

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The Drummond Colliery shows the large gain of ten thousand and the Acadia a gain of three thousand tons Oct. '09 over Oct. '08.

The Free Coal League made no open demonstration during the high coal conspiracy trial in Halifax. All the principals kept in the back ground; the dummies only were sent to the front.

It is hinted that the defence in the conspiracy case may have one or two more documents signed J. S. McLennan read in Stipendiary Fielding's court. The public will be delighted.

The telegram read by E. M. Macdonald, and which was brought to light in the conspiracy trial at Halifax, will warrant the solicitor for the Free Coal League getting a summons against the signer, as chief of the conspiracy.

The Glace Bay staff correspondent of the Post, has not been quite so active of late. Perhaps he has been promoted, and no successor appointed, or, perhaps, the Post is repentant. Like some death bed repentances the Post's may be a shade too late.

In the case of McNeil, one of the 'cliff' rioters, accused of attempt to light in the conspiracy trial at Halifax, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, thus maintaining the provincial wide reputation of Cape Breton County juries.

All the principal coal mine operators of the province spent a week in Halifax. What villanies they concocted during that time, one can only hope to learn from some future news, editorial, of the Herald, or from a manifesto of the Free Coal League. Or they may make the U. M. W.'s catspaws for conveying the information.

Sydney No. 5 of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. did excellent work in October. The pit worked some 22½ days, and produced 11,493 tons, equal to a daily output of 510 tons. As the RECORD figures this colliery abandoned years ago as played out is yielding the government and the public of the province some eleven hundred dollars a month in the way of royalty. The management of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. has made the government its debtor. Mr. Robt. Robertson, the colliery manager, is optimistic as to the future.

And yet again it is reported that the engineers who are to build the railway from the St. Rose Mines, Inverness Co. to Carribo, Richmond Co., are on the ground ready to begin operations. It was said twenty months ago that all the bond capital had been subscribed. Had bonds been issued the company would scarcely be in a position to pay interest out of profits. It is to be hoped this latest report has something in it, as it is desirable that the fine coal areas near Chimney Corner should be developed, and that a railway should skirt the rich Margaree Valley.

The Sydney Record asserts that there are now 5000 persons in the employ of the Dominion Coal Co. That is only 486 short of the number given in the government report for last year. These figures should convey all the information necessary to men who would rather make two dollars a day, than receive the 'strikers dole' of two dollars a week.

It is said the U. M. W. emissaries intended to hold a meeting in Stellarton, but were unable to secure a hall from any of the patriotic hall proprietors. The men of Stellarton think they are quite able to manage their own affairs without suggestions from any foreign order. Pictou is the only mining county which has enjoyed industrial peace during the year, and this is due to the fact that the U. M. W.'s were unable to secure a following in it.

The U. M. W. so far have failed to make any impression in Pictou County. Peter Patterson assisted by Master Vannie held forth in Westville last Wednesday night. It cannot be said that their audience was large nor can it be said it was at all enthusiastic. The number present is variously estimated at from 20 to 30 and from 25 to 45. A large number of this multitude were not miners nor mine workers, but men whose bump of curiosity had not been neglected in their early days. Peter was eloquently abusive. He told the men that they were scabs because they did not come out in sympathy with their striking brothers in Cumberland and Cape Breton. He could make no further promises as to increased wages, as on his last visit he had gone the limit. The men did not respond heartily, and will not until Peter can prove that they are scabs and after that prove that a scab is not so reprehensible a character as a traitor.

It has never been hinted that there has been any conspiracy to keep up prices by the operators or managers of collieries having less than 150,000 tons output per year. There are quite a few collieries whose operations are limited, so to speak. There are three in Cape Breton County, one in Inverness and three or four in Cumberland County. One would naturally suppose that the larger companies being in a conspiracy to keep up prices, the smaller companies would have a splendid opportunity to step in and capture a remunerative trade. It seems the smaller companies are not earning a fair dividend, in fact scarcely making ends meet owing to a lack of understanding between them, or, in short, owing to cut throat competition. The director of one of these companies declared the other day that the only thing to save the situation was for the operators of the smaller collieries to meet and come to some understanding as to prices. The coal trade, he declared, was wretched for the first part of the season and only improved a little as the fall approached. Even with the shortage of coal due to the stoppage at Springhill and the semi strike in C. B., adequate prices could not be obtained for coal. It seems after all that an 'arrangement' is in the best interests of the coal trade. Why should not all of the operators be in an association, where prices could be openly discussed.