

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

NOVA SCOTIA'S IRON AND COAL.

The MARITIME MINING RECORD is published the second and fourth Wednesday in each month.

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

Advertising rates, which are moderate, may be had on application.

Subscription \$1.00 a year.

Single Copies 5 cents

R. DRUMMOND, PUBLISHER.

STELLARTON, N. S.

August 11

Some ten years ago the Record declared that our laws in reference to the regulation of Coal Mines were in advance of any similar legislation in the world. That was a very big statement to make. It has since also been made by many of the papers, and by speakers from public platforms and never successfully challenged. Some even at this date may not guess how many years ahead of other countries we were in mining legislation. A bill lately passed the British House of Commons called the Checkweigher's Bill. After the bill had been reported up the solicitor General for England moved as an afterthought that a new clause be added to the bill. By the addition of this clause the British bill of 1909, is on a par with the Nova Scotia bill of 1898. Nova Scotia in this instance has had a lead of eleven years on the mother country. To show that the N. S. bill of 1898 is even more comprehensive than the British bill of this year, we publish the chief clauses of the two bills, N. S. being the first:—

"A check-weigher shall have every facility afforded him to take a correct account of the weighing for the persons by whom he is so stationed, including facilities for examining and testing the weighing machine, and checking the taring of tubs and boxes, when necessary; and also for counting boxes and tallies in order that the number of boxes, weights or quantities credited to each person may be ascertained, and also including a shelter from the weather, and a desk or table at which to write, to be furnished by the owner, agent or manager, and access to all parts of the mine and bankhead necessary for the fulfilment of his duties."

"The facilities to be afforded to a checkweigher in pursuance of Sub-section 2 of Sec. 13 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, shall include suitable and sufficient accommodation in an office which shall afford complete protection from the weather, and shall be furnished with a desk or table on which the checkweigher may write, and shall be kept under suitable conditions for the discharge of his duties as a checkweigher, and shall also include the provision of a certain number of weights to enable him to test the weighing machine."

From a communication in this issue of the Record, from the Editorial Office of the Department of Mines Ottawa, it will be gathered that Dr. Haanel, the man in charge, has wakened up to the importance of his task, and is to give to Nova Scotians, in elaborate reports some needed information as to the minerals of the province. In the communication there is outlined a useful, comprehensive reform of methods in regard to publication. Dr. Haanel is now working with good men on the lines and in the direction hinted at in the Record of June 9th. While freely admitting this we by no means allow that our opinion has been in any way assailed. We still are of the opinion that the work, good work, could be better, more satisfactorily done, by a provincial geological survey, working in close touch with the Technical College, and the Nova Scotia Mines Department, as is the case in Ontario. Of course, the Record congratulates Dr. Haanel on his recognition of a pressing want, and in obtaining the services of Messrs Hudson, Jennison and Woodman, experts on coal, gypsum and iron respectively, and yet at the same time it suggests that the communication and what is outlined hardly touches the subject of the Records editorial or of Mr. Dicks resolution as passed by the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, which tersely put was that the work already done by Fletcher and Faribault, should, at once, be compiled for general use, in compact form. This it is said is in progress for the geology of the gold fields, and will no doubt be extended to all the geological formations of the province, accompanied by a good map to more clearly demonstrate the work done by these veterans which has now extended over many years. Notice must be taken too of the work done by Scott, Barlow, Logan, Hunt, Selwyn, etc., etc. The great variety of the investigations may be supposed from the 2 indexes published by the survey. Vol. I containing a mass of matter and valuable data is, from the hurried nature of its preparation incomplete, but corrections and additions will in all likelihood be made in subsequent volumes. These volumes we would respectively suggest to the Mines Branch should be made more easily accessible, for all the subjects, by provinces.

A WORD FOR THE OPERATORS.

If one were to believe the Free Coal League the Nova Scotia coal operators are worse than the villain in the worst play. Their chief end is to glorify themselves and rub it in to the poor consumers in the province. The operators have not a single redeeming feature or if they have then it has not come within the notice of the Free Coal League, the Herald or many of its correspondents. A Scottish paper referring to the dispute between the colliery workers and the operators, had the following to say on behalf of the latter. Whatever force the remarks have as applied to British operators, apply even more strongly to operators in N. S.:

"It is possible for outsiders to think that the coal owners are too stiff, but hard facts must be looked in the face. Coal mining is not invariably