

PROVINCE NOTES.

REPARATIONS are being made in Sydney for the laying of concrete sidewalks. The growth of the town into a city with splendid prospects ahead, demands the exercise of taste and judgment in fixing up the main thoroughfares at a time when this can be done with comparative ease and without inordinate expense. The town authorities have a problem to wrestle with in this, that confronts every growing town with unpaved streets. Traffic is now very heavy in Sydney and the streets in none too good condition, but the citizens are determined to make the "front door of Canada" a worthy portal in every respect.

The recent heavy rains have converted the sandy streets in the "valley" towns into very muddy thoroughfares. Every spring and fall the same thing happens and it becomes a burning question whether or not the town authorities should go to some considerable expense in macadamizing them. The outlay of a large sum of money for any purpose is a matter that calls for serious consideration; but good streets are most essential to progress anywhere, and many people in the above mentioned places feel that they cannot longer afford to delay the much needed improvement.

The Nova Scotia Steel Co., have purchased large areas of manganese in the Magdalen Islands; \$300,000 is said to be the sum involved in the transfer.

The Dominion Coal Co., has commenced an active campaign against liquor dealers in the vicinity of their collieries. This is due to the loss sustained by the company after each pay day, when a large number of the miners in each of the collieries are unable to work for several days because of drunkenness.

A special meeting of the directors and share-holders of the Nova Scotia Steel Co., was held on Thursday, to pass a bye-law, authorizing the directors to sell or to transfer any or all of the Company's property, if they think it advisable, and to ratify a bye-law already passed, authorizing and empowering the directors to borrow \$1,500,000.

Work at Belle Isle is very active. The Dominion Iron & Steel Co., will shortly have 500 more men at work there and expect to ship 130,000 tons of ore during the remainder of the season. A new shaft has been sunk on the Island by the Nova Scotia Steel Co., from which ore is being taken out at a depth of fifteen feet. The

latter company will keep their men at work all winter.

Reports received at the Geological Survey Department at Ottawa state that the fire which has been smouldering in the coal veins ever since the great Springhill disaster, ten years ago, is at last nearly burned out, having made its way underground a distance of two miles. It would appear that the coal deposits in that region are much more extensive than heretofore believed, and the mineral wealth of the district very great indeed.

The flight of time has not left Sydney much better off in point of ability to accommodate transient visitors. Last week there was such an excessive number of arrivals one evening that it was with the greatest difficulty all found lodgings; as a matter of fact one man and his wife, after searching high and low, were compelled to take shelter for the night at police headquarters.

Thirteen large steamers were in Sydney harbor one day last week waiting for cargo. It was a very busy day at the International pier where all day long the greatest activity prevailed in order that these steamers might have quick despatch.

The convention of Nova Scotia Sunday School workers recently held in Dartmouth was very successful. The attendance by two prominent Sunday school workers from the United States was one of the features that gave great interest to the meetings and left a deep impression on those who attended the various sessions. This is good work and will be followed by good results.

An Annapolis man has been experimenting on sending letters around the world to see how long it would take. One addressed via England, Australia and Vancouver, took 91 days; the one addressed via San Francisco, Japan, Ceylon and England, 97 days, and the one addressed "please forward this around the world westward," made the trip in 84 days.

The water committee of the New Glasgow town council have just had some alterations made in the pumping machinery at the source of the town's water supply that will effect a saving of from fifteen to twenty tons of coal per month, as well as secure better results, at the original piston speed, in the quantity of water pumped.

The people of Pictou have been successful in obtaining a water supply for the town by sinking Artesian wells. The idea was a good one and the results will likely prove economical to the town. A supply of 500,000 gallons a day is assured.

Contracts have been let for the construction of a sewerage system for Sydney. If fine weather prevails the work will likely be completed before winter sets in. In order to overcome the difficulty of finding lodgings for the men that will be employed at a time when lodgings are so difficult to procure, arrangements have been made with the Dominion Iron & Steel Co. looking to that end.

Since Cape Breton has become discovered to the world of commerce and industry it is difficult to go anywhere in the Island without discovering more of its resources. This was illustrated recently when two young men discovered coal cropping out near the top of a steep bank near Lake Ainslie where they were pursuing the sport of duck-shooting.

The construction of the coke plant for the Nova Scotia Steel Co. at North Sydney is going on rapidly, 100 men being employed and everything being now in such shape that the completion of the work is to be looked for in February next. This plant will be capable of producing 75 tons of coke a day. The ovens will yield no by-products. The plant now under construction will be sufficient for the production of only enough coke for use at the company's present works in New Glasgow, but is so arranged that it can easily be greatly enlarged at any time, which will have to be done should the company decide to erect iron and steel works at North Sydney.

The Nova Scotian horse has lived to see himself being forced out of employment by a rival. If he were a reflective animal he might view with some concern the usurpations of electricity in his particular field of activity. The electric car has commenced to supplant him on the streets. It is not likely we shall ever see horse cars in this province again. The miner horse is the latest to feel electricity's encroachments, for the Dominion Coal Co. has commenced to substitute electric power for horses in the pits, where coal has always heretofore been hauled by horses. The innovation will assist in increasing the output.