

Around the Collieries.

As there is little news going at the collieries at present, except what refers to the P. W. A. and the U. M. W., and as the editor will be absent from his office for a time, this and possibly the next issue of the RECORD will contain a couple of pages less than the stated number.

That the coal trade is a little slack is evident from the fact that the Dominion Coal Co.'s shipments have not been so low in any January for the past eight years, while Scotias shipments are less than in any January in the last four years. However the outputs are good and will come in handy during the busy shipping season.

The papers say that James Ross and his friends, after the privy Council decision was made known, instead of throwing steel on the market laid hold on every share they could catch until now his, and his friends' holdings are numerous enough to control the Steel Co. The papers don't tell us whether he brought outright or on margin. If the former, where did all the money come from?

At the opening of the last parliament the government majority was 66. At the first vote of the present parliament the government majority was 42. As Russell of East Toronto, shows signs of voting tory the actual liberal majority with the speaker is 47 and not 49 as was given out before the vote. The majority is sufficiently large for all practical purposes.

During January nearly four thousand tons of bituminous dust and over fourteen thousand tons of American bituminous coal found its way into Quebec province, the principal receiver being Montreal. Just how much of this was dust is not known, therefore the actual displacement of Nova Scotia coal in the Montreal market by American, cannot correctly be given.

The fact that Premier Murray, and Deputy Commissioner of Mines Dunkin, accompanied the delegation of coal operators who intercepted Mr. Fielding on his way to Ottawa, bodes well for the success of their mission. Premier Murray cannot take any chances in the matter. It is absolutely necessary that the revenue of the province be not interfered with by any inroad of American operators in the St. Lawrence market.

It is a remarkable showing which is made in regard to the membership of the U. M. W. in the Anthracite region. Consider for a moment the value of an organization, for purposes of offense or defense, where but 18 per cent of the employees are members. Put it in figures—30,000 out of 170,000. Probably grins will be made before April 1, but there is a long way to go, to say the least, to bring up an organization to the fighting point from such a basis as that. Granting the most favorable outcome of efforts to increase the membership at the advent of a strike, how will the Bituminous districts feel disposed toward a district that has been so poorly represented in the ranks of the national body? Will the Bituminous miners feel disposed to extend much help to a branch of their association which has maintained itself on a basis of 18 per cent of possible membership, and consequently paid only 18 per cent of its proportionate dues during the past two or three years?

For years the mineral resources of the province have been crying out loudly to be developed. The cry on the whole has failed to arouse general attention.

Mr. Beausoleil the representative of the U. M. W. who is starting C. B. in company with Peter Patterson is not what one could call consistent in his speeches. He tells one audience that the U. M. W. won't stay here if they are not wanted, and to a second audience he shouts, "The U. M. W. are here to stay."

There is some education necessary at a number of the bituminous mines in the Pittsburgh Pa. district. There has been strife for a considerable time over an order of the mine officials to discontinue the use of black powder. The men at these mines are seemingly content to take the risk—foolish fellows.

The Montreal Witness says the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. will ship enormous quantities of coal this year, and that they will extend their St. Lawrence trade. Well, the company will ship more coal this year than ever it did, but it is just possible the increase in shipments will not permit of the word 'enormous.' If the company ship a total of three quarters of a million tons it will be doing pretty well. That would be a hundred thousand tons more than last year.

The C. B. papers say the U. M. W. or some of the members of that alien society will apply for a Board of Conciliation on the ground that they are being unfairly treated. They may save themselves the bother. The Lemieux Act speaks of only two classes of workmen, union and non union. It makes no reference whatever to 'scab' unionists and very properly so. If a company were forced to recognize two unions why not half a dozen, and where would they find themselves then.

Three U. M. W. officials, Beausoleil, Patterson, and McLellan, called on Mr. Duggan, Gen'l Manager of the Dominion Coal Co., expecting to be invited to a five o'clock tea. They sent in their cards. These were returned with the information that this was not one of Duggan's receiving days. They expostulated and said they wished to talk on important business. They were then further informed that Mr. Duggan did not wish to talk with them on business, important or otherwise. The gall of Peter.

An Englishman, writing in the Herald, tells how good the unions are in the Old Country, compared with here. He evidently does not know that the miners of Nova Scotia had much beneficial legislation ahead of Britain or any other country. He thinks it is not a new thing to have dues collected in the office of the company. Why, it is the very newest. He says collectors do that work in Yorkshire, but he does not say what percentage the collectors get.

Only a small proportion of the Anthracite mine workers are in the union. According to the figures of Mr. Lewis, only 18 per cent. of the total 170,000 Anthracite employees were included in the union at the close of 1908. "Why?" ask the operators, "should we make a contract, covering the wages of all our 170,000 employees, with a national organization that includes such a small percentage of these employees?"