

## AROUND THE COLIERIES.

The output of the Dominion Coal Co. for January was greater than the output in January of 1909. An output of over 212,000 tons does not indicate that the strikers are greatly, if at all, retarding output.

Succeeding the explosion in Colorado, comes the news of a big explosion in Kentucky, with the loss of a large number of lives. It is said this explosion was caused by a man going into an old working with a naked light. The U. S., sorry to say, is keeping up its reputation as to excess of fatal accidents in mines.

There is great excitement, all of a sudden, over the high cost of living. The peculiar thing is that the agitation was so long delayed. One reason is that the increases have been chiefly in the products of the farm. These have been going skyward for a long time. Flour during the last ten years has gone up \$2.00 a barrel, lard, 10 cents a pound, pork, twelve dollars a barrel of say 300 lbs., while coal has only gone up about a dollar a ton of 2,240 lbs. The orchardists seem to be the only reasonable people, next to the newspaper men. Newspapers have not gone up in price; currants, apples, oranges, raisins, etc., keep content at the old figure.

The stock of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. has been active of late, and has gone up in the market. A Halifax banker says he knows the dividend is to be increased to 5 per cent. How does he know? It seems some people are of his opinion. Mr. Forget is still buying, so he could not have secured the 20,000 shares he is after. Mr. Forget does not say a word about increased dividend. After surveying the situation he came to the conclusion that Scotia was a good investment for some of his accumulating cash. Some hint at a change in the directorate. Nothing is known down here about that. As to the increase in dividend, it will come, but its coming may be delayed for a little. The stockholders can afford to wait after the recent nice little plum they got.

A descriptive sketch of the geology and economic minerals of Canada, by G. A. Young, with an introduction by R. W. Brock, Director of Geological Survey, Ottawa, illustrated with eighty-two plates and two maps has been issued by the Geological Survey Branch of the Department of Mines. In the introduction it is stated that an attempt has been made in this publication to give merely a general idea of the conditions obtaining in the various geological provinces into with the more important minerals which are characteristic of, or which have been exploited in each.

The great development of the mineral industry in Canada is shown in the statement that in 1886 the mineral production of Canada did not reach \$10,250,000 in value, and was only \$2.23 per capita. In 1908, the production was over \$87,000,000 or \$12.57 per capita. The total production for the last twenty-three years amounts to \$926,516,579, of which gold represents \$267,700,000.

That delightful Canadian illustrated magazine, the 'Canadian Pictorial,' which is to Canada something of what the 'Illustrated News' or the 'Graphic' are to England, continues to improve with each year of its existence. While Canadian pictures generally predominate, plenty of illustrations are given of events and scenes the world over, so as to merit its claim to give 'News by Views'. Short complete stories, music, and well edited departments add to the interest. The 'Canadian Pictorial' is issued monthly by the 'Pictorial' Publishing Company, 142 St. Peter St. (Witness Bldg.) Montreal, and the subscription rate is \$1.00 a year.

It is rather a new thing for Canadians to interest themselves in the development of coal lands in Pa. A Canadian company for that purpose is now being formed, and flaming prospectus, guaranteeing almost fabulous profit is being issued. We had thought Canadians had ample scope for investments at home. The RECORD does not look with favor on this new development. It is bad enough to have Americans as competitors for the Canadian coal trade, it will be worse when we have Canadians offering U. S. coal in competition to Canadian. The Free Coal League has now at its back, or will have soon, a big concern to whose interest it will be, to have free coal. It is time the Nova Scotia coal owners association was being formed.

There are few Canadian publications so well 'worth while' as the weekly review, issued from the office of John Dougall & Son, Montreal, under the title 'World Wide'. It is a weekly reprint of articles and cartoons from the leading journals and reviews reflecting the current thought of both hemispheres. Without wisdom of its own, 'World Wide' reflects the wisdom of the age—the day—the hour—the moment. Without opinions of its own, 'World Wide' beats to the tick of modern British and American thought. 'World Wide' finds a welcome place on the study table. Business men, preachers, teachers, writers, and thinkers generally hail it as a most delightful visitor. An effort is made to select the articles each week so that due proportion is given to the various fields of human interest to the shifting scenes of the world's great drama, to letters and science, and beautiful things. If you do not know 'World Wide' personally, the publishers will gladly send samples free of charge on application. 'World Wide' sells at five cents per copy, but the yearly subscription is only \$1.50 a year.

### ANOTHER U. S. MINE HORROR

Fighting madly to escape through the narrow, partly choked air shaft, trampling over fallen comrades in their struggle for life, more than half of the 149 miners employed in the Primero mine of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, wrecked by an explosion Jan'y. 31st. were overcome by gas and fire. Their bodies were found in heaps