

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The Dominion Coal Co. purpose to build forty more houses at Dom. 12 and 14.

The coal at No. 12 colliery of the Dominion Coal Co. is 6 feet thick while the seam at No. 14 is 7 ft. thick.

A new fan engine and hoisting engine is being erected at Dom. No. 14, besides a lot of other necessary work is being done.

Things are moving nicely at the Inverness mine. The new angle slope is in operation and the management is greatly pleased at its satisfactory working.

At the present 1200 tons are being hoisted from the Inverness mine on the single shift. Another box is to be added to the rake which will make a rake to consist of ten boxes. This should facilitate outputs.

Notwithstanding all the heat germinated by the friction between the opposing forces among the Dominion Coal Co.'s employees during the past winter and up to the present time there are large quantities of ice floating around the C. B. coast. As the weather grows warmer and the work busier the heat is expected to grow less.

The Record has not seen the Springhill Standard but learns from an exchange that Mr. J. R. Cowans wrote to that paper stating that the employees at the mines in Springhill had lost 11,393 days in Jan'y, Feb. and March, chiefly after pay days, involving a loss of \$30,000 to the men and \$20,000 to the company in the three months.

There is nothing like taking time by the forelock. Prevention every time is better than cure therefore it is that the management of the Inverness Ry. & Coal Co. have installed safety lamps. This is wholly a precautionary measure, as the mine is not as yet a gas producer. And further the use of safety lamps will insure the mine against fires from open lights.

The new bank head at Dom. No. 12 will, it is expected, be completed by the first of June. The floor of the bank head will differ from any other in Nova Scotia. The floor will be overlaid to a depth of four inches with concrete. This is done to prevent oil saturating into wood, as it does in other bank heads, thereby rendering them very inflammable.

During the month of March 14,153 tons of bituminous coal and 7,339 tons of bituminous dust were imported into the Province of Quebec from the United States. This dust importation business is growing a little serious. It is to be hoped instructions have been given to allow nothing but 'dust' to come in under that name. If coal that passes through screens perhaps an inch and a half wide is allowed to come in under a fourteen cents duty, it is little wonder if there is a growing demand for it. In March 37,857 tons of anthracite were imported into Quebec, 4,986 tons into New Brunswick, and 2,387 tons into Nova Scotia.

The management of the Springhill mines publishes figures to show the harm done by absenteeism. On the two days following pay days over 200 men stay from working, the consequence being that there is a serious decline in output, so serious as to entail a loss on operations. And yet there were people who spoke of hard times at the collieries a month or two ago.

Active mining operations have stopped at the Strathcona mine. The pit pumps have been withdrawn. The suspension of work we are informed is only temporary, and pending a re-organization of the company and the introduction of more capital. It is anticipated that operations will be restarted shortly and on a much larger scale, and under modern and improved methods.

Two of the six large companies show a slight increase in shipments for April, the Dominion Coal Co. and the Cumberland Ry. & Coal Co. The tide is about the turn, and yet if with a handicap of 352,000 tons against them the companies are to do as well this year as last, there will require to be some phenomenal shipments during the season of open navigation. We are in hopes.

Mr. Bonsfield of the U. M. W. is authority for the statement that the \$20,000 (?) brought by him into Glace Bay was 'to feed the hungry'. That amount will scarcely suffice as there are some maws that can never be filled. His statement that no money is paid directly to beneficiaries, but is paid to the storekeepers must cause poignant regret to quite a number who would like to be their own paymasters.

Mr. George B. Burchell, B. Sc. Superintendent of Mines for the Maritime Coal Ry. & Power Co. is visiting Pa. and Virginia studying the methods employed in these districts in mining in seams of coal similar to those which are being developed by his company. The Montreal Herald mentions that Mr. Burchell had been attending the annual meeting of the company in Montreal previous to his leaving for the U. S.

When the U. M. W.'s parade was straggling through the streets of Inverness a merchant of the town closely scrutinizing the Fal-taffian, motley, array remarked in the hearing of a reporter of the Inverness News, 'there are more bad debts in that crowd than in all the rest of the town.' Rightly or wrongly the impression prevails that the ranks of the U. M. W. are composed largely of men who have not learned to rely upon themselves.

The U. M. W.'s had a high old time of it last week drawing the legs of the press representatives. They kept these on the tenter hooks, hinting that to-morrow would tell a tale. The U. M. W.'s can beat the P. W. A. men out of their boots as bluffers. Indeed they can do more than bluff; they can—as witness the evidence before the commission, that Springhill had recognized the U. M. W. How true that statement was is made plain by the fact that a conciliation board has been applied for, one of the grounds of complaint being that the management won't recognize the U. M. W.