

Around the Collieries.

The preparatory work for the endless haulage of south side of Dom. No. 9 colliery, is reaching completion and by the first of the year should be in operation. A new surface haulage house of brick has been built and 80 lbs. nails laid over 6000 ft. and roof supports of steel rails put up every three feet over the distances mentioned, thus working a permanent system of haulage.

A C. B. correspondent says: "There is little doing and little to report around the C. B. collieries. The truth told the miners of the province did not acquit themselves like our soldiers in France, or the miners in the U. S. They took every advantage of the situation and you were right when you said so. It is over now and the truth will shine through later on."

There is an unworked coal area in Pictou County, the lessees of which have been paying rental for some forty years. It is not owned by a company and no demands have been made on the owner to work it. How is that? It, to the Record's mind has far more possibilities in it than either the Pottery seam or the Black Diamond. The coal in this area would require to be "mined" not quarried. Possibly that is the reason it has little attraction for those who would like an easy way to become "barons."

From notices in the C. B. and Halifax papers stating that the A. M. W. would at their conference propose a revision of the wage scale of Dom. Coal Cos. employees "inherited from the P. W. A.," one might be led to imagine that this "wage scale" had prevented any increase of wages during the past two years. All fudge. Had there been no increase in wages there would not be today any A. M. W.

Some fifty years ago the refrain of a popular concert hall ditty ran somewhat as follows:—

"Up and down the city town
Searching for the 'Eagle'

That's the way the money goes,
Pop goes the weasel."

It is just as hard to account for its then great popularity as it is to account for that of "Tipperary" of war times. The old refrain came to me after reading the Secy-Treas. of the A. M. W.'s financial statement, and the reason he gave for the huge expenditure. The statement should not have been published without giving the amounts paid the checkweighmen, and also the portions of the "data" they compiled. The A. M. W. should not profess that its every action is open to the public, while the items in which the public would be most interested are withheld. In at least one sense the statement is liable, and for that reason it should not be suppressed. After this there will be keen canvassers by aspirants to the lucrative position of checkweighman. The following is the Treasurer's statement as it appears in the Sydney Record:—

Secretary J. B. McLachlan submitted the financial report of the A. M. W., which was briefly as

follows:

Amount on hand at the end of last year ..\$ 1,923.14
Collected during the year 30,250.81

Total
Disbursed during year\$32,173.95
Balance on hand\$15,956.56
The secretary pointed out that the heavy expenditure had been caused by paying checkweighmen to obtain certain data for the union with regard to production of coal in the mines.

Owing to the unexpected large early sale of Mr. Drummond's book "Minerals and Mining in Nova Scotia," the book-binders are now at work on a second edition.

Speaking at the "At Home" given to the Victory loan workers by Lieut. Col. Cantley, of Bonnie Brae, A. McGregor, M. P., said it was "very gratifying indeed to know that Col. Cantley had been given a place on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Northern, particularly in view of the fact that all Government railways had been placed under the control of that Board. He felt confident that Col. Cantley's presence on the Board meant much not only to the Province of Nova Scotia, but also and especially to the County of Pictou."

The Record rejoices at the recognition, by the powers that be, of Thomas Cantley's sterling business worth. Possibly Mr. Cantley may not look at this latest appointment as an honor—he has been so much in the honor line and public ear of late—but certainly it is an honor to Pictou County. Honor won't kill Cantley. Was it not another Thomas—Carlyle—who said (altering the position of the climaxes) "For every man who can stand adversity, one man can stand prosperity." In this instance Thomas Cantley is that one man. His head is where it was at the up in the air. At the beginning of his career he adopted as his motto "I durst" and, so, when there was no way he made one.

CHAPLAIN BUT NOT RELIGIOUS.

Rev. Samuel F. Collier, writing in The Westminster Bible Record on conditions created by the war and their bearing on the mission of the Church, France, who has been remarkably used amongst soldiers, had to censor his men's letters, and one man, writing home, said that they had a chaplain named Watkins, a very decent sort, but with not much religion about him. Watkins was rather embarrassed, and sought out the writer and said: "What do you mean by saying this? I am going to let it go; but what do you mean? 'What I mean is,' said the man, 'you are not religious, but you are a real foolman? He meant that religion stood for formality; not virility and vitality; and it has come to many men to be a term to be despised. We have looked upon the terms 'Christian' and 'Religious' as being interchangeable. We are apt to overlook the distinction."