

## AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The output of Dom. No. 1 is about 2200 tons per day.

Numbers of old country families are arriving and settling at the C. B. Mines.

Large numbers of English and Scottish miners and Newfoundland labourers are being taken on at the Dom. Coal Co's mines.

The Dom. Coal Co. is shearing practically all of its output from rooms, which causes a great improvement in the quality of the coal.

The mining classes at King's College, Glace Bay are proving of great benefit to those who are preparing for the summer's exams, of whom there are about twenty five attending.

Things are moving very quietly at Port Morien. The chief work being done at the Gowrie and Blockhouse is the driving of the narrow work. This is important work as on the rate of development largely depends the output for the coming summer. The prospects for a good summer's work are excellent.

A new lift is being sunk at the Fundy mine. It is expected to drive 300 feet. This work is double shifted. The new hoisting engine is in position. In a couple of months this mine ought to be in a position to secure a fair output for a thin seam, with the possibility of increasing as the months go on.

The loss of the "Baines Hawkins" hindered the Gowrie & Blockhouse from shipping as much coal in March as the company had anticipated. The company has picked up a little tonnage. The S. S. Restigouche was due last week to load coal. She is chartered for two trips, one to Mulgrave and the other to Montreal.

As the Record hinted some weeks ago the Dom. Coal Co's stores, according to Director Wilson are not to be abolished but improved. The very best improvement that could possibly be effected is to put them on a cash basis, except in the case of men who come to the mines from outside places minus money. In such cases it may be necessary to give a fortnights credit. After a man has worked at a colliery for a month credit should cease.

A C. B. correspondent who has been all his life about the collieries writes very strongly on the subject of old age pensions. He says they are a curse in disguise. He is of opinion that the thought of a possible pension may be a deterrent to industry and thrift. He says there are men working in the collieries of C. B. over 60 years old, and making four dollars a day. If those men cannot live and save on that amount how is it possible they can subsist on a pension of a little over four dollars a month. There are no old men paupers at our collieries.

Mr. George Walker formerly of Stellarton, latterly of the Joggins, has been appointed overman at Fundy mine, Cumb. Co.

A majority of the big collieries again show increases. Increases has been general all along the line since the beginning of the year. The increase for the three months is about a quarter of a million tons. If a similar ratio of increase continues, 1906 will be a great year in the coal industry.

It is claimed that Port Morien is the only entirely free from ice port in C. B. With the exception of one day the Bay has been clear of ice all winter. When the proposed extension is made to the government breakwater, Port Morien will, its friends assert, undoubtedly be the best winter port in Cape Breton.

The Standard Coal Co's., boring in Cumberland are abandoning the churn drill in order to operate a Calyx so that if coal is soon struck as anticipated they will be able to secure a core and thereby determine the thickness of the seam and the quality of the coal. The bore hole was down about 1250 feet last week. It is expected that coal will be struck about 1450 feet from surface.

The Dominion Coal Co. has been fined in a justice of peace court fifty dollars for retaining a workman's money for goods supplied at one of the company's stores. To retain money without an order is clearly a breach of the Mines Regulation Act, and the request for an order is so simply made that it is hard to guess how it was omitted.

It is intimated that Mr. James Baird of the Chignecto Colliery will resign in a month or two. It is hinted that the late trouble at Chignecto is responsible for Mr. Baird's decision. It is curious to learn that Mr. Baird who should know that Unions are here to stay objected to any recognition of the Union. It is twenty-five years since we heard of a refusal on the part of a mine operator to meet a committee of his workmen, and that was of course in the early days of the P. W. A.

The men of Springhill have made a wise departure from a custom that has been too prevalent at that colliery. Instead of saying to the management "we want—so and so—or we will quit work to-morrow, they have given fourteen days for the management to consider their demand. The difference of opinion is as to the rates to be paid in one section of the mine. On the ground that the coal was hard to mine the men were given an advance. The coal got softer and then there was a reduction of the rate. Now the men say the coal is again hard and they want the hard coal rate. The management say the coal is not harder and on that ground objected to the demand. We hope the difference will be amicably arranged.