

The outputs of the Phalen seams are about the same with the exception of the new mine at Big Glace Bay, No. 6, whose output is steadily increasing. It is expected that in the summer of 1908 this mine will be producing 1,000 tons per day.

The Hub Colliery was pumped out early in November and is again producing coal. It will be remembered that this mine got on fire in December 1906, and in order to extinguish the fire it was necessary to let in the Atlantic Ocean. Most of the year has been occupied in pumping out the workings and replacing the surface erections which were wiped out by the fire. The work of pumping out was slow owing mostly to the virulent manner in which the Hub pit water attacks metals. Several peculiar phenomena were noticed in pumping out this mine. When the sea water was allowed to flow into the workings the Bay was full of "lolly" ice which flowed in with the water. At water level this formed a substance like coarse sea salt, which was left in the roadways as the water receded. In the broiling days of the summer it was strange to see this reminder of the drift ice of the spring. This frozen substance absorbed enormous quantities of the carbonic oxide, which was formed by the smothered fire, making the task of removing it somewhat disagreeable to the workmen. As soon as the mass was disturbed by the shovel the carbonic oxide diffused itself into the atmosphere, making the lamps to burn brightly and giving the men more or less headache.

The mines on the Harbor Seam kept about the same production as in the previous year.

The new longwall mine on the Emery Seam produced about 100,000 tons in the year. A good many hindrances have been met with in opening out this mine, due chiefly to the difficulty of obtaining miners accustomed to longwall workings. This difficulty is now almost overcome, and during 1908, No. 10 will probably produce 150,000 tons. The Emery Seam is a hard bright coal, very suitable for household or steam purpose and will be very popular some day.

The Coal Company's new mine at Victoria has two slopes, each down about 300 feet. The Victoria seam at this point is about 6 feet 3 inches thick with an excellent analysis. The dip is about 1 in 4, and the face of the deeps is about half a mile from the sea, having 60 feet of cover at the present face. In the system of working to be adopted, advantage is to be taken of the grade in handling the coal underground. The rooms will be opened out to the rise, the full tubs being let down to the level by means of a gravity balance, which will at the same time haul the empty tub to the coal face. Small gathering haulage engines will be placed at the ends of the levels to convey the coal to the main haulage ropes. A small temporary plant is now installed, with boarding houses, etc., and about 75 men are working at the site. The railway from Grand Lake where the No. 12 branch will join the main line of the Sydney & Louisburg Railway is being rapidly graded, and will be completed in 1908.

During the year the Dominion Coal Company have made a good many additions to their plant and equipment. At No. 2 Colliery the Compressor House was enlarged and in addition to the compressors, now contains three 600 KW. generators, driven by 700 H.P. horizontal steam engines. This plant is intended to supply electric power to all the Glace Bay district collieries for pumping, screening, etc. A general scheme of electric pumping and haulage is being installed at the collieries for which the power is to be supplied from the No. 2 Power House.

Two new locomotives and a steam shovel have been added to the railway equipment, and a wrecking plant for assisting distressed shipping is now installed in a special building at Glace Bay.

Many advances in the way of safety have been made. Safety lamps are now in use in all the mines, and naked lights have very wisely abandoned altogether. The use of ordinary and compressed powder has been discontinued in dusty mines, and a high explosive is now used. The system of independent shotfiring is altogether done away with, and shots are now lighted by a responsible official. Unexpected inspections of the miners' clothing are made, and several men found with matches in their possession have been detected and punished. It is not by chance or altogether by reason of naturally safe mines that Cape Breton has been spared a disaster like those that have wrought such havoc in the States. Safety is the outcome of eternal vigilance, in which particular the present management of the Dominion Coal Company are not lacking.

A Rescue Building equipped with twenty Draegar breathing apparatus has been erected during the year, and a trained expert is now stationed there whose occupation it will be to train corps of men in the use of these apparatus. Their nature and use have been explained in the columns of the JOURNAL. In view of the recent explosions in the States and the futile attempts at rescue work there, the initiative of the Coal Company has been very abundantly justified.

The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, like the Dominion Coal Company have a lessened annual output, but they have also like their neighbors been prosecuting necessary development work. The new mine at Point Aconi has commenced operations, and the branch line 2 1-2 miles connecting the colliery with the main line is also completed. No. 2 Colliery at Lloyds Cove, which was abandoned in 1904, is now being pumped out, and will be ready to hoist some time next spring.

Both the Nova Scotia Steel Company and the Dominion Coal Company have during 1907 built a good many workmen's houses, and both companies are selling these houses to their workmen on an easy instalment plan, which is being quite largely taken advantage of, the rate of interest being only 6 per cent., and the lot sold at a nominal figure. The Nova Scotia Steel Company have also installed an electrically driven haulage at their No. 5 Colliery. Electric power and electrically driven machinery is steadily increasing in favor in Cape Breton.

The production of the Nova Scotia Steel Company's collieries during the year, was as follows:—

No. 1	256,161
" 3	296,466
" 4	3,128
" 5	82,310

Total tons 638,065

The output of the Inverness Railway & Coal Company will be in the neighborhood of 250,000 tons, and will be about 40,000 tons in advance of 1906.

The trial of "Steel vs. Coal" which took place at Sydney before Judge Longley at midsummer, added a little to the gaiety of the Canadian nation. All the readers of the JOURNAL are of course familiar with the circumstances, and know all about Judge Longley's buttonhole, the pyrotechnic cross-examination of Sir Wm. Van Horne and Mr. F. P. Jones' two days on the witness stand; with Mr. Nesbitt's slightly theatrical eloquence and Mr. Lovett's monotonous, and at the same time, incisive logic. The course of the appeal trial at