

AROUND THE COLIERIES.

The solemn calling off by the foreign anti unionists of the strike at Inverness is highly farcical. Why, the strike never amounted to much there, and it has been wholly ineffective for the past nine months. The U. M. W.'s, were beaten at Inverness a fortnight after the strike was declared, and were too cowardly to acknowledge it.

President Lewis has issued a circular letter to the district officers of the U. M. W., in the Anthracite region in which he calls upon them to 'brace up' and hustle for more members, and consequently greater strength. He declares that the organizations for the past six months have been in a more or less demoralized condition, and then urges united action for greater strength, better wages and improved conditions of employment.

The U. M. W.'s talk of the tyranny of the operators and call upon the miner slaves to throw off the yoke. The yoke of the operators was never half so irksome as that of the foreign order. The U. M. W. leaders are the biggest of tyrants. It is said that the engineers of Springhill wanted to have the use of the P. W. A. hall for a meeting to discuss the situation. The paid officials of the foreign order denied them this, and when the miners tried to meet in the open air broke up the meeting. Evidently there are tyrants in Springhill and evidently too there are those who are not free men. Why don't the engineers look out for themselves. If they don't go back soon they may for ever lose the chance.

Some twelve months ago the Dominion Coal Co's secured an option on the areas at Port Morien, standing in the name of Cowans and Drummond, or the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company. The Steel company did extensive boring, and analyses of the coal demonstrated that it was excellent for metallurgical purposes. The option would have expired end of June, but the company decided that the areas were too valuable to let slip, so have secured the properties on terms that are pleasing to both parties. The Steel company are at liberty to either pay \$500,000, or a royalty on a stated minimum yearly output. It is not often that parties to a transaction are so well pleased with the bargain made. There may be extensive development at Port Morien before long.

The new Rules for the Dominion Coal Co's Benefit Societies have been agreed upon after earnest consideration on the part of the company and representative P. W. A. men. The rules are full. The benefits to be paid are something startling. The weekly indemnity in case of either accident or sickness is to be six dollars per week, and the indemnities in death cases are equally liberal. For instance: "In case of the death of a member of the society, leaving a widow and a family, the widow shall receive the death payment of \$100.00, and an allowance of \$8.00 per month for five years, and for each child under fourteen years of age, the sum of three dollars per month until such child reaches the age of fourteen years.

The Intercolonial Coal Co. shows a gratifying increase for June. It and the Inverness are the only two of the larger collieries showing an increase for the month. The decrease at Sydney Mines is due to idle time and the husbarding of the coal on bank. July will show a big improvement in the total shipments over July of last year.

Mr. T. A. Edison, in a recent interview, prophesied that in the near future the motive power of the sun would be extensively utilized for machinery. This is already being done to some extent, and in Arizona a thirty horse power motor is run by the sun's rays, focussed by means of mirrors. Edison is working on a scheme for producing artificial black diamonds. Black diamonds are at present very expensive, but are greatly needed by miners for drilling.

A writer in the Halifax Herald who seemingly leans towards the U. M. W., allows the strikers in C. B. lost. This should forever dispose of the specious plea put forward by the U. M. W.'s for invading Nova Scotia and trying to oust an established and well regulated union, namely that the P. W. A. was weak and U. M. W. was rich and powerful and could do the trick. Well the U. M. W. had a ten months trial of strength in C. B. and got a proper drubbing. Money sometimes counts but not always, not by any means.

Before friend McCulloch left he sounded the U. M. W. locals to see if they would strike for those members who had not got work. The locals all said nay except one, which voted strike. When asked if they would contribute to the support of the Springhill men the members of the local all with one consent began to make excuse. One said he needed a new coat and another a new collar, therefore he could not contribute. Mr. McCulloch's indignation rose and he said a lot of things about his ingratitude. People wonder if Jimmie gives half his goods his easily made salary—to the support of the poor. He yells so much about poverty and yearns so for the poor that that much, at least, is looked for from him.

Jimmie, since he ceased to be a bird of passage and become an eminent U. M. W. fixture at Glace Bay, wears quite a high and jaunty air. To be treasurer of District No. 26 carries him away, fills his whole bill. Of course it is against his principles to accept \$90.00 a month for slight and doubtful services, but very often principles are in bondage to pockets. All the same Jimmie is joyous and proud. As he struts through Glace Bay and visits the foreign shacks he softly sings a la Watts:

'When'er I take my walks abroad
Such ugly folk I see
I think how thankful they should feel
That they can look at me.'