

# AROUND THE COLIERIES.

The surface plant at Dom. No. 14 and 15 collieries is looming up large. With the engine and other houses a new wash house for miners is being erected.

A coal washer is to be built by the Dominion Coal Co. near the site of the one burned down a year ago. This looks like getting back to former things.

It is reported that the Lorway seam at Reserve is to be tapped by a shaft sunk close to the Emery. The seam is said to be five feet thick and of the very best quality.

The U. M. W. of A. boasts that it sent upwards of one million dollars in Nova Scotia for the P. W. A. and come out victorious was \$6,000. It has still a good surplus to its credit and doesn't need to levy either. \*

The coal shipments of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. for August, 102,000 odd tons, are the biggest on record, in spite of the many off days. The shipments of the Dominion Coal Co. for August are within a few tons of the shipments for 1908, and of course largely in excess of those for August of last year.

The East side of Caledonia colliery, Glace Bay, was affected by a crush lately. The strata settled from the surface which is a usual occurrence in the shallow or upper workings of the collieries in the Glace Bay district. This section of the mine was worked out fifteen odd years ago and the pillars were made too thin. Because of this robbing where larger pillars should have been left the East side of Caledonia mine will be idle for at least two months, a large amount of money will have to be expended in timbering the falls of the crushed district, and regular work at Caledonia will be confined for some time. The new methods of mining leave large pillars to guard against crushing, and Deputy Inspectors of Mines are insisting on larger pillars.

The P. W. A. is certainly not strong in its publicity department. The accounts of its meetings in the daily press are of the most meagre description. The Grand Council is desirous that the government should see that the Draeger apparatus is installed at the several mines. Also that the government should test all explosives. This latter request must be based on the score of economy chiefly, and on the loss to the men from defective explosives, and not on that of safety solely, as accidents from explosives have been a minor item in Nova Scotia since the 'powder clauses' were passed. Grand Master McNeil has been given an assistant, and Grand Secretary Moffatt a sub-secretary. This latter is a commendable action on the part of the Council. Thomas Hale, of Westville, unless we are greatly mistaken, is made of the right stuff. He will have back bone enough not to condone apparent wrong doing on the part of workmen as well as management. It is to be hoped Tom will turn his attention to Cumberland.

The Springhill strike is wearing on and away. There is a gradual if slow increase in output. The company houses will likely all soon be filled by new men.

There will soon be the predicted string of collieries from Victoria to Barrasois. Another new colliery has been plotted out on the Lingan side and the preliminaries to starting a couple of slopes taken.

The New Waterford district around Dominion collieries 12, 14, 15, and 16 has a town air about it. Houses, hotels, stores, halls, and churches are all in evidence, while the woods are disappearing as fast as fire can burn them. By and bye it will take rank with Glace Bay.

Notices were recently posted around some of the collieries for meetings of the U. M. W. of A. Scantling the truth afar off, but few of the faithful turned up. What few attended were greeted with diatribes against the P. W. A. and preachers, and were asked for a collection at the wind up. Four dollars a month was announced and the larger half of the meeting got out. The few places who had nothing to give or send still awaiting to sorrowing brothers in the United States. The overflow meetings of the U. M. W. is over for good and but counted 'dear' at four dollars a month.

Who will win in Illinois, the mine operators or the miners? Both are holding tight at present. The miners, under John Walker and other leaders are determined to fight to a finish. If they are beaten in the end it will be because the funds are exhausted, and the miners have no means of supporting themselves and their families. For some time previous to the late convention the men seemed to be without the active support of their president, T. L. Lewis, who was desirous of settling the case by a compromise. Whether Lewis now supports the strike is a matter of little consequence, as he played his part in spending a large amount of the strike funds in Nova Scotia, where they were not needed, and now levies are in order. Whether one would call the giving of one dollar per week a strike levy or the paying of back debts by Nova Scotia miners is of little consequence, as it will not be paid. That it is no free will offering was evidenced by the cusswords and the miserable back alley sneaking heard and seen on the pay day last. If the Illinois miners win then we are told you so and you only got what any reasonable man would get, a drubbing. This will undoubtedly lower the stock of John Walker, but he can always say that his hands were tied through want of strong backing. To say that President Lewis will fight without means of support necessary by leaving it to the P. W. A. in Nova Scotia was most effectively fighting a strong wing of his own organization by leaving it without means of support necessary to a successful campaign might be construed as far fetched, but there seems to be a lurking truth of realism about it that lends color to the statement.