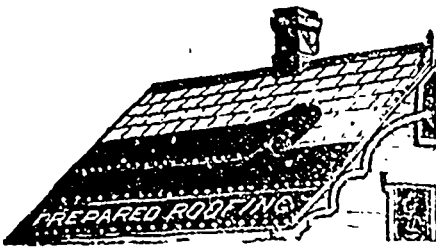


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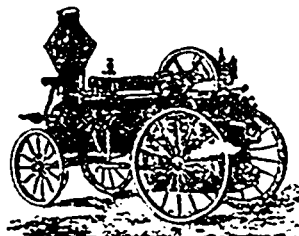
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## MINING.

### COAL TRADE.

From Report of P. Neville to the Department of Mines, Year 1891.

VICTORIA MINES.—Work has been brisk at this mine during the last season. Since my last report the east levels in the 1800 feet lift has been driven 380 yards, and another balance has been driven up. The west levels in the same lift have been driven about 150 yards; and a balance won out. The 1200 feet east levels have also been extended about 400 yards.

Stooping has been successfully carried on during the shipping season. A new angle is being driven off the main east slope, at a much lighter angle of dip, for the purpose of shortening the haulage in the level by horses; and also to enable the surface hauling engine to bring out a much larger trip of coal each time. The west levels in the 1200 feet lift in the west slope have been standing nearly all this season, and only one balance is being worked at present; but the main slope is being driven down to win out another lift of 100 feet. The new engine for the fan mentioned in my last report has been placed and working for some months.

A tubular boiler, 14½ feet long, and five feet diameter, with 75 tubes in it, has been placed near the fan, and is quite able to supply the two fan engines with steam.

A new fan shaft, 8 feet square and 40 feet deep, has been sunk and connecting with the main airway.

The erection of another Champion or Murphy fan 7 feet diameter, has commenced. They have also put in another common Egg end boiler, 36 feet by 5 feet 4 inches diameter, in place of two small ones. A gangway was erected in the spring between the coal bank and heapstead, and a donkey engine placed underneath it to draw the coal to the screens.

LINCOLN.—A few men have been working in the pit there this season, getting out some coal which has been taken to Sydney Mines to make coke of.

GARDENER MINE.—Since last report this mine has been dried, equipped, and put in operation. Its condition was found to be better than was anticipated. Engine house, forge, office, and dwelling house are all being repaired, also a new store has been built. The heapstead has been finished, the shaft has been cribbed, buntings and guides put in. The two Cameron pumps that remained in the mine under water for about twelve years were in good condition, and with slight repairs are found to be all that is necessary for keeping the mine dry.

The air shaft has been cribbed and the water that formerly used to go down it has been dammed off. Ladders are placed in it for the workmen's convenience. In the latter part of the season the air was changed from its former course bringing it in a shorter direction to where the men work; this made a marked improvement in the ventilation.

The bottom of the main roads both north and south of the pit bottom has been blasted up, admitting the use of larger horses for hauling; also the management has disposed of the tubs formerly used in this mine, and instead are using on the south side of the pit a tub of double the capacity.

The extension of the south level and the next rooms above it shows a marked improvement in the thickness of the seam. The Jeffrey coal cutting machine has worked steady since August; the results attained are satisfactory, a gradual gain is made as the men get more acquainted with the machine.

Mr. Burchell informs me that in the latter part of December a cutting of 270 square feet was made by the machine with two men in three and one half hours, which would be equal to 770 square feet in a shift of 10 hours. The electrical plant was manufactured by Messrs. A. Robb & Sons, Amherst, N. S., this plant, besides furnishing power for the machine, supplies the engine house and bankhead with electric light.

CALEDONIA.—During the last season the main or west deeps have been extended about 600 feet, and two sections on both sides won and opened there. The west high lift levels have been extended and rooms broken off. The levels on the east side from the bottom of the 700 feet deep slant have also been extended and a large section opened out.

The workings to the rise were carried on as usual. A line of stone stoppings has been built and put in place of where the wood and board stoppings were, from the furnace to the lower landing on the main deep. A second furnace of the same size has been added to the former one; it is built on the east side, and the escaping air goes from both, through the same shaft and cupola. The furnace ventilates the east side of the pit, and the former the west side, both having separate inlets and returns, all of which have made a great improvement in the ventilation. On surface a new building of 100x28 feet has been erected, to be used as a forge and carpenter's workshop. A new stone boiler house has also been built.

OLD BRIDGEPORT.—A new incline plane 900 feet long has been driven and put in operation from the south side of the pit bottom towards the rise. The south levels have been extended, and are now about 1600 feet from the bottom of the shaft. The ventilation has been greatly improved in this mine during the past season.

Stoppings have been put up along the levels, headways and through the rooms where required, also a return airway has been driven from the south side of the high workings direct to the back part of the furnace, giving two returns.

(To be continued.)

REV. WM. HOLLINSHED,

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