit been sunk and other exploratory work done.

The promise is that Morien will soon become a big coal producing district. The advent of the Dom. Coal Co'y. to Springhill certainly means one of two things. Either the several collieries will be working full blast in a few months or the collieries will shut down tight as a battle. The Dominion Coal Co's operations on the Lingan Victoria areas are on an extensive scale. There is now a large population in the district optimistic enough to say that before very long Waterford will be a rival of Glace Bay. The company has now 14 collieries in operation with the prospect of speedy addition.

The increase in the Nova Scotia output does not come up to expectations. It was confidentially expected at the beginning of 1910 that an increase of 100,000 tons might be looked for. The increase is far short of that, though substantial. This is the first time that the present management at Sydney Mines made a miscalculation. It is attributed in largest part to the indisposition of the employees to work steadily.

The McKay mine and the new Colonial colliery both did well. The North Atlantic Collieries was in a measure, disappointing, but things are bound soon to take a turn.

Inverness did splendidly and Superintendent McGillivray is to be congratulated. A new man is in charge at Port Hood, and the RECORD hopes to be able to extend congratulations to him next year.

The prospects for 1911 at the present writing are excellent. There should be an increase over 1910 from each of the coal producing counties. Indeed we are inclined to make a statement which in the past we have hesitated to make, namely, that we look for an increase from every coal company in the Province whose output exceeds 50,000 tons annually. We firmly believe that even the Drummond colliery, which was supposed to have reached its limit a few years ago, will do better than last year. If the shipments for 1911 do not cross the six million mark it will certainly be due to unforeseen and untoward circumstances. The monthly shipments are given in another column. The total is as nearly correct as possible.

THE MINING RECORD—

—TO THE MINING JOURNAL.

The Mining Journal, Toronto, has an article in last issue, in reply to some strictures of ours on the Journal attitude towards reciprocity in coal. The Journals article is a compound of saccharine and sauce, so adroitly mixed, as to appeal to ones pacific rather than to his pugilistic inclinations. So be it sonny. A soft answer can at times do wonders, even turn aside anti-reciprocity wrath. The Journal asserts that it is non-partizan and is no special advocate. Happy condition. Situated between the poles the Journal possibly may maintain its equipoise. Situated in the East and at the same time in the centre of productiveness, we frankly confess that we are not greatly caring what the desires of the West may be in the matter of reciprocity in coal. Out of its superfluity the West, surely, can leave to the East—to Nova Scotia—her coal. The Journal frankly tells us we are as blind as a bat, —in chaste language, however, for the Journal would never condescend to use so common phrase, classical though it be. The Journal emphatically denies that it is in