

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

The Drummond Colliery shipments for May are short in comparison with May of last year, owing to short shipments of slack coal on account of the slack work at Londonderry and other places.

If men are out of employment in the upper provinces and the United States, there is evidently no lack of work, for all who are willing, in N. S. About a fortnight ago Mr. J. R. Cowan of Springhill, wired the mayor of Amherst that owing to many of the men leaving the mine to work on their farms, he could furnish employment to fifty loaders and other workers.

Mr. Wanklyn is in Glace Bay, and will preside in the General Office, during Mr. Duggan's absence on the other side. It is possible there may be some records during the next few weeks,—it often happens that way, though the common saying points to an opposite outcome. Mr. Duggan deserves a holiday, as hard work and he have been close companions for a long period.

The wages of miners in Britain are being reduced these days. Some four weeks ago the masters asked for a 12 per cent. reduction and were awarded 6 per cent. Later a demand has been made for a 25 per cent. reduction in some parts of the country. So far we have been most fortunate in Nova Scotia. There will be no reduction this year.

The coal trade in G. B. seems to be in a queer way. In Lanarkshire a big colliery is to be opened on the Lanarkshire estate by the Summerlee Iron Company. It was shut some years ago, and seven hundred miners were thrown idle, and the village of Barmley demolished. On the other hand a lot of mines are being closed, the United Collieries Co. are closing five in Longriggend, two in Coalburn, one at Netherburn, one at Larkhall, and one at Shotts. The Wishaw Coal Company have closed the Dalziel pits, and miners are on strike at pits in Shotts, Cleland and Blantyre, because they cannot agree with the masters on wages.

The papers tell us that the 24th. of June will decide whether in the province it is to be the U. M. W. of America, or a reformed, improved, and patented P. W. A. It may be the former, and it shall be the latter, whether of a new kind, and untried, or the good old fashioned kind which never was beaten. One of the promised grand reforms is the election of the Grand Master and Grand Secretary by a vote of the members at large, and not, as hitherto, by the members through their delegates. This is not a step in advance, it is two steps backward, and will tend to strife, if not ultimately to disruption. If the scheme goes through there will be lots of fun or—uproar over the nomination, as the members at large will likely be denied the privilege. The sanctioning of a strike is of as much importance as the selection of a secretary, and if the latter has to be done by a vote of all the members, for as good reasons should also be the former.

A mile of sidings are under construction in the new bank head at the Joggins slope.

Good progress is being made with the permanent bank head at the new Joggins slope.

The pay roll at the Joggins is now as large as it was before the old slope closed down.

The Chignecto mine output has been larger for the past three months than it has been for years.

The Inverness mine made a wonderful showing for May, in spite of the much water to contend with before the new pumps were installed.

The New Sydney No. 4 mine of the N. S. Steel & Coal Co. has now four of the chain machine coal cutters, so we may look for an output of 600 tons at an early day.

The overground men at the Drummond Colliery received an increase in their wages thereby obviating the necessity of a Board of Arbitration. The men were very lucky in face of the diminishing rates in other places outside the province.

The Collins areas on which is the mine of that name have been acquired by the McKay Mining Co., operating near North Sydney. The 'Collins' mine is an old stager having come upon the scene forty-five or more years ago. Work must have begun on the areas before the Department of Mines began to issue its regular reports, that is before 1863. In 1863 the Collins mine shipped over 4000 tons of coal and in the year following 3500 tons. After that there was a little coal raised, pretty much for the pumps or the watchman. Ever since then the areas have been idle. The probability is that the slackened demand following the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty took the heart out of the owners, though their executors held on to the property for years.

Sydney No. 2, which was dormant for the past two or three years has been unwatered. The long flooding of the mine has not, of course, had a sustaining influence on the roof and sides of the former workings, and there is a lot of debris to be cleaned out, and repaired to be done. In a few weeks No. 2 should be contributing to the output. By July the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. should have five mines producing coal, and it will all be needed, for several reasons. The coal on bank this year is only half the quantity that was stocked last year. No. 1 mine getting hoary with age may not last looked for to keep up its swaggering gait of last year, and No. 3 being single shifted for the whole time now may possibly fall behind its last years output. There are three things tending to restrict shipments, and set these: First, No. 4 a new mine is now a producer; No. 2 has been re-opened and No. 5 is in better fettle than last year, and will therefore do better. If all goes as expected, the second half of the year should make a remarkable showing.