

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The management of the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. is in high feather. All the machinery is working smoothly, the mills are running to their full capacity, and orders are coming in more rapidly than at any previous time.

It is said about a thousand men have made application to the Dom. Coal Co. for re-employment. That will leave about one hundred still to make application irrespective of the leaders who are an army by themselves.

It is not certain that a section of the Sydney Mines men will press for a conciliation board. When the application was made to the Department the men at the southern collieries had not concluded to go back to work unconditionally.

For the past week the U.M.W. leaders who have done much perambulating have been boldly asserting that they have the terms of settlement in black and white in their pockets, but not one of them has offered to hold it up to the light. Some believe the leaders have a document with the terms of settlement, but that it would not be healthy to bring it out until McCulloch, Barnaby, and Hargrove are well across the line.

A conference between Mr. Plummer and other heads of the Dominion Coal Co., and the representatives of the several Relief Funds was held last week at Glace Bay, in furtherance of a plan to put the Relief Funds on a basis that will make the Compensation act a paltry affair, when placed alongside of it. The company will put down dollar for dollar contributed by the men. The Record, with reason, is proud of the Relief Funds, and hails with gladness anything and everything that tends to their improvement, enlargement, and greater efficiency.

Before attempting to bring Nova Scotia into the fold the U. M. W. have ample opportunity for missionary work at their own doors. They tell us, the leaders do—of the big wages and the shorter hours in the land over which waves the stars and stripes. The fact is that in Pennsylvania many laborers are paid much less wages than the laborers here. The report of Bureau of Labor upon conditions of work at Bethlehem discloses a state of affairs which would make Nova Scotia workmen ashamed. From the report we gather that 2,322 men worked twelve hours a day for seven days a week, a large percentage of these laborers earning only 12 1/2 cents an hour. A large part of the skilled workmen had approximately a 10 1/2 hour day for six days of the week. A large number of those working 10 1/2 hours a day frequently were required, it was stated, to work overtime on week days and to do additional work on Sundays, and it was the protest against this extension of time and the requiring of work on Sundays from the employees who had the shortest hours that led to the strike which began on February 4.

The Glace Bay settlement is still shrouded in impenetrable mystery. It is thought the Dominion Coal Co. are tiding their time, and that the veil will be lifted before the week end.

The Glace Bay Gazette says the statement in the Mining Record that the North Atlantic Collieries Coy. had sold their 1910 entire output to the Dominion Coal Co. is entirely premature. The Gazette explains that instead of Port Morien going to the assistance of the big company, the big company is to assist the North Atlantic in the transport of the latter's coal. The Gazette says things will boom at Port Morien this season as the company has secured big contracts, and that the labor differences have been satisfactorily arranged. The Record is glad indeed to hear this, but the Gazette having said so much should say more and tell anxious people about the terms of settlement.

Coal Shipments April, 1910

—INTERCOLONIAL COAL CO.—

Shipments April 1910	20 700
" " 1909	19 228
Increase " 1910	1 472
Shipments 4 mos. 1910	79 983
" 4 " 1909	80 139
Decrease 4 " 1910	156

—INVERNESS RY. & COAL CO.—

Shipments April 1910	11 912
" " 1909	22 545
Decrease " 1910	10 633
Shipments 4 mos. 1910	71 380
" 4 " 1909	48 957
Increase 4 " 1910	22 423

—NOVA SCOTIA STEEL & COAL CO. LTD.—

Shipments April 1910	57 100
" " 1909	30 894
Increase " 1910	26 206
Shipments 4 mos. 1910	160 665
" 4 " 1909	112 141
Increase 4 " 1910	48 524

—ACADIA COAL CO.—

Shipments April 1910	18 762
" " 1909	17 964
Increase " 1910	798
Shipments 4 mos. 1910	83 479
" 4 " 1909	75 831
Increase 4 " 1910	7 648