

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

Springhill seems to be the fortunate hunting grounds for illiterate swelled heads who are ambitious to become, leaders in the social, labor, or religious life of the community.

Along the line of many of the U. S. railways great stacks of soft coal are on fire and at Erieau on Lake Erie, coal is being sold at a small figure, from the thousands of ton piles on fire. And mark you this is not cheap Nova Scotia coal but the genuine American article.

The Records information is that peace has not been declared at Springhill, only an armistice. There are interior rumblings. The Record earnestly enjoins caution. Another strike will certainly be the worst, and will assuredly be the last for many a day. One of the old P. W. A. passwords might be applicable to the present situation. "Better bend than be broken."

Since the company of which Mr. P. McNaughton is manager took hold last Nov., considerable work has been done at the Jubilee mines, Cumb. Co. As the pit had been for a considerable time abandoned, it was naturally much out of repair. Both slopes have been pumped out, repaired and put in fair condition. On pumping out No. 1 pit it was found that the roof had fallen from ten to twenty feet a distance of 100 feet from the face of the level. To clear away and cut through the debris was no little job. Things are now somewhat ship shape.

The Canadian Mining Institute may not do much to enlighten Canadians, it certainly does its full share in amusing such of them as dearly love a fight. The annual fight is now on, and this time among the victims a Lamb is being brought to the sacrifice. Those reading the story of the annual meeting of the snarling dogs of the Mining Institute, will imagine they are in the Springhill pepper box trying to work the Lemieux Labor Law. The Pres. and four ex-Presidents—including Chas. Fergie—stand up for the Lamb; the Can. Mining Journal and probably others, want him shorn.

The present standard weight of box coal in Springhill mine should be satisfactory to every man working in the employ, and in saying so, says a Springhill correspondent, I speak in the best interest of fairness, peace, and the prosperity of the Town. If the men are not satisfied, what do they want? In all seriousness what can they expect. Are the men thoughtless enough to believe that there is no limit to the give of past years. Will it never be given to workmen to know when they have reached the limit? Does anyone with ordinary common sense imagine it is not reached at the Springhill Collieries. The man who denies it is not only not a true friend of the workmen, but is unscrupulous.

Well, things are still prosperous in Springhill in spite of the pessimism of some of the people and the efforts of those leaders, who last summer promised the subjugation of the Co., in a few days. These people still feel sore and are leaving no stone unturned to make trouble between the Coy. and their employees. This set is not made up wholly of employees of the Company, but is drawn from certain professions, some employed and some unemployed.

The 'standard' weight of box of coal in Springhill mines, as publicly made known, was arrived at by ten days run of mine from the several slopes being averaged. This gave the Company a correct idea of what they had been getting previous to the last strike, and what they should get to fill out the final settlement, viz: No advance. Hence any demand for a lower standard weight would simply mean an advance of price on the box which would be a direct violation of the terms of settlement. It is a pity the late (very late) Board of Conciliation could not have thought of that.

A very sad accident occurred in No. 3 mine of the C. R. & C. Co's Collieries, whereby a miner named Adam J. Davidson lost his life. The deceased had been acting as battery tender for some months previous to the accident and was considered a very careful man. Exactly how the accident happened no one knows, as there was no one near at the moment, but it is supposed that level in attempting to cross the chute at counter he slipped or missed his grip of the hand rail and slid down the chute which from this point down to main level has a grade of 60 degs. with an intervening fault. He was quickly missed, soon after located and the body quickly recovered, and although every available effort was made to resuscitate him it was useless. He appeared to have died from suffocation.

Pioneer Lodge intimated by letter to Mr. Cowans that the present docking system would stand cancelled from 1st. Feby. and asked that a conference be held to arrange a new system. Mr. Cowans refused to be a party to the conference, and sums up tersely as follows: "Your lodge might as well recognize now as later that existing conditions will not be changed by any means which you may employ." Under later date the following is the closing paragraph of a communication from the company in a local paper. "The company cannot afford to and will not increase wages in any way, is the final and unalterable determination of the President and Directors." Thus these utterances nothing can be plainer. It seems to many that if the men wish to bring down the whole fabric, Springhill included, even if they perish in the ruins—the one sure way is open to them. Better pause than be precipitate.