

feet and replacing buntons and guides for the cages for the whole depth of the shaft, nearly 900 feet, and do all this with "a few day's stoppage."

W. R. WILLS, ESQ.,

28th February, 1891.

Asst. Manager Acadia Coal Co., Ltd., Stellarton.

Letters the re-
port did not
quote.

Dear Sir,—I duly received and have to thank you for the very clear and satisfactory letter of the 20th inst. The Board is exceedingly desirous that the Foord Pit should be placed in complete order and will make the requisite expenditure. At the same time they do not wish any risk of future trouble in the Fan pit, and if you do not feel absolutely sure of the success of your plan, then would prefer to utilize the English slope, although it would entail the maintenance of an isolated plant.

I am writing Mr. Poole to ask you to go over carefully with him the contents of your letter and see if you cannot agree upon the plans for the Foord pit and for the Foord pit lining. Would the change in the cages of the latter be permanent or temporary? Should the lining so reduce the Pits' size as to make it permanent, would this not materially diminish the hoisting capacity?

Yours truly,

(Signed) J. W. CLENDENIN, *Prest.*

Extract from letter of February 27th, 1891, to H. S. Poole,
Agent:—

"Mr. Wills also writes (on the 20th inst.) of the unsatisfactory condition of the Foord pit shaft, and proposes lining it for 250 feet up with 9" brickwork. Please also discuss this point with him; proceed with the work as soon as practicable. The Board is not inclined to spare any proper expenditure for putting this pit in complete order."

STELLARTON, N. S., *March 5th, 1891.*

ACADIA COAL CO., LTD.,

J. W. CLENDENIN, ESQ., *Prest. Acadia Coal Co.,*

Dear Sir,—I have received your letter of Feb. 28th, for which I am obliged. I note your remarks as to the Fan pit and Foord pit, which question I will discuss fully with Mr. Poole. The lining would necessitate the permanent use of single box (to each deck) cages, but this would not affect the hoisting capacity to any extent, as it would be quite possible to wind from 1,000 to 1,500 tons in ten hours, according to the arrangement made. I have wound from 200 yards with one cage only holding one box (at a similar capacity of ours at the Foord pit), on each of the two decks 630 times in 8 hours—double this for two cages and it gives 1,260 tons in 8 hours.

With suitable arrangements for discharging the cages the winding capacity of a shaft like the Foord pit is immense, and can, I think, be readily arranged to meet all possible requirements.

Yours obediently,

W. R. WILLS, *Asst. Manager.*

To revert once again to the inquiry itself. It is noteworthy that while questions were put in Parliament as to the reasons why certain seams of coal were not now worked, these questions all relate to the