

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

A Chicago "pit" man predicts that the price of flour in a few months will be fifteen dollars a barrel. To be forewarned is to "forestall."

In the Eastern Car Co.'s works a drop forgings plant and an electric furnace are being installed. The company is now busy on an order for 500 large cars for the Transcontinental Railway."

Butter keeps soaring, and though certain papers are roaring over the high cost of living in general, they are silent as to this indispensable article. The price in Stellarton is forty-five cents a pound.

The Glace Bay Gazette is informed that the colliery workers in Springhill have accepted the terms offered by the Dominion Coal Co., which are substantially the same as was accepted by the employees of the two big companies in C.B.

The Record has long maintained that the best bonus system was that which rewarded the steadiest if not the sturdiest workmen and is therefore pleased that the bonus of five per cent. is for men who work 22 days a month.

The newspapers say that a movement is on foot in Glace Bay and Springhill for a thirty per cent. increase in the wages of colliery workers. The movers in this matter are presumably believers in the Scottish proverb, "Pluck at a gown of gowd and you may get a sleeve o't."

Referring to the request made by the P. W. A. that the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. grant their employees at Sydney Mines an increase in wages, to offset the increase in the cost of living, the Sydney Record remarks:

"The Record learned from a reliable and authoritative source that there was no danger of any labor trouble, that the employees and the P. W. A. have always been successful in settling wage problems out of court, and there is no good reasons why the friendly relations that have existed in the past should be disturbed in the present case."

When one desires home news of interest he has often to look abroad, as witness the following from the Montreal Star of Tuesday, 31st ult.:

"That the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company had orders booked which will keep the plant working to capacity until the middle of 1917, and that plenty of business was offering for the second half of the year, was the statement made by Col. Thomas Cantley, president of the company, following the directors meeting here yesterday.

"The most important business resulting from yesterday's gathering was the decision to enlarge the company's shipbuilding activities by building a second ocean going vessel, and one about 25 per cent. larger than the one now under construction.

The North Sydney Herald says that a new labor movement in Glace Bay may prove the death of the two existing labor unions, the U. M. W. and the P. W. A., or words to that effect. The Record had the idea that the obsequies of the U. M. W. had been performed many months ago, and is of the opinion that any movement to kill the P. W. A. will fail at the present time. Is an American union again trying to disrupt our one great Nova Scotia labor union?

The Springhill Record has a readable article on the benefits of organisation. It is temperate in tone and has a flavor of sweet reasonableness sadly lacking in effusions from many self appointed would be advisors of workmen. Our contemporary expresses the opinion that the local government would grant a charter for a new union if applied for. Undoubtedly, but is a new charter really necessary. What fault is there with the constitution of the P. W. A.? The S. H. Record, we are pleased to note, favours a Canadian organisation and incidentally hints, or more than hints, that the U. M. W. has, like the flowers of the forest, 'A weede away.'

In certain mining localities in the province a big increase in wages is asked. Provided the operators object and trouble is likely to follow, and seeing further that an increase in wages will make the cost of living still higher, how would it do for the Sydney Record and the Glace Bay Gazette to hint to the local government to shoulder all of any increase. Preposterous. Not so, perhaps. Coal is necessary to the continued prosperity of the province. The government has a precedent as witness the following from an old country paper:

"The secretary of the Caledonia Railway Company announced to the Glasgow Stock Exchange that the government are bearing the whole cost of the recent increase awarded to the railway employees.

The Dominion Steel Corporation has granted an increase of ten per cent., unsolicited, to its employees at the plant in Sydney.

By arrangement with the P. W. A. the Dominion Coal Co. has issued a new scale of pay to the colliery workers. The Glace Bay Gazette puts it thus:

"Acting on instructions given at the Grand Council meeting in September the representatives of the P. W. A. have for some time been in communication with the Coal Company as to the granting of a further advance, because of the still greater cost of living, and on Saturday last, after a meeting with a joint committee of the P. W. A. representing all the lodges, the management announced an increase of ten per cent. as a 'war bonus', and agreed to anticipate the four per cent. increase due on the first of January, making this together with the ten per cent. bonus, effective on the first of November, or a total of fourteen per cent. In addition to this, and with a view to increasing the production of coal by the encouragement of steady work, the company promise