

dence at a depth of 30 feet. This vein is about sixteen feet wide and has been uncovered on the surface for a distance of approximately 600 ft. Another shaft has been sunk on what is known as the No. 1 vein to a depth of 35 feet, and very encouraging values were encountered. At present sinking operations are being conducted by hand and a horse and whim are used for hauling the ore out of the shaft. It is the intention of the company to sink to the 100-ft. level and then cross-cut to encounter the No. 1 vein at this depth, as well as continue other lateral work. New camp buildings are being erected and everything is being made ready for the installation of a mining plant in the near future.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia have served the colliery operators in the Sydney District with notice of termination of the existing wage agreement as at the end of the year, and have made a demand for an increase in wages ranging from a minimum of 30 per cent. to 75 per cent. advance on existing rates. In face of the large increases given to the colliery workers during the past two years, which have averaged from 35 to 45 per cent., the operators do not consider the demand of the A.M.W. is justified by the circumstances. The main argument of the A.M.W. appears to be that the rate of wages paid in Nova Scotia is less than that paid in the coal mines of the Western Provinces. It is probable, however, that when the Eastern miner comes to the year end he finds himself in a better financial position than the Western miner, and this after all is the true measure of earning capacity. Western conditions cannot be compared with Nova Scotia conditions, as they differ not only in the ratio of living costs, but in the mining conditions. If the miners of Nova Scotia desire to introduce the western scale of wages it will be necessary also to introduce the western scale of rents, and of food and clothing costs, on the one side, and the western scale of coal selling prices on the other. In this connection it is worth noting that many eastern miners have gone west and have been glad to beg passage money home after their savings had been exhausted.

It is so manifestly impossible that the coal operators will be able to grant the increase asked by the A.M.W. that a failure to agree may be confidently anticipated. The appointment of a Conciliation Board may therefore be looked for, as it is certain that no stoppage of work can be tolerated at this time.

Arising out of the Waterford Explosion in July last three prominent mining officials have been indicted by the Grand Jury in Sydney on a charge of manslaughter resting on alleged negligent mining practice. The officials in question are two members of the staff of the Dominion Coal Company, the Superintendent and the Manager of No. 12 Colliery, and the Deputy Inspector of Mines, who is an officer of the Provincial Department of Mines, reporting to the Inspector of Mines. The Coroner's Jury which sat upon the victims of the explosion last August brought in a verdict of gross negligence in mining against persons not named, but did not attempt to justify the verdict by naming any specific breaches of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, nor has it yet been suggested that any such breaches occurred prior to the explosion. A Commission composed of the most capable mining men in the Province, and comprising among its numbers four or five representatives of the Amalgamated Mine

Workers, were unable to assign blame to any person, yet singularly enough, at a Convention of the A.M.W. in Sydney in October, a resolution was passed asking for the dismissal of the officials who were afterwards indicted by the Grand Jury, and for the cancellation of their certificates of competency. The most surprising feature in this incident is the indictment along with the Dominion Coal Company's officials of the Deputy Inspector of Mines. It has not hitherto been held that a representative of the Government held a joint responsibility with the operators of a coal-mine in the Province. On the contrary it has hitherto been supposed that the Inspector of Mines was the superior officer of the mining officials of the Province, and in this connection it may be noted that at the inquest the Inspector of Mines refused to allow the Deputy Inspector to give evidence, holding that the Deputy Inspector was a person empowered by the law to hold investigations and interrogate witnesses, and could not properly be subpoenaed as a witness before a Coroner's Jury enquiring into a mining accident. If the Deputy Inspector of Mines is held to be jointly responsible with mining officials working under his direction a new precedent will be established and one that may have some interesting consequences.

The Amalgamated Mine Workers at the Sydney Convention passed a resolution asking the Provincial Government to establish a compulsory scheme of sickness relief societies at the collieries to which the Government and operators should contribute 80 per cent. of the cost and the workmen 20 per cent. This request lies entirely outside the question of workmen's compensation, which is being administered by the Provincial Workmen's Compensation Board. The Dominion Coal Co. have since the beginning of the year been contributing the sum of 25 cents per month per man to the sickness society, but in face of the unreasonable attitude disclosed by the resolution referred to the Company has discontinued its subscription. As the contribution of the workmen is inadequate to ensure the permanence of the Society on the present basis of benefits the Directors have commenced proceedings to wind up the Society so as to conserve the reserve funds for the benefit of the widows and children and disabled members of the Society now on the Fund which the Society has just sufficient funds to enable it to liquidate in full. For the first time therefore in at least 30 years the Dominion Coal Company's workmen will be without a sickness relief society, a condition of affairs which is much to be regretted, and which the Company has done its very best to prevent.

The seventh annual meeting of the Columbia Section of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, which section has its headquarters in Spokane, Washington, was held at Kellogg, in the Coeur d'Alene district of Idaho, on November 17. There was a good attendance of members and others interested. At the business meeting, Mr. S. S. Fowler, general manager for the New Canadian Metal Company, operating at Biondel, Kootenay lake, B.C., was elected chairman of the section for the ensuing year, and Mr. J. Cleveland Haas, of Spokane, also well known in Boundary and West Kootenay districts of British Columbia, in both of which he has been associated with many mining enterprises during the last twelve years, was elected vice-chairman. Mr. L. K. Armstrong, also of Spokane, another member of the Canadian Mining Institute, was re-elected secretary and treasurer.