

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

From No. 9 to No. 10 landing of Dom. 14 the track has been relaid with 60 lb. rails, also the roof along this distance with eighty pound rails, instead of booms.

All the horses have been taken out of No. 9, west level Dom. No. 14, the work being now done by a main and tail rope engine, 6 x 8 installed for the purpose.

The No. 10 east landing of Dom. No. 14 is at present being laid and made ready for hauling coal, but with the heavy rock roof, requiring much brushing and timbering, it will take some time yet to complete the work.

The new wash house at Dom. No. 14, New Waterford, is giving much satisfaction and is greatly appreciated by the men using it. If it be true that "cleanliness is next to godliness" then the Dom. No. 14 workmen are now next to that condition.

The recent changes at the Dominion collieries, whereby blasting of coal has to be all done by night, is one of the necessities of deep mining, but must be done in the interests of all mine workers. The change has had its effect on the output, but the mine superintendent who puts safety first, in first place, is wise and has the support of all workmen.

A large main and tail engine, size 10 x 12, is being placed in east landing to haul the coal from the boundary, or the inside end of level, of Dom. No. 14. The present engine is capable of hauling a distance of only 2800 feet, so that over the distance of 4,000 feet two systems of haulage, horses and tail ropes, are used. Excepting one horse hauling from the face, the system will be wholly rope haulage.

Several years ago—in the late Hugh Fletcher's time—a group of enthusiasts came to the conclusion that coal was to be found at a point in Cumberland County where it had not previously been sought for. This group of explorers were not easily daunted, and one failure did not discourage them, and they persisted. When one bore hole failed they tried another, and another, until their courage or their cash failed. It is now said that some of the old group have had a revival of courage and additions to their revenues, and will try again. One bore hole, if we remember rightly, attained a depth of two thousand feet. It is said they will either sink the old hole a thousand feet deeper, or bore deep in another direction. The Record is bound to pray for success, to every similar heroic effort, for we believe there is much yet to learn of the geology of Nova Scotia.

Some scribbler from Dom. No. 6 colliery seems to take delight in keeping the local newspapers posted on the many runaway trips which occur in the slopes of that mine.

From the No. 6 landing of Dom. No. 6 colliery to the surface, the main track of the deep is being relaid with heavy rails and a permanent road bed laid down.

The new haulage in No. 6 west of Dom. No. 15, shows originality in its installation. To save time and money in removing the centre props of the level, the rope has been made to run on the side of a pit box fitted for the purpose. It is giving good results and working freely without more than ordinary friction.

The air courses of Dom. No. 14 colliery are being brushed, widened, retimbered and repaired from the fan shaft down; permanent stoppings of stone and cement are being built. Where good mine stone can be procured stoppings of this material, faced with mortar, are being put in. This work begun about three months ago is about completed to No. 6 landing. Over casts will be built over Nos. 7, 8 and 9 levels on both sides of the slope. When completed the air current instead of travelling downwards along the working faces, will travel upwards. This will make a great improvement in the ventilation, giving the maximum of fresh air, where most needed by the workmen, and at the same time carrying all noxious gases over the shortest possible distance.

Did not a miners' leader, some time ago, insult mayhap inadvertently, the miners as a class when he depicted them coming from work with tottering step and abject look, etc. The Record has always maintained that the miners of Nova Scotia are as healthy, as well "set up" as any class of workers in the land. The miners in Nova Scotia are comparable with the miners of any other land, and the British miner is no slouch. The Medical Board who examined men of military age from Nov., 1917 to Dec., 1918, have issued a comprehensive report. An analysis of the particulars relating to men of different occupations in Yorkshire revealed that the best physical specimens were agriculturists and miners. Curiously, tailors who people think have the easiest kind of work, are at the bottom of the list. Barbers are very unhealthy, and the report calls for immediate enquiry into the extent to which infection may be conveyed in barber shops. These days of Gillette safety—and others equally good—razors there is not the same necessity to go to a barber shop as formerly. A home shave need not cost more than two cents, soap included, and then, best of all, there is no fear of infection.