

TABLE SHOWING PRODUCTION OF COAL, NUMBER OF MEN EMPLOYED, FATALITIES, AND DEATH RATES, AND AVERAGE ANNUAL OUTPUT PER MAN, 1908-09, GREAT BRITAIN, PENNSYLVANIA, CANADA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, NOVA SCOTIA, AND DOMINION COAL COMPANY.

			Production Tons.	Employees inside and Outside.	Total Fatali- ties.	Death Rate. Per 1,000 men.		Average Annual Output Per Man.
						Per million tons.		
Great Britain	.....	1908	261,512,214	987,813	1,306	1.32	5.01	329
"	.....	1909	263,758,562	1,013,998	1,453	1.44	5.51	323
Pennsylvania Bituminous	.....	1908	114,937,375	181,840	572	3.15	4.9	753
"	.....	1909	136,205,695	185,921	506	2.72	3.7	893
Pennsylvania Anthracite.	.....	1908	83,543,243	174,503	678	3.88	3.9	672
"	.....	1909	80,223,833	171,195	567	3.31	7.1	651
Canada	.....	1908	8,030,000	19,028	63	3.31	7.8	422
"	.....	1909	9,380,000	23,708	100	4.21	10.6	396
British Columbia	.....	1908	2,088,000	6,095	18	2.95	8.6	343
"	.....	1909	2,328,000	6,418	57	8.88	24.5	362
Nova Scotia	.....	1908	5,940,000	12,933	45	3.48	7.6	460
"	.....	1909	5,046,000	12,083	34	2.81	6.7	418
Dominion Coal Company	.....	1908	3,555,068	4,936	17	3.44	4.8	720
"	.....	1909	2,736,363	3,914	13	3.32	4.7	700
"	.....	1910	3,526,754	5,022	15	2.98	4.2	700
"	.....	1911	3,984,749	5,499	19	3.45	4.8	725

This table shows how much greater the production of coal per man employed is on this side of the water than in Great Britain, but beyond that there is little to be proud of, particularly in the record of British Columbia. The figures given for the Dominion Coal Company's mines are conservative, and in calculating the number of men employed, only the average daily force has been taken. The actual number of employees is about twenty per cent. greater, so that the fatality rate per thousand employees is slightly exaggerated.

That aggressive weekly, the Canadian "Collier's," in commenting on mine fatalities in Canada, says: "Some day there will be a particularly shocking mining accident at Fernie or Sydney. Public opinion will be stirred, and the Government will be stimulated to action. A commission will be appointed to go to Europe to study

methods of preventing accidents. The commissioner-ships will be very popular. A blue book will follow, and in course of time Canada will do what other nations did long ago." Your correspondent cannot speak for Fernie, but he can for Sydney, and if the prophecy of disaster that trips so easily from the editorial pen should unfortunately be ever fulfilled in the Sydney coalfield, it will not be for lack of precautions on the part of those responsible for the safety of the mines, and it may do no harm to remind editorial writers that miners do not relish such prophecies. Men do not talk lightly of that which they most fear, and the mining men of Cape Breton at any rate prefer to take measures for their own safety and that of their mines, rather than wait for a commission, a body which, in the minds of most people, is associated with leisurely delay and lavish expenditure.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF HARTZ-FOREST.

Written for the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL by J. C. MURRAY.

(Continued from the issue of Jan. 15.)

I concluded the first chapter of this review with an allusion to "the Water of a Vitriolic Nature" that pestered the miners in the Rammelsberg mine. Observations, pathological and chemical, are made by Herr Behrens. "Some People drink the Water for a Pain in the Stomach, and other Ailments, because it purges violently; yet it doth often more harm than can be repaired. 'Tis of a very nauseous taste." We can, even at this date, feel some pity for the benighted imbibers of acidulous mine-water! The effete twentieth century tumtum would not long survive such heroic dosing. It is mentioned, by the way, that iron bars deposited in this water accumulated a covering of copper. "Iron turn'd to Copper" is the reference in the index.

Workmen's compensation and employers' liability were not live issues two centuries ago in Hartz Forest. Life may have been a serious matter, but the hereafter was the real thing. It mattered little how many widows

were "made in one day." No meddling inspector, no brutal coroner, held the employer responsible. Hence the only real obligation that rested upon the operator in so far as the welfare of his men was concerned, was to see that they were not dashed unwarned or unprepared into eternity. The fate of bereaved families, naturally, mattered not at all. How simple a solution of labour troubles! How peaceful the lot of the mine owner! Thus does the author lead up to the subject: "This Mountain is hollow'd out underground into such large caverns, that they, in some places, are too high to be propp'd; wherefore 'tis very dangerous to work in some of the Mines; upon which account the Miners at Goslar are two Mornings in the Week exhorted by a Sermon to live in the Fear of God, to be prepar'd in case of any Accident; but they are such a fool-hardy audacious Crew, that when the Parson preaches a little longer than ordinary, and when the City-Gates are open, they run out of