

# AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

As yet no men have been discharged at the Drum Colliery. There has been some arrangement effected whereby any immediate discharges may be avoided.

On a day recently the Allan Shafts and the Vale Colliery, between them, sent up a thousand tons, less sixteen, of coal. This is counted a creditable performance.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. have received through the Dominion Steel Co. an order for fish plates for a foreign railway. This is the order which the Montreal Star says is being filled by the Dominion Steel Co. The plant at Sydney does not make fish plates.

The revival of the iron trade in the U. S. is putting a little heart into the management of the two Steel companies in N. S. The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. is not rushed, but is receiving now and again sufficient orders to keep the plant in operation.

A Cape Breton paper says that there have been few accidents at the collieries of the Dominion Collieries for the past few weeks, due to the fact that there has been no necessity to rush things. This view is no doubt correct, as experts claim that rushes have a tendency to increase accidents.

With the close of the St. Lawrence shipping season, there will be a slackening off, at the C. B. collieries especially. The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. is not now making any effort after big outputs. There will be a little broken time from this out until banking actively commences.

If one result of the 'Drummond eight million dollar merger' is the starting of the blast furnace at Londonderry, it will be a good thing for Pictou Co., more especially to the workmen of the Drummond Colliery, which in the past has supplied the Londonderry works with a large quantity of coal.

The papers have it that Charles Fergie lately of the staff of the Dominion Coal Co., is on a coal mission to C. B. on behalf of the C. P. R. The coal areas he is said to have an eye on are the McVey areas at Port Morien. This will make not one but two fields. The Dominion Coal Co., who furnish the C. P. R. with much coal, are not, as yet, worrying over the probability of the loss of a customer.

We are told that the Hocking Valley counties have decided to try the plan of prohibition for two years, and if the vote cast shows what that part of the country wants, perhaps other mining sections may make the experiment. There is no doubt but that if the conditions are improved materially the better class of miners will find their "women folks" urging them to go and live where life is secure against some of the drunken brawlers who now make it almost as bad in the mines where coolness and caution are so needed as it was in old western frontier days when the cowboys shot up a town. Coal Trade Journal,

The latest reports from the United States, on the coal trade are to the effect that while there is a little better demand for bituminous, prices continue to sag.

Though it was announced a few days ago that a large number of miners were wanted in the Connelsville district, it is a fact that throughout the several mining states there is much slack time at the collieries.

It has become known through the friends of John Mitchell that the former president of the U. M. W. is anxious to be re-elected to that office, from which he retired last spring and was succeeded by Thomas L. Lewis. It is stated that he will probably be a candidate at the forthcoming election.

The 'Iron Trade Review' says: "Heavy buying of pig iron, with some advance in prices, has been the leading feature of the market. Although the improved conditions, so far as actual transactions are concerned, have been felt principally in pig iron, the general tone of the market is much better. There is a strong conservative influence being exerted against piling up orders rapidly or advancing prices too suddenly, as it is felt that caution is necessary to prevent reaction."

The statement in some of the papers as to the number of men discharged at the collieries in Pictou Co., is greatly exaggerated. The total number is about 175, and these are not, as it were, fully discharged, their services are dispensed with for the time being. The Acadia Colliery at Westville has been the biggest sufferer, as there about 116 men are temporarily thrown out of work. About thirty were dispensed with at the Allan Shafts, and the remainder at the other two collieries.

The report of the experts sent out to Ungava by the Ungava Prospecting Co., and which has just been issued, deals sledge hammer blows at the geological report. Mr. Low comes in for several hard raps. The report declares that at one point Mr. Low's lines are out some eight miles. That is more than a slight deflection. The iron ore that Mr. Low said he saw, the explorers could not locate. Mr. Lindsay, the promoter of the prospect, says he will try again next year taking a different route. Meantime the prospect has not turned out profitable for the investors.

The question, 'Does good times' tend to idleness on the part of the workmen?' has been rather unexpectedly answered strongly in the affirmative. Since the services of some one hundred and seventy five men were dispensed with at the collieries of the Acadia Coal Co., the output has actually increased by the remarkably large quantity of three hundred tons per day. And this has been brought about by the fact that the men retained have realized that their services may too be dispensed with, and their places filled if they do not heed to the line. It may be asked, "How came it about that the Acadia had so big a force of workmen?" One reason was that provision had to be made for the number of men daily off work.