

No. 12	22,010
No. 14	11,300
No. 15	2,300
No. 16	1,150

Tons 350,770

This is the largest production ever obtained by the Coal Company in May. The nearest record was in May, 1908, in which month the output was 335,829 tons.

The production for the five months ending May, during the present and recent years, is as follows:—

1908	1,585,364
1909	1,273,676
1910	1,196,917
1911	1,523,190

While the output is some 326,000 tons ahead of last year at the end of May, yet it is 62,000 tons behind the corresponding period of 1908. The first seven months of 1908 produced 2,300,000 tons, and it is not likely that this output can be reached by the end of July this year. The last half of 1908, however, was a very poor one, as shipping was hindered by forest fires and fogs in the St. Lawrence, and a marked trade depression was making itself felt. It is hoped during the coming summer to maintain the present rate of output, and it is reasonably probable that the output for 1911 will reach over 3,800,000 tons, and get away from the 3½ million mark around which Dominion Coal outputs have so persistently hovered for six years.

Dominion Steel Corporation Employees' Debentures.

As intimated by the president of the Dominion Steel Corporation at the annual meeting in Montreal, this corporation has taken the commendable step of issuing 6 per cent. debentures to their employees in such low denominations as \$50 and \$100, and on an easy instalment-purchase plan. These debentures are issued only to employees or the trustee or benefit societies connected with the corporation or its subsidiary companies. The scheme, therefore, embraces employees at the Sydney Steel Works, the Marble Mountain, and other limestone quarries of the Steel Company, the ore mines at Wabana, at the mines and works of the Dominion Coal Company, and at the Springhill mines. The debentures may be paid for in one sum, or in 24 or 36 monthly instalments, which will be deducted from wages. Once the instalments are all paid the debenture is transferable, being made out to bearer, but it is not transferable in course of purchase, except to another employee of the corporation. If a purchaser desires to surrender his rights and discontinue the instalments he may do so, and will be allowed ordinary bank interest on the accumulated instalments. Provision is made for temporary suspension of payments when circumstances render this necessary or desirable. A most attractive feature of the issue is that if a purchaser should die before his instalments are paid up, the corporation will itself pay up all instalments due after his death, and treat the debenture as fully paid up, and his representatives may at once receive the debenture, or its face value in cash. The debentures run for six years, and the holder, if he is still an employee at the end of this term, may receive the cash value or a renewal debenture on which interest will be paid at not less than 5 per cent. per annum.

It is probable that this debenture issue will be largely taken up, as it affords a real necessity among an industrial population earning fair wages, namely, an absolutely safe investment returning twice the interest rate allowed by savings banks. The usual bond issue in denominations of \$500 and \$1,000 is altogether out of the reach of the thrifty workingman, but there must be a great number of men with a few hundred dollars who will welcome this issue, particularly with the added insurance provision. There are also large numbers of young men, earning good wages, who can easily find the small instalments

of from \$1.30 to \$4 monthly required to purchase a \$50 or a \$100 debenture, who will find this form of investment an excellent way to accumulate the nest egg necessary for marriage, or old age.

The following interesting paragraph appeared in the "Colliery Guardian" of the 12th May:—

"At the Mansfield colliery, belonging to the Bolsover Colliery Company, as the result of one week's working of 5½ days, ending Tuesday, May 2nd, a record for a week's turning was made, the total quantity of coal brought to the surface being 25,068 tons. This gives an average turning of over 4,557 tons each day, or 620 tons per hour. It is worthy of mention that during the year 1910 not a single fatal accident occurred at the pit."

This is a record to be proud of so far as production goes, but to mine over a million tons of coal without a single fatal accident is a far greater reason for congratulation. The Bolsover Colliery Company's mines are in the northern portion of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire coalfields in the English Midlands, and this company has always been known for its solicitude for the safety and comfort of the workmen. The colliery village of Bolsover is a model of what a colliery village should be. It was laid out with this intention and has justified the expenditure and thought that was devoted to this end.

The Springhill Strike.

The Springhill strike was called off on the 28th May by a unanimous vote of the men, having lasted from early in August, 1909. The date recalls the fact that just one year and one month from this date the Glace Bay strike was declared off, the vote to return to work having been taken in this case on the 28th April, 1910. Springhill is a place that has an unenviable notoriety for strikes, but it is to be hoped that the strike which has just closed will have satisfied even the most inveterate advocate of strikes for a long time to come.

The strike followed upon the refusal of the men to accept the findings of a Conciliation Board. The demands of the men were for recognition of the U.M.W.A., for an increase in wages, and the adoption of a fixed wage schedule, and payment for the coal produced by the ton and not by the box, with a modification of the system of docking for stone. The Board refused to recommend any of the demands of the men, but suggested an arrangement in connection with docking for stone, which the men rejected.

Shortly after the commencement of the strike the Cumberland Coal & Railway Company announced that the strikers would not be taken back to work except under a reduction of 15 per cent. in the wages of coal cutters.

Towards the end of 1910 the Dominion Steel Corporation purchased the stock of the Cumberland Coal & Railway Company, and attached the Springhill mines to the properties operated by the Dominion Coal Company.

The militia were called out in July, 1910, to repress disorder. Owing, however, to the restrictions placed upon the military when acting in aid of the civil power, and the indifferent attitude of the town police of Springhill, the strikers for a long time had practical control of the town, and by a system of pickets were able to prevent any men returning to work. In March, 1911, the militia were withdrawn and the town was placed under the jurisdiction of a Provincial Commissioner of Police, who, with the assistance of 30 provincial constables, was able for the first time to put an effectual stop to the picketing and molesting of the men at work. Almost immediately following the arrival of the Police Commissioner, several of the most prominent strikers returned to work, and it was evident that many others were tired of the useless struggle and had only been deterred from seeking work by fear of bodily injury at the hands of the strikers.

At the beginning of the year the Provincial Workmen's Association revived the old Pioneer Lodge at Springhill. Nego-