

Personal and General

Mr. J. E. McAllister was, on May 9, at Greenwood, B.C., presented with an address by the officials and other employees of the British Columbia Copper Company, on the occasion of his retirement from the position of general manager of the company. Accompanying the address was a valuable service of silver, presented to Mr. and Mrs. McAllister as a souvenir of their long residence in Greenwood (since 1903) and the esteem in which they are held. The same evening the citizens of Greenwood and vicinity tendered Mr. McAllister a complimentary valedictory banquet. It is understood that Mr. McAllister intends joining a firm of consulting engineers with headquarters in New York.

Mr. John B. Hobson, well known as having for years been actively engaged in placer gold hydraulic mining on a large scale near Quesnel Forks, Cariboo district, B.C., lately returned to British Columbia after having spent several weeks in California. He will shortly proceed to Quesnel Forks to there operate his Cresta Blanca hydraulic mine.

Mr. A. J. McMillan, liquidator of the Le Roi Mining Company, recently left Rossland, B.C., on a business trip to New York.

Mr. J. L. Parker, of Vancouver, B.C., lately paid another visit to Sheep Creek, Nelson mining division, going thence to southwestern Alberta.

Mr. A. H. Gracey has returned to British Columbia from a trip to Arizona. Lately he accompanied some other mining engineers to Camborne, Lardeau district of British Columbia, to assist them in their examination of the Eva and Oyster-Criterion gold properties. For several years Mr. Gracey was manager of the Eva mine and 10-stamp mill.

Mr. C. Hussey, business manager for Messrs. Finch & Campbell, of Spokane, Washington, U.S.A., has been spending a week or two at the Standard silver-lead mine, near Silverton, Slocan, in connection with the purchase of material and plant for an aerial tramway, water system, compressor plant, and concentrating mill for the Standard mine.

Mr. Ernest Levy, of Rossland, B.C., manager of the Le Roi No. 2, Limited, has gone on a trip to England.

Mr. F. Burbidge, of the Coeur d'Alene mining district, Idaho, U.S.A., has been on a brief visit to the Slocan district, examining mining property.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

NOVA SCOTIA.

Glace Bay—Dominion Coal Output.

The ice conditions during the last half of April were a great hindrance to shipping, and indications were that the drift ice might give trouble throughout May. Towards the end of April, however, there was a succession of westerly winds which drove the ice down the coast, and by the beginning of May the coast was clear. Shipping commenced at the International Piers in Sydney Harbour on the 4th of May, and during the first fortnight of May the Dominion Coal Company's daily output will have averaged over 14,000 tons. The output for the month should be about 330,000 tons.

The amount of coal stored at the mines during the winter was unusually large. At the mines over 300,000 tons was banked, and at the Steel works a stock of 120,000 tons was laid down. During the past winter the mines probably worked more regularly than they have ever done in the slack season. The old days of idle winters and feverish summers have about passed away, and the Glace Bay mines work as steadily the year round as any bituminous collieries in operation. There are few places where a miner can obtain steadier work the year round than at Glace Bay at the present time.

The foundations are being put in for a new electric water-hoisting engine to replace the present electric hoist at the International Water Shaft, which is the main drainage station for the Harbour Seam mines. The new hoist will be fitted with a Siemens's Ilgner fly-wheel equalizer, by which the stored-up energy of a rapidly revolving and heavy fly-wheel is utilized to equalize the fluctuating load of the hoist. This device is largely used in Germany and in European mines, and also in the United States, but there is probably not one yet installed in Canada.

The Dominion Coal Company's mines are now large users of electric power, the current from the main transmission line being used to drive the screening machinery, ventilating fans, pumps and auxiliary haulages underground, and for lighting the collieries. The first electrically-driven air-compressor in this part of the country is now being erected at No. 12 Colliery. So far none of the coal-hoisting engines have been electric, but it is more than probable that the near future

will see one or more of these installed in Cape Breton. The shallow cover in the Glace Bay field affords an ideal opportunity for the transmission of electric current to underground pumps and haulages through the medium of boreholes.

Construction work has commenced on the new loading pier at Sydney, and the railway tracks are being laid. Work on the excavation of the foundations for the new wash-plant has also been started. The erection of the coal-handling plant at No. 2 Colliery will commence some time in May. The foundations are completed.

The Albion Mine Fire.

Mr. C. J. Coll's letter in your issue of May 1st demurs to references made in this correspondence on one or two occasions to the mine fire which took place at Stellarton in March, 1910, as "credit-claiming reports," and states that "there has been neither warrant nor occasion for the 'full meed of credit' given and so unctuously taken." Mr. Coll is mistaken in supposing that your correspondent or any other person in Cape Breton wishes to claim credit unduly. Reference to the correspondence will show that no attempt of this kind has been made, any more than to quote the official report of Mr. Thomas Blackwood, the Deputy Mine Inspector, as printed in the Nova Scotia Mines Report. Mr. Blackwood was one of the persons engaged in fighting this fire, and had every opportunity of forming a proper opinion of the usefulness of the rescue apparatus used, and it is Mr. Blackwood's report and not your correspondent's opinion that Mr. Coll objects to. Although he accompanied the trained men with the apparatus to Stellarton, your correspondent acting under instructions, did not go into the mine, and would not presume to give an opinion from hearsay only. No good could arise from attempting to answer Mr. Coll's letter in detail, and your correspondent can only refer your readers to the full text of Mr. Blackwood's report, at the same time disclaiming any unprofessional desire to claim undeserved credit for either the Cape Breton men or the apparatus which they used.

Mr. Coll believes that the uses of rescue apparatus or smoke helmets are strictly limited. So they are, and no person has urged this point more than your correspondent, but there are times when oxygen breathing apparatus has proved invaluable.