

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

It is hoped that Dominion No. 7, the Hub colliery, will soon be in a position to permit of coal being hoisted.

Mergers are in the fair. There is talk of a merger of all the principal collieries in Nova Scotia. In this instance one must look for home news from abroad.

As soon as James Ross dropped out from the leading place in the Coal company, our dear contemporary, the Sydney Post, dropped the U. M. W.'s. like a hot potato.

A despatch to the Sydney Record of last Friday, says that Bonsfield and Patterson have been sent up for trial to the Kings Bench for being party to the libelling of the Dominion Coal Co.

A number of Scottish miners arrived last week and will go to work for the Dominion Coal Co. These were accepted before the company had given intimation that it had sufficient men.

When Premier Murray said that there had been much controversy in the province over international unions he must have overlooked Pictou Co. Here there has been no controversy. Up to date the men of Pictou Co. have given the internationalists the vacant stare and the cold shoulder; cut them completely.

For the week ending 17th July when the strike was young and in its prime, the output of the Dominion Coal Co. was a trifle over 24,000 tons. For the week ending the 13th. November, the output was a little under 54,000 tons, more than double, and yet some of the U. M. W. devotees run round the country shouting that the company is being badly licked.

The municipal elections in England do not show that there is any reaction in favor of the Tories. If any side has the advantage it is the Liberal. The Liberals gained in thirty-three places and the Tories in thirty-one. The laborites suffered a large number of reverses which are not nearly made up by gains. The prediction that there would be seventy labor members in next parliament may not be realized.

Mr. Jas. Ross, of the Dom. Coal Co. has gone South for the benefit of his health, and Mr. C. J. Coll has gone West on a similar errand. Mr. J. Reid Wilson is or was also in the mid-west for purposes of comfort. A few others more or less prominent in the coal business have been obliged to take the change of air cure. The sickness that has attacked the coal men is of a peculiar nature. It is the direct opposite of the sleeping sickness. Instead of being lethargic, the patients are not comfortable unless they are on the jump. It is expected that all the sick folk will have fully recovered and be at their respective posts by the middle of December at latest.

It is reported that Stellarton and Westville jointly are thinking of building a poor house. It is to be hoped the report is premature. The object is a big one and ought to be thoroughly discussed. The expense of keeping the poor is not the chief consideration. Poor houses don't cure poverty; a wise system of out door relief may go a long way in that direction. If a poor house is to be built there should be no compulsion. Suppose an out door patient is getting two dollars a week, and that in doors, in a poor house the cost would be seven dollars a month. Any poor old body, if he or she be old, should not be compelled to go to the poor house so long as he or she would be content with the out door relief, even if it cost the town a dollar or two a month more. Surely our town authorities don't think of sending widows and children to the poor house. Why put a brand upon the unfortunate little ones, who are in no way responsible for their position.

Some innocent socialists of the New Glasgow type think that a mine manager, looking to the nice, easy times he has, should be content with the same wages as a miner. They do not know or appreciate the value of a right kind of manager. A coal company with an output of a million tons a year require a manager. The retiring manager had a salary of six thousand dollars a year, which the socialists look upon as an outrageous salary. Three men apply for the position. The first will be content with five thousand and do as well as the retiring manager. The second thinks he may do fully as well, and wants six thousand. The third, after enquiring into conditions and going over costs says: I will guarantee to produce coal two cents a ton less and keep the plant in efficient order. I ask ten thousand a year. A socialist would hold up his hands in horror and say, accept the cheaper man. The directors sit down and figure it out and decide upon the high priced manager. That is business and enables them to put six thousand a year to profit, and ten thousand to increase the wages of the lower paid men. The dear man in the end is by far the cheapest man, though your socialist cannot see it.

MINERS AND THE MINES ACT.

A Scottish contemporary says it is to be hoped that serious attention will now be paid to the remarks of Sheriff Shennan regarding the prevailing ignorance of the meaning of rules among young miners. His lordship wants to see classes formed for teaching the rules. No number of prosecutions, it has been proved, can instil a knowledge of the regulations into the young miner's mind, so that organized instruction, as suggested by the Sheriff, is absolutely essential. One other point might have been noticed by the Sheriff. It is the language so often employed in the composition of the rules, language that makes it very difficult even for trained minds to grasp what is meant. Surely rules could be set forth in a manner so simple and precise that all could understand them. There would then be less chance of misunderstandings, and a much used excuse would have become impossible.—S. & Art.