## MINING RECORD Coal Shipments, November, 1916.

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## RUBS-(Continued from page 9.)

"If he resigned and is leaving the country can you culist him ?"

No. This matter was taken up with Major General Benson, and he told us that we must let him go

'We had a case only a few days ago. A man was leaving for the U. S. He had been given his time, and we knowing this, enlisted him. We got into not?

That is rather restricting a man's liberty, is it

Mr. Crowell smiled, and said:

"Occupying the position I do under the department I do not feel at liberty to answer that question.

"What will they dowith the recruiting office?" Well, this is not only a recruiting office but rather a sort of clearing house and general intelligence office. Lt. Chirgwin attends to corespondence between the units at the front and friends at home, fixes separation allowance matters, marriage questions, and things of that sort."

"Is there not some sort of a special service battalion stationed at Halifax?"

"Yes, they are attached to the 246th for training." What are they for, if physically unfit for overseas service?"

"I don't know."

"Why was it authorized?"

"I haven't the slightest idea." "Could not they be used for industrial purposes?"

of don't see why not, and physically fit men released. Oh, by the way, we have permission to enlist men from the clerical staff and stores department of the Steel and Coal companies, but from these department of the Steel and Coal companies, but from these depart-ments enly. Of course, they must have permission to enlist."

How very anxious the recruiting officer is over the liberty of the subject. So far in Nova Scotia there has been little if any interference in that direction. has been field all the prohibition of colliery workers to enlist "industrial conscription." Well, has not to ennst industrial conscription. Well has not Lloyd George, the most versatile, the most active and the most popular of the British ministers, urged, abetted and enforced just such conscription. He not only forbad recruiting among mine workers, but actually took men at the front back to the mines. The recruiting officer has no business to be in the vicinity of coal mines or munition plants. Let him go to the outlying districts. The fact is, the prohibi-tion of recruiting in colliery districts should have been enforced long ago. If recruiting was continued in the mining districts the output of coal would be insufficient to keep the munition plants in full operation. Mr. Crowell seems to have had his pride touched because he cannot take a man from the mines without General Manager McDougall's consent. Well, is there a higher authority to say whether a man's services, in coal cutting, are indispen-er a man's services, in coal cutting, are indispen-sible or not? The coal companies were very slow in demanding that the coal producing centres should be relieved of the presence of the recruiting officer. There was a protest from them, and the promise given that recruiting, in mining centres, would be relaxed, but the promise was not faithfully kept. That it is stopped at last is something to be thankful for, though Recruiting Officer Crowell is inclined