

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The Main Deep of Dom. No. 11 is being brushed below No. 3 Landing to allow the extension of the main haulage.

After the new houses are up the Acadia Coal Co. think there should not be great difficulty in an augmentation of its working force.

The C. G. R., alias I. C. R., will take under contract from the mines in Cumberland County some four to five hundred thousand tons of coal within the next ten months, and more if they can get it.

New Mine at Harrison
It is told the Record that the output of the Greenwood Colliery mounts up, on occasions, to near the 300 hundred tons a day mark. This is a creditable showing for so new a mine.

It is said that even in colliery towns, oil stoves for cooking are coming into vogue. The question is, where is the hot water for baths and washing days to come from?

The Dominion Coal Company find it difficult to procure vessels for their Montreal trade. Because of this some of the Sydney and Louisburg locomotive drivers are at lower classes of labor.

Mr. Gordon, Comptroller of the D. C. Co., is on his annual tour of inspection to the Company's offices and works in Halifax, St. John, Springhill, Quebec and Montreal.

A new colliery office is being erected at Dom. No. 7, "The Hub," to house the augmented electrical staff occasioned by the introduction of weekly pays. At other collieries where existing offices are sufficiently large, alterations are being made to meet the new conditions.

Why does not some one in the Federal Parliament jump up and ask why coal is selling so dear in the United States as compared with Nova Scotia? In former days delight was taken in asking why coal was dearer in Nova Scotia than in the United States. The tables have turned. The lowest bids the School Board of Chicago received for bituminous coal was \$6.40. The average of the bids was over \$7.00, compared with an average of \$2.75 for the years previous. At the prices tendered the School Board figures that the fuel bill would be close on \$1,000,000. Whew!

Oh, if Nova Scotia had only coal now to spare and ship to Boston what big profits would accrue. Coal in cars at Boston is now selling at from \$10.50 to \$12.50 a ton. Bostonians, however, have been told if they hang on to the fall, the price may tumble to \$6.00.

Two-thirds of the output of the collieries of the N. S. Steel and Coal Company at Sydney Mines are necessary to supply the Company's own needs. The output of the collieries for the four months of 1917 show a fair increase over the corresponding months of last year.

The Halifax folk who tore their hair at the information that N. S. coal was sold cheaper in Montreal than in the province have the consolation of knowing that the tables are turned, and that Montrealeers are paying about two dollars more a ton than Halifaxians for the same grade of coal.

A new 1,500 kilowatt electric generator is being installed at the Central Electric Plant of the Dominion Coal Co., at Dom. No. 2. The installation of several electric pumps and other electrically driven apparatus at various collieries has made increased generating equipment necessary.

The baneful after-pay "absenteeism," which formerly was so detrimental to outputs has, apparently, disappeared, due, it is said, to three causes, viz., The National Service appeal for greater production, weekly pay, and the vigorous prosecution of the Temperance Act laws in Glace Bay and surrounding collieries. Whatever the cause, it is true that all collieries report an almost normal working force every Monday and it is also true that outputs on Monday are, barring accidents, within a very few tons of being normal. This is a most pleasing contrast to former days when the loss of 5,000 tons fortnightly—after each pay—was a common occurrence.

In response to the Government's appeal for increased production of foodstuffs, the Dom. Coal Co., has decided to plant five hundred bushels of potatoes on that large tract of land formerly known as the Lingan Golf Links. Mr. J. D. McKinnon, of the General Office staff, an expert in this particular line of agriculture, is supervising the work. High School boys from Glace Bay, under the direction of several experienced men, have been employed for the past two weeks preparing the ground for seeding. When the crop is gathered in the fall it is understood that it will be retailed to the Company's employees at reasonable prices through their stores.