

As the Coal Company's profits depend very largely on the quantity of coal which can be mined and shipped in the season of open navigation, the operations of the season just closing should have a favourable effect on earnings.

Mr. Richard Kirkby, who has for the last three years filled the position of mining engineer to the Dominion Coal Company, has resigned and returned to his home in Scotland. Previous to Mr. Kirkby's departure the members of the South Cape Breton Mining Society tendered him a complimentary address, and presented him with a gold watch. It is generally regretted that Mr. Kirkby should have found it necessary, for purely personal reasons, to leave Cape Breton, where he had proved himself a capable mining engineer and a tactful official.

The Baum Wash Plant, which has been under construction at Sydney since the spring, is now well advanced, and all the outside and concrete work is finished. The machinery is on the ground, and it is confidently anticipated that the Wash Plant will be in full working operation by next June.

The railway branch to the Birch Grove Collieries is completed as far as the site of No. 21 Colliery, and the work of erecting the bankhead is commenced. The electric power transmission line is also completed from No. 2 Power House to No. 21 Colliery. Contracts have been let for the building of a number of miners' and officials' dwellings at Birch Grove, which it is hoped to complete before the spring.

Over 300 dwellings have been completed this summer at the Lingan Collieries, and contracts have been let for additional houses to be ready by the spring. A large hotel is also being erected by the company, for the accommodation of single men.

#### Springhill Mines.

Mr. J. R. Sharpe, who was the manager of the Cumberland Coal & Railway Company's mines at the time they were absorbed by the Dominion Coal Company, and has since been acting as district superintendent, has resigned his position. Mr. J. D. Maxwell has been appointed resident superintendent, the appointment being effective on the 15th November. Mr. Maxwell has been manager of several of the Coal Company's mines, and has recently acted as assistant to the mining engineer. It is understood that Mr. Sharpe has taken a position in the States.

#### Port au Port, Newfoundland.

A large amount of work is now being done by the Dominion Iron & Steel Company at their new limestone property in Port au Port Bay, Newfoundland. It is expected to have a fully equipped and producing quarry at Port Au Port for next season's limestone requirements. The Steel Company's consumption of limestone is very rapidly growing.

#### National Safety Field Day at Pittsburg.

The National Safety Field Day at Pittsburg on the 30th of October, appears to have been an unqualified success. The superintendent of the Dominion Coal Company's Rescue Station was present, and reports that representatives from all over the North American continent were gathered from points as distant as Seattle and the Canadian West, Alabama, and the isolated coalfield of Cape Breton. Every courtesy appears to have been shown by the officials of the U. S. Bureau of Mines to the Canadian visitors, and no restrictions were placed on the information available. The explosion of the experimental mine at Bruceton, by black powder fired into coal dust was about as convincing a demonstration of the possibilities of a dust explosion as one could wish to see, and if it struck a wholesome terror into those persons who deny the possibility of dust explosions without the presence of gas, it will have

served a useful purpose. It is said the mine before the explosion was so humid as to be almost at the saturation point, but nevertheless the explosion took place. The Mines Bureau, it is understood, are going to issue an account of the experiments conducted in the form of a Miners' Circular, which will be well worth reading. The publications of the U. S. Bureau of Mines now form a valuable series of reports and monographs, which, thanks to the courtesy of the U. S. Government, can be obtained by any Canadian who desires to use them.

Dr. Shields, the genial and energetic head of the Red Cross work in the U. S. mining districts, was also very ready to devote his time to giving information to the Canadian delegates. In this matter of first aid and ambulance training, the mining men of the States, although possibly tardy in recognizing the usefulness of such instruction, have taken hold in a manner typical of the American, and the greatest enthusiasm is being displayed at the present time. The progress of the work has in the past been greatly hindered by strike troubles, as was the case in the mining towns around Glace Bay, and it has taken some time to gain the ground which was lost. It is to be hoped that the threatened labour troubles for next spring in the Pennsylvania mines will not once again undo the work that has taken so long to do.

#### ONTARIO.

##### Cobalt and Gowganda.

After lengthy trials, the Nipissing Mining Company has decided to build a concentrator. It will have a capacity of 200 tons and is to cost \$250,000. The various shafts of the big mine will be connected by an aerial tramway, which will pass over the lake. The cyanide process will be used. The mill will be built on Nipissing Hill and work on the excavations has already begun.

Since the meeting of the La Rose directors three important developments have occurred at the Lawson, the Fisher Eplett, and the Princess. At the Fisher Eplett a foot wide vein of quartz and calcite has been uncovered in which can be seen at various points patches of high grade ore. As the productive veins on the Beaver and the Temiskaming, adjoining mines, showed no ore of value at the surface, sinking operations will commence at once and will be pushed with vigour all winter. At the Lawson in an intermediate level an extension of the rich No. 8 vein has been encountered. It is now providing some of the richest ore ever found at the mine, and for 30 feet has averaged six inches wide. At the Princess a two-inch but very rich vein has been cut up in the stope from the 135-foot level, and also on the 135-foot level itself.

This month the Cobalt Provincial mine has shipped a car of 1,200 ounce ore taken from the stope at the 100-foot level. In the winze below the 200-foot level the ore has come into the vein again unexpectedly, and this new development in part counteracts the disappointment of not finding values in the Savage veins when they were cut.

Operating profits at the La Rose mine for the month of September amounted to \$94,779. During the month there were produced 313,501 ounces, having a gross value of \$164,000. The production for the first nine months of the year shows that 2,751,946 ounces have been mined, while total expenses amounted to \$536,868, leaving a profit of \$916,765.

##### Porcupine, Swastika, and Other Gold Areas.

It has been officially announced that the stamps in the Dome mill will commence to drop on January 15th, unless unusually severe weather is encountered and other unexpected and abnormal difficulties. It is generally believed in camp that even with the Dome's superb organization it will tax its