

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

Of the eleven fatal accidents in Canadian Mines in December, not one is set down, in the Official Gazette, as having occurred in Nova Scotia.

M. J. K. L. Ross is not now in connection with the Coal Company. Jack is optimistic as to the coal end of the Merger, and characteristic as to the Steel end.

Private advices from Indianapolis are to the effect that two gentlemen, well known around the Southern C. B. collieries, are having the time of their lives.

It is said that many of the old workmen in Springhill don't see much sense in the continuance of the strike. If a bold and courageous leader were to step to the front and declare for work, a mighty host would soon follow him. What is lacking is a leader.

Things are very quiet at Springhill. Neither side is letting its neighbor know what it is doing. The labor ticket did not make a clean sweep at the town election. Tom Pigott, a miner, or who was such up till the commencement of the strike, was elected as an opponent of the labor ticket, so hints the Halifax Herald, and in a matter like this, the Herald is not apt to lie.

Isn't it rather funny to hear the mayors and councillors of some of the towns complaining about the non-collection of taxes. There is not the slightest necessity for these to censure themselves; the public are doing that, in the back corners as well as at the corners of the streets. Instead of whining over delinquent taxpayers, why don't they see that the taxes are promptly collected; that's what they're there for, and it is easy, the law is behind them.

The Glace Bay Gazette says the strike could have been settled on Mr. McDougall's terms last October. With all due deference to the Gazette, we may state that the strike could not have been settled last October, unless on unconditional surrender of the men. Mr. Duggan saw his mistake in receiving a 'go between' in time. But had the agreements matured, things would have been worse than ever. The first committee of U. M. W. men received might mean a practical protest by the P. W. A. men. When the strike was declared it was declared to be a fight to a finish. The P. W. A. took up the challenge, and will see it through.

It is said that 600 voters were disfranchised at the late town elections in Springhill. This is due, no doubt, in great part, to the inability of the men on strike to pay their taxes. It is further said that nearly five hundred were disfranchised in Stellarton for non payment of taxes chiefly. Well, there was no strike in Stellarton. On the contrary we have the Chronicle's word for it that everything was booming in 1909, even to the post office. That being so there must be something very far amiss in the town's management. All deny responsibility; all the same all the people are not fools, and have placed the responsibility where it rightly belongs.

Sir George A. Drummond, among other things, one of the principal shareholders in the Cumberland Ry. & Coal Company, died in Montreal last week at a ripe old age.

Mr. Wanklyn, Vice President of the Dominion Coal Co. has been elected as a member of the Montreal Board of Control. He is the one 'English speaking' member of the Board.

The U. M. W. leaders at Springhill say that though they have spent a big sum on the strikes in Nova Scotia, they have not yet began to fight. Well, now, isn't it about time they were doing things. So far there has been no display of skill or courage on their part. They have made big display of cowardly methods in C. B. rather than of generalship.

Attorney General McLean at the Dartmouth Board of Trade annual meeting said: "We should not oppose the expenditure of money in the West; . . . The West should be our market for manufactured goods. The Georgian Bay canal will help the maritime provinces by giving us a waterway into the gateway of the West.

Commissions are quite fashionable these days, and Professors, as best able to fill the bill, are in vogue. Even the Ottawa Labor Department, which has a big staff, had to have a commission to enquire into the working of the 8 hour law in other countries. If McKenzie King has not all the necessary information at his finger ends by this time, he has been taking things easy in the past years. There are some who hold that the Morning Chronicle's 'brilliant' young friend is more of an ornament than a utility, and the RECORD is not going to risk falling out with these by arguing to the contrary.

It is not probable that the U. M. W. will engage in any big strike in the U. S. the coming Spring. Their finances will scarcely permit of such a luxury. If a little strike like that they have been engineering in Nova Scotia caused so heavy a depletion of the funds that the balance on hand is less than it has been for years, a big strike would wipe the whole fund out. According to the auditors report the balance on hand is \$470,000. The U. M. W.'s, claim to have a membership of 300,000. They have at the present, cash on hand equal to a dollar and a half per member, not a big reserve of a surety.

The Montreal 'Witness' has been reorganized and revitalized in all its departments. Editorial and reportorial staffs have been augmented by the most experienced men to be procured. The Montreal 'Witness' is indeed an ideal family newspaper, maintaining at all times a high moral standard, its news reliable, well arranged, and its editorials acknowledged on all sides to be 'at once fair and forceful'. Most of our readers want a metropolitan paper as well as the indispensable local newspaper, and they cannot do better than take the 'Witness'.