

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

Dr. Kendall has backed down a bit in reference to the prediction he made some months ago that it was Mr. Plummer's intention not to recognize any union of his employees. He now says that Mr. Plummer has been forced to recognize the P. W. A. When Mr. Plummer said he would recognize no union, he had no reference to the P. W. A., but to a union dominated by the principles expounded by the genial doctor, who, at the time of the remark, got overheated and provoked a hasty reply.

The members for the Local Legislature from C. B. have, if one can understand English as she is spoken in the papers, been making soft-worded apologies for having been able to do so little for the U. M. W. It is possible the members take the loyal P. W. A. men for great big soft sponges, and they may merit that name if they do not plainly intimate, where it may be heard, that no member—not any more than a man—can serve two masters.

Mr. Neil Nicholson was in Springhill for a few days relieving Mr. A. Cameron, Deputy Inspector, who was given a holiday. Mr. Cameron's temporary absence gave rise to some wild reports, the wildest of these being that J. B. Moss was booked for the position. The Government have more sense than to flout a red Jag in the face of a bull. The appointment by the Government of a U. M. W. man, even if a liberal, would mean the defection from the liberal ranks of thousands of voters and not all workmen at that.

The following from the Amherst News does not speak highly of the home training of some children—"Attorney-General McLean was called to Springhill on Saturday in reference to the strike that exists at Herritt Road School. The children of the strikers refused to go to school with the children of the non-strikers, Attorney-General McLean met with the commissioners, clergymen and a number of the other citizens of the town and he stated emphatically that there was no course open other than to allow the children of the non-strikers to attend the school if they so desired. The commissioners are doing their best to pour oil on the troubled waters and are endeavoring to persuade strike-breakers to keep their children from the school for the present time, hoping, like Micawber, that "something will turn up."

The houses owned by the company at the west end are all occupied by the strike breakers and the rows lately vacated are also slowly but surely being occupied by the same class of workers, and when those

houses are occupied the school question that is now agitating the Herritt road school will spread to the other schools of the town.

Mr. Peter Patterson is now presiding genius of the renegade unionists at Springhill. As the boys might say, he runs the shebang. His principal duty is to distribute the weekly allowances. Owing to some mischance there has been no connection for weeks with the treasurers office at Indianapolis, and on that account Peter has had the very softest kind of a snap for the past few weeks. Indeed the Secretary of the U. M. W. publicity department could easily have done all the work necessary to the keeping of accounts during the past few weeks.

Mr. McLachlan, the orator for the U. M. W. in C. B., is wanted badly back again in the land he claims as his country. He is wanted to set Scottish mining matters in a better position. Things have gone to the dogs since he left. When Mr. McLachlan came first to this province he undertook, through the Halifax press, to instruct us in trade union matters. He pointed to the cash-in-hand, and to the easy way they had of avoiding strikes. There were never strikes there as there was a wages board who settled disputes as to wages. No sooner was Jimmie's back turned than the Scottish miners went back to their wallowing in the mire. The Weekly Mail, of the 10th inst., tells of strikes and differences in the four leading mining counties in Scotland. The Record, for the good of the Scottish miners, and also surely for the good of the C. B. miners, would tell Jimmie to 'haud awa' hame.'

A discovery of coal has been made a short distance west of Edmonton, which covers thousands of acres and which will rival the famous seams of the Crow's Nest Pass. The East better brush up.

Mr. Charles Fenwick, M. P., speaking at Tynemouth, deprecated 'the grave spirit of insubordination which was manifesting itself in all branches of industry.' If the intelligent section of Northumberland miners did not quell this spirit of rowdiness they would bring about the greatest social wreck of modern times.

Steel chimneys, according to an expert, will be features of the factory of the future. Stacks of steel-plate

can now be constructed at half the cost of one of brick or stone similar in height and draught capacity. If the capital saved is invested in increased boilerage, their use may prove a partial solvent of the smoke problem.

All our modern knowledge has accomplished nothing to compare with the achievements of those earlier races of man, who first, in some remote age, developed the edible grains and fruits from the wild plants. They knew a great deal, those men, whoever they were.

In a report issued by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, to the officials of the allied unions, it is stated that the South Wales coal-owners place the increased cost of the production under the Eight Hours Act, at 1s. 3d. per ton. The standard of labor costs is said to have increased 11.65d., the cost of stores 6.32d., and the cost of the Compensation on Act 2.54d.

If all one reads be true then the Dominion Steel Co., is not the only concern of the kind in Canada that is bound to continue extending its operations. We are told for instance that the directors of the Lake Superior Corporation, under the presidency of Mr. T. J. Drummond, met in New York lately, for the purpose of discussing the finances of this growing concern and to arrange for elaborate expansions and improvements to the entire plant at the '800' and subsidiary companies. The highly interesting announcement was made by Mr. Drummond that the directors have decided to expend the enormous sum of \$12,000,000 during the present year on extensions to the steel plant, railway construction, as well as on the company's mines and forests.

The business of Lake Superior is rapidly expanding in all departments and the prospects for this huge concern is that it will shortly take its place as one of the greatest industrial enterprises on this continent.

At the present time there are 8,000 men in the employment of the company, while its reputation as a concern of 'big things' is rapidly circulating, causing astonishment and surprise even to those who are closely associated with its possibilities.