

INVERNESS COUNTY.

Inv. Ry. & Coal Co.	230,752	270,630	40,000
Port Hood Coal Co.	76,000	76,000	
	306,750	346,630	40,000

RECAPITULATION.

Cape Breton Co.	3,345,341	4,113,672	768,000
Pictou County.....	527,349	525,605	1,744
Cumh. County.....	404,235	290,000	114,000
Inverness Co.	306,000	346,630	40,000

TOTAL, say 5,275,907

Approximate Increase 693,000

NOTE.—The total falls short of the approximate made three weeks ago for the Halifax papers, due wholly to the expected shipments of the Dominion Coal Co. not being realized. The shipments from C. B., Inverness and Pictou are reliable, while those from Cumberland are in part merely approximate.

Around the Collieries.

The Canadian Pictorial, published by the Witness Co'y., Montreal, is getting better, if that be possible, each issue. The pictures are the work of real artists though the price of the Pictorial is only a dollar a year.

The Eastern Coal Co'y., it seems, committed an unpardonable blunder when they refrained from appointing that eminent geologist, J. T. Smith of Amherst, who can define the relationship between Marsh hay and Marsh gas, as their Consulting Engineer. Given the fitting opportunity he could add two cubits to the stature of the Maccan coal seams.

The RECORD is gladdened to learn that there is the prospect of a kick up at Glace Bay. The participants in the affair will be Vice-President Butler, assisted by Supt. McDougall, and H. J. McCann, Supt. of Stores. Though the latter is a fighter he will in this instance quietly take what the RECORD believes to be his det sets and submit to being kicked up. If the reporters out correct then the RECORD will be able to affirm that wisdom and foresight did not step out when the present management of the big company stepped in.

A writer in the Halifax Herald signing himself J. T. Smith, Amherst, a bumptious chap, sets out to show that he is entirely ignorant of coal mining conditions in Nova Scotia, and has succeeded beyond peradventure. The probability is that J. T. Smith is interested in some of the little seams in the Maccan district. The RECORD has heard of some Cumberland Smiths in the past and perhaps J. T. is of the number. In proof of his wisdom he says there is no comparison between the Maccan mine and Mahon, as the latter was flooded. Thou fool. If money had not been thrown away at Mahon there would have been sufficient to prevent the inflow of water, or to do a little pumping and repairing if it had got in. Smith doesn't seem to know that Mahon was idle, from lack of money, for weeks before the water broke in.

We hear much these days about the high cost of living. The chief plea put forward in the past year for increase in wages was that the cost of necessities made it impossible to live on the wages given. How much is there to this plea. Take the case of the men at Springhill for instance. If men can get along without any wages at a colliery and live on small benefactions, how can they do it if living be high. And if men prefer to remain idle at a colliery for a year and a half, when they could obtain good work and wages elsewhere, how can they do it if living be high. One is apt to conclude that the cry of the cost of living needs some explanation.

Says the News—Sentinel:

Mr. Butler is expected in Springhill again next week, but it is stated on the best authority from the local headquarters, that he has no intention of meeting a committee of the men. So the battle will go on, and a great many people in Springhill will be glad, because having become Lotus carers once, there is no very ardent wish on the part of a good many to return to the muscular activities of life again.

Picketing was resumed in town again on Thursday, after a respite of two or three weeks, and on the same day the Co. had new papers served on some of the more active U. M. W. workers on a charge of contempt of court in violating an anti-picketing injunction granted in Halifax some five or six weeks ago.

Misfortunes seldom comes singly. Just as the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company were recovering from the effects of the burning of the No. 1 Compressor came the calamity at No. 3 involving the loss of eight lives. This is the worst accident that has occurred in C. B. in half a century. An explosion occurred at 4 p. m. on Tuesday in the lower portion of the pit, somewhere between No. 12 and 14 levels. Five of the men killed were single and three married. Of the eight three were deputies and five shiftmen. The pit had been idle for two or three days on account of the holidays. The explosion was violent, but confined to a limited section of the mine, and was not followed by fire. Preceding or accompanying the explosion occurred heavy falls in the roadways which crushed and killed half of the number and cut off the escape of the others. These falls hindered for a time all attempts to locate the bodies of the overmen. Near to Ferguson's body, which was the last discovered, were picked up the top and bottom parts of a safety lamp. One statement has it that the gas put out the light and Ferguson endeavored to relight it. The other is that from some cause his light went out and not suspecting gas, as none had ever been reported in the mine, he opened his lamp and struck a match, which set off the gas. With the scanty evidence to hand the latter is the theory the RECORD is inclined to accept, for reasons which must be obvious. A question which the inquest may decide is: "Whether the explosion caused the falls or the falls were the occasion of the explosion.

Thomas Cantley hurried to the scene from New Glasgow and was in the pit for hours, as was also T. J. Brown and other of the officials.

It is a pity some of the papers gave so lurid and exaggerated accounts of the catastrophe, the accident in all conscience is bad enough, the grief of the bereaved acute enough without the addition of highly colored fictitious descriptions of scorched bodies and mutilated remains, and without the narration of incidents that never happened and interviews that never took place.