

## AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

Mr. Kirkby of the Dom. Coal Co. is over in Auld Scotia in order to ascertain among other things the merits of some highly spoken of machinery.

Mr. Duggan of the Dom. Coal Co., had a few weeks visit to the principal mining districts in Pa. and other places, in order to find out how the Americans can mine coal at so much less a price than Nova Scotians.

On last Thursday evening the ex-members of Pioneer Lodge, after nearly 29 years of allegiance to the P. W. A. cast off a certainty for an uncertainty and handed themselves over to the keeping of the non de script society called the U. M. W. "Who will to Coupar, will to Coupar."

It appears to be a popular winter pastime in Glace Bay and Sydney to keep up a running fire against the Dom. Coal Co., although about the only help that has so far been given to any families, who can not get credit, has been given by the Colliery Managers, as instructed by the Company to do, where employees are concerned.

Some very fine specimens of gold quartz are in possession of the Mines Department. The specimens referred to came from the gold mine at Middle River, C. B. The gold does not show large in pieces here and there, but is disseminated in fine particles all through the quartz. The mine is making most satisfactory returns, and the prospects are rosy.

It is reported that one of the biggest of the American coal companies, the Berwind, White Co., through one of its principals has declared that it is prepared to spend a half million dollars in order to retain and extend its grip of the St. Lawrence trade. This, taken with the fact that the organizer of the U. M. W. has asserted that his society is prepared to spend its funds in securing a footing in N. S., should make every Mainland and Cape Breton mine worker sit up and think.

The announcement of the death of Mr. Harvey Howard, of the Cumb. Ry. & Coal Co's engineering and surveying staff, came as a great surprise and grief to many. One in Springhill, who knew the deceased well, this writes of the funeral:—

"An impressive scene! The coffin, covered with flowers, carried from his home in full view of the collieries for which Mr. Howard had done so much. The slow march of the long procession, to the sad music of the band, to the English Church on the main street; the crowd of spectators. A solemn service in the church, and Rev. Mr. Norwood's kind reference to Mr. Howard as a useful, industrious, citizen of a great mining town. The slow march then resumed to the beautiful resting place, overlooking the valley of South Branch of Black River. The ancient ritual of his Masonic brethren at the open grave, into which they cast sprays of evergreen—an emblem of immortality—and said farewell to their brother in the softly falling snow, the warm mist and deepening gloom of a mid-December evening."

Every army must have a bugler and one who knows well his notes. Mr. Fergus Bryne has been appointed bugler for the P. W. A., and as he sends forth no uncertain sound the P. W. A. men are prepared for the battle.

A piece of work has just been completed by the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. at their works in Trenton, which could not be done in any other establishment in Canada, and could not be better done in any other part of the world. It is called a fifteen ton shaft, made in two pieces with cranks, etc., and is for a pump being erected by John Inglis and Co. for the City of Toronto, at a cost of about \$160,000. The pump has a capacity of fifteen million gallons of water per day. The shaft is unquestionably a splendid piece of workmanship and should serve as a big advertisement for the Steel Co'y. The profit on it will not contribute much to payment of dividends, but then the experience received in making it is a splendid investment likely to pay handsomely in the future. The shaft where it entered the crank was only 15-1000s of an inch less than the eye; had it been 20-1000s it could not have been entered. The shaft end was forced into the crank with a pressure of 150 tons.

We regret to chronicle the failure of the first boring for coal in Prince Edward Island begun by the Dominion government in October last, at a point on the sea shore, North of Orwell Bay, recommended more than forty years ago by Sir William Dawson, and more recently in several reports presented to the Dominion and Provincial legislatures by officers of the Geological Survey. While sympathizing with Contractor Stover and his skilful assistants, we feel sure of their ability ultimately to reach the depth of 2500 feet, and hope that they may find coal in this or one of the other drillings under contract. In Nova Scotia holes have been bored to a depth of more than 3000 feet in search of coal and oil.

Mr. Patterson was organizer for the U. M. W. in the West. Nanaimo and Fernie are two mining localities in the West. Mr. John Eagan of Sydney Mines, has in the Sydney Post this to say of conditions under the benign rule of the U. M. W. :—

"Wages are much higher generally than in the East, but considering the loss of time through the fluctuation of trade, the high cost of living, the damp foggy inclement weather, and the uncertainty of holding your irregular work a man cannot save any money here. The East has its lower wages, it also has its longer hours, but taking all in all into consideration it is much more preferable than the West. . . . There is a union here but evidently it exists in name only. . . . Work at the Fernie mine is more regular, but the very name is enough to frighten any ordinary man. When you have heard tales told by men who have cleared out of the death smitten district, it is enough to make your hair stand on end." Ah, now we have a reason why Peter makes love to the East.