

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The Acadia Coal Co. will send no coal to Montreal this season.

There is very little change in conditions of the coal trade from what they were about this time a year ago.

To be able to raise 18,000 tons of coal on a winter's day from its collieries gives indication of what the Dominion Coal Co. could do if "put to it."

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co.'s collieries are putting on the bank about ten thousand tons a month. This does not augur a rushing trade the coming shipping season.

There are those who think it doubtful if the I. C. R. will call for tenders for coal this spring. It is believed that awards may be given without the formality of calling for tenders.

Mr. Thos. Cantley left a week ago for Britain via New York. The possibility is that the General Manager of Scotia will not return without an order for the works at Trenton.

Navigation of the St. Lawrence will start this year sooner than usual. Unfortunately an early start will not be of much benefit to the coal trade as stocks are not yet depleted in Montreal.

The "Maritime Merchant" a fortnight ago stated that Scotia "started to make shells at the rate of eight or nine thousand a day." Up till last week the best the two plants had done was 20 per cent. less than the figures given by the "Merchant."

It is most fortunate for the two large C. B. coal companies that they can re-charter spare steamers at profitable rates. The tonnage required for the St. Lawrence this year, unless the unexpected happens, will be much less than for last.

The several coal companies are anxious to know when the contracts of the I. C. R. for coal will be awarded. The outputs of more than one company are dependent upon the disposition of the contracts.

It is not expected that the I. C. R. will require as much coal this year as last. In February and March, 1914, the I. C. R. would take all the coal it could be given. This year there is no such demand. It is said that in its various yards the I. C. R. has in stock, at the present time, the large quantity of 270,000 tons of coal. Of this quantity 60,000 tons are at Campbellton.

Since Wednesday, the 31st March, the reopening of the Allan shafts has proceeded most satisfactorily. The General Manager and the Chief M. E., Mr. Notebaert, have been in the forefront of explorations. Deputy Inspector Gray found Mr. Blackwood's lamp and claimed it as a memento. In the work of exploration no unexpected difficulties were encountered, and at this writing it looks as if the opinion of the Record, that the shafts were never in danger of being lost, will be confirmed.

The Drummond Colliery main bankhead has had a long life, and as might be expected is showing signs of wear and tear. It is understood that only one thing prevents the company from tearing down the old and erecting a modern bank head, and that is the lack of funds. Possibly there may be sufficient profits in 1915 to enable the needed work to be undertaken.

The important part the coal trade plays in the revenues of the province is attested to by the introduction of bills to augment the receipts of the treasury. Much as people dislike new taxes these must come unless coal shipments increase, and of that the prospects for the year, at the present, are not promising. Two months ago the Record was more hopeful of maintaining shipments than it is today. It is only left to hope that next month we shall be able to play a different tune.

In his address at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co., President R. E. Harris referred to certain reports which were stated to be based on authoritative information from high officials of the company to the effect that the company was making \$7,000 per day on its shell contracts and that it had contracts which would keep the works busy for a period of three years. "I am sorry," said Mr. Harris, "that these statements are not true. Unfortunately they are gross exaggerations. We are not making \$7,000 per day—or anything like it and the fact is that we have contracts only for a few months ahead—but no doubt we will be able to get orders so long as the war lasts."

Mr. John J. Robson, Chartered Accountant, of Montreal, has, by order of the Court, been appointed Permanent Liquidator to Mussen's, Ltd. The Court has also granted their application to be allowed to continue the business for a period of six months. Messrs. Mussen feel able to demonstrate to their creditors that they will succeed in the efforts which will be put forward to reduce stock, collect open accounts and materially reduce overhead charges, with a view to getting into a position to reorganize and continue in business. They are carrying on an active campaign for business, and we trust that they may continue to receive support. They have a good connection throughout the country and all purchases made from now on will be paid for by the Liquidator. Operating as they are, under the most strenuous conditions which have ever existed in Canada, it may take some time to achieve the result at which they are aiming, but if they continue to receive the support of patrons as in the past, we are satisfied they can show good results and ultimately re-establish this business on its old footing.

Dr. Gorgas, the United States Surgeon-General, states that there has been a progressive improvement in the health of the soldiers since the abolition of the canteen.