

## AROUND THE COLLIERIES

Prospecting, or rather exploratory work, is still going on at Mabou. The object in view is the securing of some coal that can be easily and quickly mined with coal as at present at a profitable figure.

The question agitating the minds of South Cape Breton politicians is, "Will the entry of Labor candidates at the coming election hurt the Liberals more than the Conservatives, or the latter more than the former. Well, the only thing certain is that both party candidates will suffer.

Federation of Labor notices in the press are headed "Labor Omnia Vincit." If Mr. Dane and the Secretary of the A. M. W. holler in the same water barrel, that is are friendly, Mr. Dane might cut out the legend and sent it to his friend with the comment, "But four days a week when work is plentiful will never do it."

It is stated that the A. F. L. in Pictou Co. have taken \$3,000 in Victory Bonds. We have not noticed the amount invested by the A. M. W. That society did contribute the sum of \$100 to a patriotic society. Taking the membership at ten thousand, the contribution is equal to a cent a member.

According to figures published in the Coal Trade Journal Canada exported to the United States some 260,000 odd less tons in the eight months of this year ending August, than in the same months in 1916, while the imports into Canada from the United States in the same period mounted over the imports of the eight months of 1916 by some 2,250,000 tons. In the matter of supply of coal to Canada the United States has acted decently, especially when it is considered that the demand for coal for its own use cannot at present well be met.

A majority of the workmen at the Drummond Colliery are favorable to having lodge dues—of the A. F. L.—collected through the office. From an item in a contemporary readers might think that dues were now being deducted, but the Record understands that the company has not done so as yet. The dues of the Stellarton A. F. L. are being collected by the Acadia Coal Coy., and it might be good policy for the Intercolonial Coal Coy. to do the same. The A. F. L., in the Record's opinion, is preferable to the A. M. W., having more reasonable, common sense leaders.

There are many at this time who believe that there are more coal seams in Pictou County than have as yet been discovered. The Record understands there is a good deal of quiet prospecting going on. The opinion of the writer has been asked as to likely vacant ground and the possibilities of a search. Keep believing. England, old as it is, has not yet all been explored. The other day in Warwickshire three seams of coal, 28 feet in all, were discovered. A new colliery is to be sunk, giving employment to 4000 persons.

A speaker by the name of Joy addressed a labor meeting in Sydney the other day. It is pertinent to ask Premier Murray if this is the same Mr. Joy who is the third member of the Workmen's Compensation Board and if he is for the Premier to explain how he can justify a member of a Compensation Board taking an active part in a Labor meeting. Judges do not go on the stump and Joy is a judge and a jurymen besides. Anomalous?

The President of the A. M. W., when in Halifax a short time ago, told a Herald man that Fuel Controller McGrath had taken speedy action in the matter of the Dominion Coal and Nova Scotia Steel and Coal submarine areas. He did not say that the Controller had taken the matter out of the hands of Premier Murray and was going to control the situation. But what the A. M. W. President told the Herald is of very little importance compared with what he did not tell the reporter of that paper. The great question is: "What did Controller McGrath say to the threat of four days work only each week if he did not do—what he could not do? Did he tell the executive of the A. M. W. if they made such a threat a second time, or if they ordered the miners to remain idle two days at any time, he would call them sharply to account and have them impeached as playing into the hands of the enemy. If he did not give the executive a sound lacing, then he hasn't the stiff upper lip required of a controller.

The executive of the A. M. W. should apply for a patent before some ruthless individual makes use of their inflexible and infallible formula for securing for the members of a union a compliance with their request, without the need of any blood letting. Like all great inventions, the formula of the A. M. W. is a simple one. To bring McGrath and the coal companies to the consistency of Nova Scotia mud, all that is necessary is to cease work two days a week. When there was broken time at the Jubilee Mine McGrath was ordered to make the company work full time, else the miners would work four days only a week. The same operation was threatened if Murray didn't dismiss McIntosh, and if the Dominion Coal Co. didn't dismiss two officials, and now it is to be four days only a week if the demand for increased pay is not granted on the day set by the executive.

The coal companies are making it very easy for their employees to invest in Victory Bonds. On the Mainland the Intercolonial and Acadia Coal Companies will give their workmen opportunity to become Bond holders on the instalment plan, that is, they will get Bonds on agreeing to pay for them in ten monthly instalments of five dollars each. Possibly the other companies on the Mainland are also making it as easy for their employees to make a good investment. The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. will deduct five dollars a month from wages of purchasers, these having the privilege of having the deductions made in fortnightly payments. The plan