

## AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The Disc machines will be used in the longwall section in Dom. No. 6.

Work on the second compressor for Dom. No. 6 is going ahead rapidly.

Manager Chas. Mitchell is well liked by his workmen at No. 6. A genial disposition is like the sun among black clouds.

Dom. No. 3 Colliery is keeping up a very good average, and Caledonia is trying to keep pace with it.

One of the new compressors is in operation at No. 6. Mining machines will be installed at once, Ingersolls and the Radialax will be employed.

The water shaft between Bridgeport and Dominion No. 2 Colliery is down 250 feet. It went at the rate of 5 feet per day until it struck a water feeder.

The new electric plant at Dom. No. 2, judging by the size of the building, is going to be a powerful one. A big force of mechanics, of all kinds, are at work, every man in his own line.

The borehole being put down at No. 6 to tap the Emery seam, passed through 3 ft. 7 in. of coal at a depth below where the Emery should have been found. What seam is it? The Emery, the Mullins, or some new seam.

Sydney No. 1 is the only mine in the Province of Nova Scotia entirely operated by officials who gained their mining knowledge in the mine which they supervise. Dorsay and Stewart are both Sydney miners and deserve well of their fellows for their ability and merit.

The Herald should give its representative Charles Lunn something like a show. Saturday's Herald makes its Inverness representative say that the output of the mine there is ten thousand tons a day. The output is no doubt increasing, but though McGillivray and Beaton are an ideally strong combination, it will take many a long day to bring the output to the ten thousand mark.

Changing the air in a coal mine is generally accompanied with results just as blighting and bad as a heavy frost in Autumn before the fruits are ripe. The roof rock of the mine may under certain atmospheres remain intact for years. Change the atmosphere and a pulverizing process sets in at once which seems to sap the very cement of the rock, when down tumbles the whole mine breaking every support that may be placed underneath.

Mr. Daniel Cameron, who has for the last eighteen years been foreman carpenter at the Albion Mines, has given up active service and leaves the Acadia Coal Co. Mr. Cameron has been forty three years in the service of the several coal companies which have operated here, beginning with the G. M. A. Of Mr. Cameron it may be said he was faithful to his employers interests in small matters as well as in larger. Mr. Cameron by a life of labor has earned a rest. May the shadows lengthen slowly.

The bankhead at Dom. No. 6 is a simple yet a perfect structure. The trip rope delivers the coal to the creepers. These convey the full boxes to the revolving tippie, the empty ones finding their way back to the trip rope by gravity roads. Not more than five persons are employed at this work. The picking belt receives the coal from the screens, the coal being so evenly carried by the belts that it is possible to detect the smallest piece of splint or stone. The quality, if we are to place size for quality, as we are told the coal buyers now do, is the best of all the Dominion Collieries.

By order of the Gen'l Manager, a notice was posted up at Springhill last week, stating that unless the men worked more regularly and a larger output of coal was obtained that there would require to be a sweeping reduction in rates. Coal costs more to mine or to send to market at Springhill than in any other part of the province, and that in part may be owing to the much irregular work. Knowing it to be the case that coal costs dearer one would think that the men would be anxious to help the manager out. It might be well if the men were to figure out how much irregular work tends to decreased output and increased cost.

There seems to be a keen rivalry among the C. B. companies for pit men. First it was said the Inverness Company had an agent at Glace Bay in an effort to seduce men to leave that locality and come to Inverness, and next came the news that two agents were in Inverness in an effort to induce men to go to C. B. County. It is said the agents from Glace Bay went to Inverness after men who had strayed away from there only, and not to capture old hands.

The Inverness News has had the following information from Mr. Spencer, the General Manager for the Inverness Ry. & Coal Co., who lately given authority by McKenzie and Mann to go down to Inverness and either shut down the mine or put it on a paying basis. Mr. Spencer is not going to do the former and will attempt the latter.—"It is well known to many that large contracts for coal have been lately made, but just how large few have definite or official information. In the first place there is one hundred thousand tons to be delivered at Point Levis, for the I. C. R., before the close of navigation. Another contract calls for 20,000, another for 19,000 and another for 10,000, while smaller contracts make up the total of over 170,000 tons—all to be delivered before the close of navigation. Formerly the mine could get out plenty of coal but they could not sell it; but things have changed, and now the problem is to get out enough to fill the contracts we have made. Just before I left Montreal I had to refuse another contract for 8000 tons. I can sell five hundred thousand tons a year if it can only be got up, and this is the output I expect to see from the mine inside of a year."