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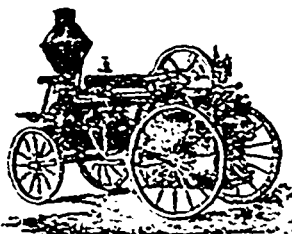
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For Catalogue and prices.

Chemical Laboratory, Dalhousie College,
Halifax, N. S., July 31st. 1891.

Within the last few months I have pur-
chased promiscuously, at RETAIL GROC-
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GERMAN BAKING POWDER,**

and have subjected same to Chemical Anal-
yses. The samples were found to consist of
Fresh, Wholesome Materials, properly pro-
portioned. This Baking Powder is well
suited for family use, and has been employed,
when required, in my own house for many
years.

GEO. H. EVANS, Ph. D., L. L. D.
Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry of
Great Britain and Ireland.

MINING.

THE SPRING HILL COLLIERIES.

IN THE NORTH SLOPE.

The North, or No. 3 slope, of the Spring Hill collieries may or may not be the most extensive of the three pits in active operation, yet the writer is of opinion it is the pet pit, and destined to play, in the future, an important part in the history of Spring Hill. The youngster who required the great-est share of coddling, or who was the cause of the biggest bother to his guardians, may be the one of a crowd most thought of. The more attention devoted to a child, the greater the attraction toward him; and it seems to be this way with No. 3 slope. During the past nine months it has been a cause of uneasiness and expense to the management. A "creep" had to be fought—a hand to hand fight—and an access of water contended with—in both cases the end being satisfactory.

The request to visit the collieries was unexpected. At some of the collieries there may be a hesitation, on the part of the members of lodges, as to the propriety of the Secretary of the Association visiting a pit accompanied exclusively by a boss or bosses. In this instance the request to visit the mine came through the convener of managing committee of 'Pioneer' in open lodge, and the members seemed pleased than otherwise that the writer should go, nothing fearing that he might be weaned away from loyalty to them and the Association by blandishments lavished by wily managers.

Shortly after the morning whistle blew—7 a. m.—we called for instructions at the manager's office. First the pipe of peace was smoked, and then—as no preparations had been made for the journey—a pair of ancient nether garments was given me. The original owner of them, if exceeding the one who had become temporary lessee by six degrees of longitude, came very far short in degrees of latitude, which resulted in an extremely dudish fit, necessitating due care of bodily gesture, lest the real owner might raise action for trespass and damages.

Manager McInnis willed it that the North slope should be visited—and in this instance there was no demurrer. Seated in the bottom of the hind box of a rake of five empties—five boxes constituting a 'rake'—we went slowly and pleasantly to the bottom. The safety lamps which we carry are the Marsaut, the best safety lamp, it is asserted, in use in America. Though the light from the most approved safety lamp is feeble at the best, yet having come down slowly we got our eyesight before reaching the bottom. The slope is, where needed, well timbered; but long lengths of it have no supporting timbers at all, owing to the remarkably strong roof. We first made our way to the extreme length of the West level. There is much unwrought coal here. Only one balance is working at this time, there being, however, two others ready for operations. No. 1 balance is 900 feet from the slope, which leaves a pillar of sufficient dimensions to ensure perfect solidity, stability of the slope. No. 2 balance is 700 feet from No. 1, and No. 3 400 feet from No. 2. This gives a length of 1100 feet of unwrought coal; and as the distance from the lift or level above is 600 feet, there remains to be mined, in this section, 1100 x 600 x 10 or 11 feet high of coal of excellent quality. How many thousand feet further the levels may be driven in good coal is a matter which time alone can determine. As we retrace our steps, to visit the east level, the good order in which everything is kept is noticeable. The levels are clean, and the air, for a mine, is sweet, and plenty of it. The east level has been driven some 1400 feet. In most pits the coal on one side is better, or cleaner, than on the other, and there is no exception here. Though, from the top to the bottom of the coal, the height may be as great as on the West side, there is not so much coal got out, and there is a heavy stone band in centre of seam. There are no balances on this side, but, instead, chutes. One chute is in operation the other ready for a start at any time. Over the levels to the pit bottom the coal is hauled by mules. The mules are an invention of the energetic general manager, Mr. J. R. Cowans. But in this matter he has not been so eminently successful as in other matters to which he has devoted attention. Though a majority of the mules, are as tractable as horses, an occasional one is inclined to be mulish, as was found on this morning. One fellow positively refused to move either himself or the boxes, for a long time. He was coaxed, and he was c—, ah, that was when the manager wasn't there—the law of kindness—in homeopathic doses, I fear,—and the law of severity—in allopathic allow-ance—was administered; but there he stood—mute and mulish—until of his own sweet will he wended his way. It was suggested by our late brother Ferguson that the driver try some soft words. His reply came "Soft words! You don't know mules." The impeachment was weakly admitted, though *sotto voce*, we said we had in our day known many mine bosses. In justice let it be said that knowledge wasn't acquired wholly in Spring Hill. And yet there was reason in this mule. He had been at work in the early part of the previous night, and had not, as he considered, been allowed sufficient overtime. True, he got an extra feed of oats, but that is scarcely an equivalent for three hours extra labor. At last the mule went, and following his example we went too—to the bottom—to get a lift to the 'lift' above, or 1300 feet level. The 1300 feet level is the busy section of the pit, though there is not much activity noticeable, as the levels are travelled. The empty boxes, it seems, left the road on coming down the slope, the result being a general smash, which caused a cessation of hoisting and hauling for a considerable length of time. Fearful lest the manager might look upon his companion as a Jonah, the question was asked a bright boy who was enjoying the slack spell near the bottom. "Have the rakes met on previous occasions?" His answer was "Oh yes." The answer was comforting.

(To be continued.)