

## AROUND THE COLLIERIES

The Dominion Coal Co. of late has been shipping every available pound of coal it could spare to Holland under contracts entered into some time ago.

The first output recorded by the newly re-opened Victoria Mines to the General Office at Glace Bay, was 75 tons. This was made on Nov. 4th. Coal was produced a few weeks previously but the output was microscopic.

Dominion No. 1 has undergone needed changes, and conditions are improved. The air lines have been enlarged, by replacing small pipe lines with large pipes and other improvements. The air pressure at the faces is now sufficient for all coal cutting air machines.

To change over from horse to mechanical haulage all the level roads of Caledonia Mine, Dom. No. 4, have been relaid with 30 lb. rails right into the inside headways. Large landings 250 feet long have been made to handle long trips, when the new haulage has been started.

All the levels of Dom. No. 4 are worked double shift with radial coal cutting machines. This is to hasten development work in the submarine territory. Where pillars cannot be extracted, much more territory has to be opened up to obtain an output equal to that from land areas.

The lower levels of Dom. No. 1 are to be extended and pushed in for upwards of 2000 feet. This is very encouraging news to the men of this, the foremost, or if not that in output the best in other respects, of all the Dominion collieries. This extension means a larger lease of life and activity.

The outputs of the Dominion Coal Co. for October show an encouraging increase. It is to be hoped President Workman's expectations of increased outputs, for the future, will be realized, even though the outputs for the first days of November were not records. Indeed the mines celebrated the 1st of Nov., the day of the U. S. miners strike, by a fifty per cent less output.

A large underground pumping station is being made on No. 10 west landing of east side of Dom. No. 4 colliery, for the purpose of the more efficient and economical handling of the mine water. The roof for the new pump house is being blasted down. When completed three more electric pumps will be installed. The capacity of the pumps will be 2000 gallons per minute which is 500 gals. more than the mine is presently making. From this station the water will be pumped through a 12 inch bore hole, while the electric cable for power will run through a 6 inch hole. This change will eliminate three air pumps at the bottom of the west deep, used for keeping old Dom. No. 3 colliery free from water.

Is it not about time "jealousy" had consumed the Sandra of a majority of the daily provincial papers?

The main haulage road of Dom. No. 4 Colliery, Caledonia, has been extended 1,500 feet and double tracked. The rails on the full side are 60 lbs. and those on the empty boxes' side 30 lbs. rails. The roof of this roadway is supported by 60 and 80 lb. steel rails and special timber.

The prevalent impression is that coal will be a scarce commodity for a time, and that there will be no diminution in the cost to consumers, if there is not an increase. The collieries are working to their capacity, so some newspapers say, but that is not the opinion of the Mining Record, unless we are permitted to make qualification. In the summer time there was complaining as to idle days at the collieries. At present there are no idle days, and the complainings are on the side of the operators of, what may be termed, a "ca canny" policy on the part of the operatives. The outputs are not what they should be. The output of the Dominion Coal Co.'s collieries has reached 12,000 tons on a day, and on another day it fell to less than half that quantity. Why? Oh ask those who, one paper soberly and another sarcastically dubs "the big three." Half of the men took an off day and the big three made not even a little remonstrance.

The Sydney Post says that the Dominion Coal Co. has made application to the Dept. of Immigration for liberty to import 400 shooters and loaders, in order to increase production. No such men, the Post declares, can be obtained in Canada. "The Mines Act explicitly states that only certificated men may be employed as shooters and loaders." Is not the Post in error as regards loaders? As a rule loaders are not held to be "skilled" workmen, and we have not heard of certificated loaders though shot firers require to be holders of certificates. He is doubtful, too, if "shooters" could be given employment as such unless by special dispensation of the Legislature, and then only if they could stand an examination in English.

Pictou County has an addition to its coal companies. The name of the latest is the Lanark Engineering Co. This company, it is said, has a contract of driving four slopes on the McBean seam at Thorburn. The total length of the slopes will be 3300 odd feet. Cross cuts between the several slopes enable the new company to hoist a rather remarkable tonnage daily, from purely development work. The tons hoisted daily are over the hundred mark. Messrs. Mitchell and McCulloch of New Glasgow, are the active partners in the enterprise. It is to be hoped that they may receive sufficient reward for their enterprise. So far a ready market for the coal is found in Halifax.