

## AROUND THE COLLIERIES

On his last visit to Halifax, Fuel Controller McGrath got along very well without the promptings of the President of the T. & L. C.

The coal heaps at the collieries this winter are very small and nothing like they used to be. Small as they are they show that the winter time in Cape Breton will always bring banking conditions to the larger mines.

Chignecto, which was a deserted village for many years, has once more sprang into active life. It is said that the population is now five hundred and that the village is no longer one of rambling huts, but of modern habitations.

There has been considerable grumbling around the Cape Breton collieries over the numerous collections taken at the offices of the different coal companies, caused by the cessation of the relief funds. Good institutions are seldom appreciated until they are out of business. Then and then only are their better parts noted and lamented, because gone.

It is reported that pressure may be brought to bear upon the Dominion Coal Co., to either lease to those agreeing to develop, or to work on its own account, one or more of the areas held by the Company to the south of Springhill. At the present time many have a desire to possess themselves of coal areas. If a Company having several areas is forced to lease, then a stipulation should be that there will be a stated production when normal times come round.

The Dominion Coal Company recognizing the advantages of electricity over steam and other motive powers, and with a view to greater conservation of coal, have a big programme of installation of electricity on for the summer months. A central electric power station is to be built near to the railway station, New Waterford. From this center, branch lines will be run to the different points where the electric juice is required. This will ensure better service and will help to overcome much of the difficulty of electric breakdown encountered this winter.

T. H. Harrington, et al., have secured the "areas" from the Sydney Coal Coy., near North Sydney. The area, while two and a half miles long, is not deep, only some 400 feet. If the promoters have money, and believe there will be a big demand for coal for two or three years, they could make a fine thing of it by driving a level the full length of the area, and then retreat, taking every part of the coal with them. There is no overlying seam. T. J. Brown is consulting engineer, at least, so it is declared. Names beginning with B., are becoming famous as money, as well as coal getters.

It is claimed that the Joggins has now a population of two thousand people, and that soon a movement will be made to have the town incorporated. Much of the progress of the town, in many directions of late, is due to the progressive policy of the Maritime Coal Ry. and Power Co.

With nearly all the men of influence working to increase the coal output, it shows but a very tardy response to the efforts made. However, as the amount of labor increases there should be a very noted improvement. Already quite a number of men have been brought in.

The rope of the new haulage system of Dom. No. 2 and No. 9, has been put on, and a trial made with good results. The compressed air locomotives will now be discarded. This will give a better supply of air power for the coal cutting machines in these two collieries.

Branch electric lines are to be run from Dom. No. 2, to the new shaft to be put down for the men of Dom. No. 1, and also to Dom. No. 6. It would not surprise some of us to see the Sydney and Louisbourg electrically equipped before long. The electric motor has a tremendous advantage over the steam locomotive especially in the winter time.

And yet there are unsettled questions around some of the coal mines of the province. Sydney Mines and other parts have shown a great deal of patience and have waited long but they are beginning to say things. It is to be hoped, however, that they will not now spoil a good name by doing anything rash.

Premier Murray is not going to allow the Federal Government to have exclusive use of the persuasive tongue of Mr. J. C. Watters. The premier, it is alleged, sent Watters down to Cape Breton in an effort to keep the Steel Workers of the two Sydneys from doing anything rash. The Minister of Labor may feel a trifle out at this encroachment on what in the past was considered a wholly federal right and privilege.

The many old friends of Mr. C. A. Meiseuer, of 45 Lemox St., Brooklyn, formerly of Londonderry and Sydney, N. S., will be interested in knowing that his three sons are doing their bit. The Record has no doubt that the three boys will do valiantly for their country and do credit to their parents. Clarence Edward, has enlisted in the 27th Engineers, and is now a member of Company C, in training at Camp Meade, Admiral, Md. He is a graduate of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, and in 1914 graduated from Columbia University as a Mining Engineer. While there, he was Chairman of