

Mr. J. R. Lithgow died in Halifax last week. The deceased was at one time Managing Director of the Glace Bay Coal Co., a concern which opened up and developed the Hub and the Harbor seams and did a splendid business in the early sixties. The deceased was a most estimable gentleman, and a splendid business man.

A variety of causes contributed in preventing an earlier notice of a stirring novel by title "The Colonel from Wyoming" kindly sent by the author Dr. Cameron of Mabou. The book abounds in graceful English though it deals largely with a class whose mother tongue was Gaelic. The novel should be of special interest to all Cape Bretonians who have not grown too proud to be interested in the manners and customs of their forebears. Nick-names were common in C. B. many years ago, and a chapter gives an idea of how numerous various and laughable they were. The mine at Mabou comes in for mention in an indirect way, and there is a graphic account of a supposed cave in. Some of the characters who came to the rescue are recognizable. Those who have not read the book should procure it at once. The first edition has been exhausted.

The Record acknowledges the receipt of many superb calendars, from the Can Fairbank Co.; the B Greening Wire Co., Rhodes Curry Co., and the Hadfield Steel Foundry Co., Sheffield, a desk diary from F. B. McCurdy, and also Belchers Almanac from the publishers. This latter publication is as full of interesting and useful information as ever.

The schedule of rates called No. 2 went into effect at the Dominion Coal Co.'s mines on Monday. Much thought and care must have been bestowed on its preparation. This schedule is not quite so favorable to the men as schedule No. 1 which contained a time contract clause, and which the men did not feel disposed to discuss. The company claim that taken as a whole the No. 2 schedule carries no reduction, but simply a readjustment. The schedule proposes that pillar men be paid 41½ cts per ton instead of 46 cts. and an increase in the price of coal to employees to \$1.00 for slack and \$1.50 for run-o-mine. The saving to the company from these sources is to be paid to the day laborers and the men in the machine rooms, machine runners, shooters, and loaders as follows:—The \$1.38 men are to be raised to \$1.52; all day men who now get \$1.65 or over receive an increase of 3%, even drivers and landing tenders, who are young chaps not supporting families, get an increase. The machine room work gets from 8 to 20 per cent. above former rates according to conditions. As a majority of the men are getting an increase, and as pillar men have been perhaps too liberally dealt with in the past in comparison with other workmen, it is not thought any serious trouble will result from the introduction of the schedule. Of course there will be some kicking; that is only natural. The pillar men may wish they had been left as they were, but few of them will be able to say they cannot under the new rates make a fair average wage.

The S. S. Beatrice has been chartered by the North Atlantic Collieries Co. She returned to Port Morien last week after having taken a cargo of 900 tons to St. John. The Company might have preferred not to charter a boat at this time, but were compelled to do so as their business would not permit of waiting on the pleasure of the coasting captains.

When closed lights were introduced in Caledonia there were disapprovals and objections on the part of the men. The objections were such as "We will not be able to do so much work; we will be exposed to more dangers, and the drivers will not be able to see etc." To-day, after having become accustomed to their use the men would not desire any other sort of light. There have been fewer accidents since their introduction; the men are able to do as much work as ever, and the mine is much safer. The majority of the men are willing to acknowledge that the company takes some interest in their welfare. Those responsible for the introduction of closed lights should be gratified at the results so far, and confident that the future will add to this satisfaction. To get the best results in any work, men must co-operate with the management and see that rules are strictly adhered to. In the Caledonia Mine there are no fewer than six relighting stations.

Continued from page 16

its officials." This only by the way. What I want to be at, while admitting the councils sagacity in requesting the doctor to act, is to question the propriety of the doctor's acceptance. The doctor knows, at least he should know, that if Dr. McKay, doctor Bill as he is popularly called, is selected as the conservative candidate at the next federal elections, he, Kendall will be the liberal candidate in opposition. He knows, further, that if he does not wish to commit political suicide, and, at the same time kill his party on the South side of Cape Breton County, he must go on the Board determined to carry back with him a decision in favor of the men. And all the people know this, and therefore will they conclude that the doctor—unless he is prepared to say of the workmen voters what a famous capitalist said of the American public—cannot go on the Board unfettered and fearless. I think the Lemieux act, if it is to be of real service, must have a clause excluding politicians in orders, in other words, legislators or public servants, from seats on Boards. A M. P. or an M. P. P. cannot well be a fearless and independent arbiter. He will be very careful indeed not to place himself in any position, in the arbitrament of a dispute between employers of labor and their men which will alienate the good opinion of voters, in numbers sufficient to oust him from his seat when he next asks their suffrages. With the company's arbiter it is much different. Being neither politician nor official he will have no crowd of clients to coddle. While he may fight stiffly for his patrons he has no fear of them before his mind, in coming to a decision. If he gives decision favorable to the men's contention, he knows he may have the disfavor of the officials, but then, what of that, he has pocketed his fees, and can whistle o'er the frowns. The mode of selection of arbitrators, under the Lemieux act is wholly wrong. Let some one or more laymen appear before the Board to plead the cause he represents, but forbid the pleader a place on the judgement seat. If Arbitration Boards are to be a success men must be appointed to them who court not favors and fear not frowns, whose whole aim will be to get at the bottom facts and on them base a just verdict.