conclusion that it will be to the advantage of the rest of the workmen to reduce the pillar rate, and in this particular their policy is fixed. The increased price of house coal will be compensated for by the increases in the wages already referred to. No further developments are likely to occur until the matter has been considered by the Minister of Labor.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

ST. JOHN.—Those interested in the Minto coal mines—the richest of their kind in New Brunswick—have been favored with an exceptionally good year.

One difficulty, however, has been the scarcity of labor. Every available man has been employed and while the output has shown no very marked increase, it is larger than usual. The labor difficulty has been relieved to some extent by hard times in other places, and men are now more plentiful.

Each shaft has averaged from twelve to sixteen men during the past year, but the gangs could be increased to thirty-five or even forty, which would practically double the output, thus better enabling the operators to meet the demands, which at present they are unable to do.

Nine shafts have been in operation throughout the year, several of them having produced an average of some forty tons a day each.

A short time ago F. M. Tweedie succeeded in securing the John McDonald property and has completed a new shaft, which will be opened in the near future. G. H. King has also completed a new shaft, which will be opened up in a few days. The latter is on the Minto mine and addition of these two will make eleven shafte in operation and others will be added during the year.

When the price of coal advanced, last autumn, the operators gave a similar advance in wages to their employees. The men who formerly received from $1.50 to $2.50 per day are now averaging from $1.75 to $3.00 per day. At this point, it may be added that the high rate of wages, together with hard times have probably had their influence in bringing more laborers to the mines.

It is safe to say that the coal market was never better than at present. The run-of-mine brings $2.50 per ton f.o.b. mine, which the operators regard as very satisfactory returns. The I. C. R. has taken a large quantity of the coal, and there is a brisk and steady demand for it from other quarters, so that the operators are unable to fill their orders; but they hope, during the present year to increase their output. It is much easier to send out the coal now, than it was a year or two ago, as many important improvements have been made on the N. B. Coal and Railway line. Throughout the year the service has been satisfactory and the road is at present in excellent condition.

The village of Minto is progressing. The population is increasing and a number of new buildings have been erected. G. H. King has completed six new dwellings, the Northfield Coal Company, of which Hon. James Barnes is manager, have put up eight or ten cottages, and three more have been erected by the Welton brothers.

The Rothwell Coal Company, recently completed a new shaft, which produces twenty tons of coal per day. It has also put up four dwelling houses and a small general store.

Considerable interest has been aroused by a mineral development near the town of Woodstock. The existence of iron ore has been known for some time, and it was once successfully worked, but it remained for a number of Carleton county people, headed by High Sheriff William A. Hayward, to demonstrate the fact that across the river, is a bed of rich copper, carrying gold and other metals.

Under the name of the Cobba-Sexton Mining Company, the parties referred to have already expended several thousand dollars in developing their areas, and are much gratified with the assays submitted from various places.

A number of others have taken adjacent holdings. The first gold found in New Brunswick was taken from these mines..

The five granite concerns at St. George, viz., Tayte, Meating & Company, the Utopia Granite Company, O'Brien & Baldwin, Epps, Dodds & Company and the Bay of Fundy Granite Company, who manufacture red, grey and black granite for building and monumental purposes, have had an exceptionally prosperous year. The introduction of modern pneumatic and other up-to-date machinery has tended to lessen the cost of production and rough hand labor, and the manufacturers are thus in a better position to compete for work than in the past.

ONTARIO.

COBALT.

Nipissing.—Mr. Drummond, the manager of the Nipissing mine, is leaving Cobalt for Salt Lake City, where he will be located permanently. He will be succeeded in the management of the mine by Mr. Parks, his present assistant.

On December 16th, the Board of Directors of the Nipissing Mines, Limited, declared a quarterly dividend of three per cent., payable January 21st, 1908, to shareholders of record of December 27th, 1907. Transfer books closed on December 27th and remain closed until January 22nd, 1908.

King Edward.—Mr. McCaskill, the manager of the King Edward mine, has taken over the management of the Colonial as well. Mr. Coombs, the manager of the latter mine, has gone to New York.

Cobalt Majestic.—The recently organized Cobalt Majestic Silver Mining Company, has taken over all the property of the Abitibi & Cobalt Mines Company, which consists of 320 acres. They have also acquired control of the Empress Cobalt, and have purchased a claim in the Township of James.

O'Brien.—On January 7th, a three inch vien of native silver and argentite, carrying high values, was struck at the 100 foot level, in the East drift from the main shaft. This is a continuation of the main vein.

Temiskaming.—A new, very rich, but narrow, vien has been struck at the 200-foot level. This is thought to be the extension of the big vein.

Mr. Floyd Harman, the superintendant, has resigned.

Silver Leaf.—The shaft on what is known as the "New Vein" on the property, is now down 55 feet. The values are even better than at the surface. There are 5 pay streaks of from 2 to 6 inches in width of high grade ore.

A second car of ore is now ready for shipment, about 12 tons being No. 1 and the balance No. 2.

Returns have not yet been received from the car shipped in December.

Buffalo.—In illustration of the values in some of the rich Cobalt veins, a vien two inches wide, in the Buffalo mine, is yielding about $300 per foot in the drift, 7 feet high. Figuring on two and one-half feet per day, two shifts would produce $750 worth of ore at a cost of about $12 per foot.

Anima Nipissing Lake.—The Rex Argentite Mining Company, organized by New York capitalists to operate in this section, have recently purchased through Capt. Jeffrey, late superintendent of La Rose mine, three 40 acre claims on the northeast arm of Lake Anima, Nipissing. A shaft has been sunk 30 feet on a vein which shows calcite, copper and iron on the surface. At 27 feet very good silver values were found. President Dougherty of the company, who inspected the property early in this month, has decided that the values discovered justify the installation of machinery and a plant will be brought in over the ice this winter. The property is situated about 9 miles west of Latchford.