

## AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The cross measure tunnel, being driven from No. 9 level in Dom. No. 14 colliery to the Barrasois seam, is now driven 500 feet, or about half the distance at which it is expected to reach the latter seam. The strata encountered has been unusually hard which has retarded the work considerably.

Dominion No. 14 colliery is now about three-fourths of a mile undersea, and has a cover of nearly 900 feet. On the other side of Lingan bay, Dom. No. 1 colliery which is undersea a mile and a quarter—the greatest distance of the Dominion Coal company's workings—has a cover of little better than 500 feet.

Riding rakes are now in operation on the back slopes of all the Waterford collieries. At Dom. Nos. 14 and 15 they have been in operation about a year. Since then, in the latter colliery, the slope has been prepared and the road laid to Dom. No. 3 landing to which point the rakes are now running. At Dom. No. 16 an engine 16x30 was installed and the rakes put in operation last January. The engine at Dom. No. 12 which is 12x24 and of 120 horsepower, was installed in February and the rakes are running as far as No. 4 landing.

In accordance with the policy followed for some time, horse haulage in levels in the collieries of the Dominion Coal company at New Waterford is being superseded by mechanical haulage. During the year a haulage engine was installed in Dom. No. 12 on No. 6 west level, and another in No. 15 colliery on No. 5 east level. The roads in the last mentioned level and in No. 4 east of the same colliery have been relaid.

The main deep haulage at Dom. No. 12 has been extended to run to No. 9 landing.

It is within the bounds of possibility that the Record is glorying in its shame, but it has no open mind as between the U. M. W., the P. W. A. and, as well, the A. F. L. It has not forgotten the strike of 1909 brought on by the U. M. W. and it has little sympathy with the A. F. L. because it is a foreign organization. It is certainly not to the credit of Nova Scotia miners, that by holding out their hands and saying to any foreign order, "Come over and help us," they have not attained that independent and patriotic spirit desirable. We have watched the movements of labor for two score years in the western provinces and the United States and we have watched what the P. W. A. has accomplished and thus with renewed emphasis we declare, "We have no open mind on the question of 'which is the best labor union!'"

At a time like this, when there is an insistent demand for coal in C. B., one would imagine that every miner was anxious to do his bit, and put out every pound of coal possible. It appears this is not the case, but that there are a number of men content to dawdle during working hours. In a letter from an

official, having oversight of more than one large colliery, the Record is told: "Our output is comparatively small due, of course, in chief part, to the labor shortage, but also in considerable part to the disinclination of many to work steadily. Many men quit work early on some slight excuse, and some remain from work for frivolous reasons." The man whose one aim these strenuous times, is to "ea canny" cannot have realized that Canada is at war, and needs munitions as well as men, or else he has no proper conception of all that true patriotism includes.

The federal government wants seemingly to help the operators to increase coal production. Well and good. The Record offers the suggestion that a number of inspectors of labor be appointed whose duty it shall be to go round the collieries and ascertain accurately where the blame for a production less than it should be lies. These inspectors should ascertain if the government keeps the collieries fully supplied with ears; if the mine officials take from the colliers all the coal they can give them, and if there is the absenteeism and indifference to steady work attributed to many workmen. The inspectors should not be chosen from one particular party; half the number should be grit and half tory, and they should make investigation in pairs—one grit, one tory—and only unanimous decisions to have effect. If a decision was against the workers then they would have a grit as well as a tory ball to kick off.

The more the plebiscite measure is studied the more grotesque it appears. Suppose the plebiscite went in favor of the U. M. W., what then? The only result would be to enable Jimmie and the two B's to shout "We told you so." That and nothing more.

The people, or at least the newspapers, in the upper provinces, will not concede that Nova Scotia has risen to the occasion unless she sends two million tons of coal to St. Lawrence ports this year, and sends some also into Ontario. The N. S. operators, up to the present moment, are not sure they can send an eighth of two million tons. It is all very well to shout at the operators "increase your production," but how are they to do it? The old proverbs about bricks without straw, and silk purses out of sows' ears, fit in here. The operators, as a whole, are pretty pushing fellows, but they can not do the impossible thing.

The minister of trade and commerce, Sir George Foster, invited the Nova Scotia coal operators, the latter part of March, to come to Ottawa to discuss with him ways and means for an increased production of coal. As in duty bound they went but whether they came back wiser is not known. The censor evidently has not permitted the proceedings to be divulged. Probably a reason is that nothing definite has been accomplished. It is said there will be a further conference.