

## AROUND THE COLIERIES.

The locomotive shed of brick, to take care of the engines for the Langan district, is completed and giving shelter and affording a suitable place for repairs to the locomotives of that district.

Grand Master, S. B. McNeil spent a week in Inverness. The P. W. A. members there were highly pleased to meet him and he met many old friends and young ones too who welcomed him in their mining town.

The output of the Dominion Coal Co., C B for the first two months of this year is 50,000 tons ahead of 1911. The Cumberland District also shows an increase of 50,000 tons for the first two months over last year.

The Draeger house for the Langan district has been completed and the apparatus ordered. The station is under the charge of Mr. McMahon of the No. 2 station. The equipment will be sufficient to take care of the whole district. The training of men will begin just as soon as the outfits arrive.

Open air skating rinks were quite a fad in Cape Breton this winter. The Dominion Coal Co. lighted up the reservoir at No. 12 for the use of the boys and girls of the place, and also of the hockey team. To extend this custom to other collieries not in close proximity to an indoor rink would be an act well received by the young people of such collieries.

Experiments have been made lately in No. 6 Colliery with a new machine known as the short wall or room chain machine made by the Sultvan Machine Co. The first trial was unsatisfactory but afterwards changes were made with better results. The machine cuts under a band of splint which falls or can be taken down and cast aside, to prevent it being sent up with the coal. This is a great advantage and will greatly help in improving the quality of coal from No. 6 Colliery.

George W. Grenwell of Sydney Mines writes:—"In your issue of the 14th. Inst. I notice an item dealing with the Draeger Apparatus and the training of officials and workmen by some of the Companies who use this system. Speaking for the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co.'s Sydney Mines, I am in a position to say that they have one of the finest and most up-to-date systems on this side of the Atlantic. They do not confine the training to officials, as your item would have the public believe, but train regularly a number of selected, competent workmen from each of their five collieries as well as all officials from each colliery. The apparatus is so arranged that it could be placed at any of the collieries at a moment's notice." (The correspondent who sent the item taken exception to, drew a wrong inference, no doubt, from the circular issued by the Company to its mine officials. The efforts of the "Scottia" people are worthy of all commendation. — Ed. MINING RECORD.)

The Dominion Coal Company's three story hotel, situated near to No. 14 Colliery, will be ready for occupancy within a month. The building is receiving its second coat of paint. The large number of single men, working in the district, necessitates the erection of such a building.

Besides the purchase of ten sets of apparatus for rescue work in the Langan district, ten sets will be purchased for Springhill. No training station has yet been erected at the Springhill collieries but it is the intention of the Company to erect one in the early Spring. In addition to the rescue apparatus, three pulmotors are being purchased for use in the different districts of the Dominion Collieries. The pulmotor is used as a mechanical aid to restore breathing of persons shocked by electricity, overcome by gas, or suffocated by water filling the lungs, or other cases where life may not be quite extinct. Its construction is as near that of the human lung as can be made and when in use supplies the necessary amount of oxygen that the lung requires without destroying or injuring the delicate tissues of the lung. The full equipment of these rescue stations by the Dominion Coal Co. is creditable to it, fully demonstrating the desire to keep in the front rank of the mining companies of this Continent, and to provide everything necessary to protect life and restore it when but a small spark may be left.

### THE FORWARD TREAD.

The following by Sylvester Horne, M. P., who is a non-conformist clergyman, does not directly refer to mining, but as colliery managers, superintendents and workers generally, are men, it is given without compunction. It was addressed to workmen and makes good reading. Mr. Horne, though a radical, is far from being a Socialist of the Cape Breton or the young unfledged clergyman order:

"Already many people in the press and on the platform have painted the prospective history of 1912 in lurid colours. From the gloomy Dean to Miss Marie Corelli there has been a chorus of voices chanting a dismal dirge in a minor key to the most funeral words ever composed in moods of hysteria by the inferior modern mimics of the Prophet Jeremiah. The most prolific sect in England at the present moment would seem to be the sect of those who cry out before they are hurt. They tell us we are all wrong. Religion is dead, morality is dead, the home is dead, the Sunday is dead—and the Empire would be dead by now if they had not been alive to save it; and they are not feeling very well; and if anything happened to them, civilization would be submerged, and we should all degenerate until once again our tails began to sprout, and we returned to our ancestral condition. It is not easy to know what has got on their nerves. Some say it is the Insurance Act, though there is nothing necessarily uncivilized or un-Christian in endeavoring to insure the poorest of the population