

Referring to the discovery of coal in Antigonish County the Eastern Chronicle says:—"Messrs Henry and James McNeil and Messrs. William Glendenning and Isaac Conway, report that they have found the long sought for coal seam at Big Marsh, Antigonish County. They have sunk a slope down for 90 feet and driven a tunnel on the seam over 40 feet. The seam, they say, is over five feet of excellent coal. It is stated that the reason the seam was not discovered by other prospectors was that it dips opposite to what the geologists stated. That is quite possible as the strata is somewhat broken in that region. If our advice were any good it would be for the finders to prospect under ground very thoroughly before going to large expense. Of course, geologists are only geologists, but we would rather have the find dip in the direction indicated by them."

The advice contained in the foregoing is wise and timely. There have been instances in Nova Scotia of rare folly, in spending a small fortune overground before what was underground had been even partially ascertained. Take Macean Station mine for example. Very many thousands of dollars were spent in the erection of an elaborate plant, and after that was done the coal below was wanting. And this is only one of several instances.

#### SPRINGHILL AND GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

(Halifax Herald, Oct. 30th.)

More effective governmental control of the coal areas of Nova Scotia was forcibly advocated at a meeting of the citizens of Springhill last evening, when a committee was appointed to interview the provincial government upon the possibility of opening up new workings in this area. The meeting was attended by the leading business men of the town and all the Protestant clergy, while members of the A. M. W. crowded the remainder of the town hall.

In his opening speech, Mayor A. B. Wilson stated that the present situation of the town was a precarious one. A few years ago four slopes were in working condition. The Dominion Coal Company has been forced to abandon three of these, owing to fire and other causes, leaving only the west slope in full operation. The north slope, recently flooded to extinguish a fire, was still full of water, and the present pumping equipment seemed unable to cope with the task of emptying it. If a disaster like that of the New Waterford mine should occur in the one slope working to-day, or if, as was more probable, the seam should be worked out, the town would be left without industries. The mayor suggested that it was time for the citizens to take action upon a situation which imperilled the very life of the town. He himself had interviewed General Manager MacDougall about the matter, finding Mr. MacDougall fully alive to its seriousness. He would suggest that a citizens' committee be appointed to bring the whole situation before President Workman, of the Dominion Coal Company.

The discussion which followed showed that the meeting felt that a most speedy action was necessary if the future of the town was to be secured, and it was finally moved by H. S. Terris that the citizens of Springhill appoint a committee to go to Halifax and interview the provincial government upon the

subject of the opening up of a new slope. This was carried unanimously, Mayor Wilson and Messrs. Daniel Murray and Daniel Matheson being appointed as the committee.

The importance of the whole matter lies in the fact that Springhill is a single industry town. In this it differs from most Nova Scotian communities. If the mines close down, the town closes down with them. Only about half the number of men employed four years ago are employed to-day. Unless drastic action is taken, the future looks very dark.

Continued from page 11

fluence might be necessary to thus effectively enlarge the much-needed supply of coal."

#### Demand Dismissal of Employees.

The following resolution regarding the explosion at New Waterford was adopted:

"Whereas, sixty-five miners lost their lives in the explosion which took place July 25th last at New Waterford;

"Whereas the coroner's jury which made enquiry into the deaths of these sixty-five men found that the gross irregularity of mining as followed in this mine has been largely responsible for the retention of gas thereby causing an explosion resulting in the death of these men, and find the officials guilty of gross neglect;

"Whereas the special commission appointed by the Government of Nova Scotia found the method of mining adopted by the officials of Dominion No. 12 mine made impracticable the airing of that mine;

"And whereas, notwithstanding the fact that these findings have been made public by the coroner's jury and special commissioner, and neither the Dominion Coal Company nor the provincial government has taken any action whatever to remove these officials nor cancel the government certificates held by these officials;

"Therefore be it resolved that this convention of the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia demand of the Dominion Coal Company that Alex. McEachern, superintendent of the New Waterford district; Angus R. MacDonald, manager of No. 12 mine, and McLeod McIntosh, deputy inspector of mines be dismissed from their present positions and be given no official jobs in any of the said company's mines, and that we demand that the government of this province cancel the mining certificates held by these men;

"Be it further resolved, that this convention give the Dominion Coal Company and the government of Nova Scotia until November 15, 1917, to remove these men and in the event of their still being in the job at that date that we ask the miners of the province to remain idle on Wednesday and Saturday of each week until these men are removed;

"Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the fuel controller, the minister of labor, Hon. G. H. Murray, premier of Nova Scotia, and to Mr. Mark Workman, president of the Dominion Coal Company."