

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The new manager at Port Hood, Mr. Law, says he has no intention of jockeying with the U. M. W. If his predecessor played hide and seek he won't. Strong in the spine. That's right.

Harry Bonsfield, one of the U. M. W. officials has been honest enough to confess in reference to the alleged agreement between the Coal Co'y and Mr. McCulloch that "they had not the scrape of a pen." In face of this candid statement of Mr. Bonsfield do the miners of Cape Breton who are still members of the foreign order intend still to adhere to it. Where is their spunk. By trickery and by foul craft they have been deluded. It has been demonstrated that they have been bullied and bluffed and lied to. Knowing this are they still to be made fools and tools of. McLennan, McLaughlan and McCulloch: Be these thy Gods o men of C. B.

It is said that a noted clergyman of Glace Bay, knowing that the U. M. W. is discredited wrote to an official of the Dominion Coal Co. complaining that a certain P. W. A. man would not work with a U. M. W. man when requested. Does that clergyman expect a greater show of charity from a member not of his flock than from any member of his own congregation. How can it be expected that self respecting P. W. A. men will be willing to work with those who during ten months were chiefly employed hurling scurrilous epithets at them. By George that is asking a lot from frail human nature.

Mr. Dick, of the Dominion Coal Co., has been speaking with marked optimism to the reporter of a Moncton paper. He said he was almost certain that the present summer would prove the most successful in the Dominion Coal Co's history. The output has been going up rapidly and last week a two day record in hoisting, 16,500 tons being raised each day. Orders are all placed and 1910 will be one of prosperity for all concerned. Since Mr. Jones transferred himself to Montreal there has not been the glowing description of doings around Sydney that delighted everybody. Now that Dick has made a beginning the Record trusts he will keep at it.

The smokeless locomotive has been invented once more. This time the discovery is reported from Chicago. An example of the new type, burning bituminous coal, drew a train of cars the other day from the stockyards, a distance of 28 miles, without letting off smoke or gas. The trial trip was watched by a number of railway men, who professed themselves satisfied. The general public will hope that this announcement is not too good to be true, and this desire will be intensified in the case of railway shareholders by the report that the new device will save from 35 to 60 per cent. of the normal fuel consumption.

In a circular letter to the officers of the local unions President T. L. Lewis calls for an assessment of twenty five cents a week from every miner and mine worker who is employed, for the sustenance fund, and cites that there are now idle and dependent upon the union for support 70,000 men in Illinois, 35,000 in the south western States, 1,500 in Nova Scotia, 15,000 in the Irwin District, 4,000 in central Pennsylvania, 3,000 in Ohio, and 2,000 in Colorado. Here is a total of 130,500 men to be supported from contributions of those who are at work, and it conveys an idea of how much patching out there must be by those who receive it to tide them over. There are perhaps 160,000 members of the organization at work, so that weekly income from the assessment would amount to something like \$40,000. That is a small sum to be divided among 130,000 men, so that it would seem that the idleness which prevails in so many of the mining districts, and which idleness is serving to bear up the market price for coal about everywhere except at seaboard and New England points, must soon see a break-away that will augment production.

MINE EXAMINERS.

An esteemed correspondent sends the following:—

"An accident that occurred in a Nova Scotia mine recently leads one to believe that more is required than a certificate of competency. A colliery doctor recently pointed out to me that as a general rule men selected to fill the positions of mine examiners are experienced miners, yet with all a mans experience in a mine he is sometimes found to suffer from physical defects of the eyes, and is unable to appreciate the relative size of "Cap" on the flame of a safety lamp.

One Dr. Snell in the course of his presidential address before the British medical association stated that a number of observations had been made to determine the prevalence of nystagmus among mine examiners and it was found, that out of forty-one examinations eleven had no systagmus, ten were very slightly effected, thirteen were slightly or distinctly affected. It is of the greatest importance from the point of view of safety that examiners should be able to make accurate tests for fire-damp. I believe that if this question was put in its true light before our legislatures an expert specialist would be appointed for the purpose of testing the eyes of persons whose duty it is to go into the mine for the purpose of making an examination before the commencement of a shift.

I do not think that one unable to read or write without the use of eyeglasses is competent to thoroughly examine a gassy mine.

I also believe that this is a matter to which our mining men have given very little attention and if the reading of this item shall lead to the devising of some means of remedying what I consider a very serious defect in our practice of mining, it will have served its purpose.