

AROUND THE COLIERIES.

The Inverness mine did not keep up its gait for April, but went considerably behind.

People have faith in Pictou County. Prospecting for coal and iron is still being prosecuted.

The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. make a nice gain—26,000 tons—in shipments in April over April of last year.

Mr. Angus McKay, Underground manager at the Albion Mines, having retired from that position, is succeeded by Wm. Arthrell.

Some of the Westville men joined the U. M. W., giving as a reason that it was cheaper to pay an initiation fee of fifty cents than to pay their back dues to Ladysmith Lodge.

The RECORD is pleased to learn that T. J. Brown, of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co., is out and about again after a rather severe attack of and operation for that become money making—for M. D's.—malady, appendicitis.

Mr. McLeod, the former Underground manager at Port Hood, goes to Inverness to fill the place vacated by that splendid mine man Mal. S. Beaton. Angus McIsaac, familiarly known as 'Stellar Angus' will step into McLeod's shoes at Port Hood.

Robert Harris, of Halifax is to remain at the helm of 'Scotia' for another year at any rate, no preventing providence. He and not Forget will have the honor and pleasure soon of announcing a substantial increase in 'Scotia' dividend "Put that in your little book and don't forget it," as Forget would say.

The Conservative club at Dom. No. 1 are sadly lacking in originality. What they 'beg' to demand of future aspirants for provincial legislative honors are the same old things, eight hours, old age pensions, compensation and so forth. Why don't they suggest something startling like the people of Port Morien.

Here is an item which Dr. McGill might ponder over in reference to voluntary absenteeism. The worthy doctor is puzzled to find data on which to base some sort of satisfactory conclusion as to the amount of voluntary absenteeism. Last month after pay day at mines in Cape Breton employing 1800 men, there were on the two days succeeding pay day 1400 men and 500 men off. Previous to pay day on four days there were approximately 100 men off, from sickness and from voluntary absenteeism. As there was no plague or epidemic in the days succeeding pay day there should not have been more than 100 men off on the days when there were 600 and 500 off. Suppose we allow that those off before pay day were all sick men, and no voluntary absentee among them and deduct a hundred from the number off after pay day, we come to the conclusion that 500 and 400 men were idle of their own free will. The picnic season has surely commenced early and commenced with a vengeance.

As soon as shipping becomes brisk several of the mines of the Dominion Coal Co. may be put on double shift.

It is reported that some of the mine bosses in C. B. county will leave shortly to try their fortunes at the new mines out West. Some are named whom the RECORD would be sorry to see go.

Mr. Morine of the Port Hood Coal Co. goes jauntily about these days, his hat cocked to the side, making in congratulatory tones the announcement that he has recognized the U. M. W. Perhaps before long our now happy friend may recognize what recognition means.

It is not thought that more than twenty men will get notice to quit from the Acadia colliery, Westville, before or on the fifteenth, owing to prevailing conditions as to work. Though the demand for labor in Westville is not so brisk as one could desire, it is said that there is still a demand for good men at Springhill, all the places not being filled up.

In the account of the U. M. W. organization meeting at Westville it is declared that men from the Drummond, the Acadia, and the Allan Shafts were there. There was one man only from the Allan Shafts, and it is reported the place that knew him didn't know him after he had taken the oath of allegiance. The RECORD does not believe that one man working at the Allan Shafts is a member of the alien order.

The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. have returned an answer to a section of their workmen who demanded recognition. Politely yet very firmly the Company's answer is an unmistakable No, not now or at any future time, if we can help it. The Company had the courtesy, as soon as the answer had been given, to immediately inform the other coal companies of their action. This was deemed necessary in view of the many false reports presently going the rounds of the mining localities.

McCulloch, ex V. P. of the U. M. W., is reported to have said in C. B. that his society had expended \$750,000 in Nova Scotia. In Springhill, the papers say, he placed the amount at a million. If he looked in at the Jiggins the amount he spoke of would be \$1,250,000, to swell to a million and a half before he reached the border. Without joke, the U. M. W's, spent a lot of money, and, say, seriously and between us, what have they got to show for it.

One of the demands made by a Cape Breton local of the U. M. W. upon the coal company situated in the district in which the local flourishes is that "The books shall be open to the inspection of the auditor of the U. M. W., that he may ascertain the selling price of coal and so determine the wages to be paid." That is certainly cool. It goes so far that the wonder is it did not go further and say that any profit made by the company should be handed over with thanks, to the members of the U. M. W. local.