pipes in a mine in which safety lamps were in use, and, of course, pipes prohibited. But the poor fellows did not know they were breaking a law. Their offence was overlooked, and yet what might it not have led to? As remarked in the *Mining Record*, it may soon become necessary to print the special rules in more languages than the English. The members of the P. W. A. might prefer but one language, and that none be permitted to enter a mine who did not understand it. That desire complied with might mean the crippling seriously of some mines. I notice that hereafter the Manitoba Government will convey coal lands to no man who will not enter into bonds to give every countryman who comes with his team to the pit as much coal as he can use for a dollar and seventy-five cents per ton. That either means that the coal mine operator will work for nothing or else salt those who do not take the coal away in farm wagons. Some down here are under the impression that miners out West demand more wages than those of the East. That will not be possible with a dollar seventy-five cent coal, unless the mines in Manitoba make no water, require no timbering and have very soft coal. The wage bill alone of one of the Nova Scotia collieries was $75,000, and the coal raised was less than 35,000 tons. That gives two dollars a ton for labor, without counting material, royalty, or fixed charges. Some reformers down here hysterically call upon the Provincial Government to undertake the working of a coal mine. If the Government only would it would result, so they say, in cheaper coal and bigger wages. Just how the Government is to do this marvellous trick is not explained. It is quite possible that if the Government selected a favorable area it might for a time, and not providing for the future, or for contingencies, which in coal mining may mean the wreck of the pit by an explosion, give the people, or some of them, two dollar coal. But what would it do when the mines became deep and costly? Would it abandon deep mines and begin again, in a new place? The people would permit no such utter folly. There are in one county alone of Nova Scotia at least 24 abandoned mines. Why are they abandoned? Not because all the coal has been extracted, but because when fire or explosion took place, and there being in these days what was supposed to be a superabundance of coal, the company found it cheaper to open a new mine than go to the trouble of reopening and recovering the old. Sixty years ago the General Mining Operators abandoned a pit in Cape Breton because the coal was more expensive to work than it would be in a new mine. That old pit was reopened some time ago by the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, and the coal is actually costing less to produce than at another of their mines. The Government will not again tolerate the improvidence of the old days, and surely what they will not tolerate in others they themselves will not be guilty of. One of the stock cries of those who cry for cheaper coal is that it retards industries. There is one thing these have to explain, and it is this: Coal is higher in price to-day than at any previous time within the past fifty years, and yet industries are more prosperous than ever. Between the years 1878 and 1895, coal was dirt cheap. How fared it with industrial development in these years? It was all but stagnant. The item ''notive power'' is no doubt an important one, but it is quite insignificant as compared with ''management.'' We must now have the best management, irrespective of cost; it was not always so, and just because it was otherwise was there so slow progress. The *Labor Gazette* gives the average wage of Canadian miners as $513 per annum. The average number of tons raised per person employed is 300. Some of the readers of THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL may be able to figure out how much profit a Manitoba mine owner will have if he sells coal at a dollar seventy-five.

Notices were posted at the shaft houses of Le Roi and Le Roi No. 2 mines on June 15th, informing the employes that on July 1st the following advances in wages would take effect:—Machine men, from $3.50 to $4 per day; muckers, from $3 to $3.25; shaft men, from $4 to $4.50; timbermen, $3.50 to $4.

GENERAL MINING NEWS

ALBERTA.

As a result of the fire which destroyed the equipment of the Walters' coal mine near Strathcona, six men lost their lives and fifty men are thrown out of employment.

QUEBEC.

Discoveries of molybdenite, graphite and copper are reported from the Gatineau district near the height of land. The claims registered in Quebec are located in two islands in Lake Kabingo.

ALASKA.

Junian.—On June 4th Judge Wickersham handed down a most important mining decision, which confirmed the right to the waters of any mining stream by appropriation, as against the rights of riparian land owners. This will have the effect of protecting mining companies against extortion by jumpers. The finding was made in the suit of Thorndyke versus the Alaskan Perseverance Mining Company and, applied to ditch companies throughout Alaska, will affect investments aggregating about $8,000,000.

NOVA SCOTIA.

GLACE BAY.

Construction work is being pushed by the Dominion Coal Company at Reserve. The screening plant, which will cost about $15,000, will be run by a 75 horse-power motor taking current at 500 volts. The new bankhead is about 250 feet in length. The trestle work to the east slope is 900 feet long, to the French slope 80 feet. Coal is hoisted from the pit by endless haulage. Chain haulage conveys it to the top of the bank.

GENERAL.

The Torbrook iron mines, which were recently shut down for a short time, have resumed work. The railway extension from the Wheelock shaft to the Martin property is almost completed. Many miners have left Torbrook for Cobalt.

It is stated that Mr. Hiram Donkin, of the Dominion Coal Company, is to be appointed Deputy Commissioner of Mines and Public Works.

President Richards, of the New England Gas & Coke Company of Boston, has announced that the company intends to go into the wholesale coal business and will bring to that port about 1,500,000 tons of Nova Scotia coal per year.

ONTARIO.

COBALT.

On June 14th seven miners were overcome by dynamite gas at the Cobalt Central.

The Nancy Helen Mine has installed a 12-drill compressor, driven by a gasoline engine.

A 10-drill compound air and steam compressor has been ordered by the Nipissing Company.

From No. 6 shaft on the Cobalt Lake Company's aeras a good showing of silver leaf is being taken.

The new vein cut by the Nipissing Company is an extension of the Trethewey Company's vein and is about six inches in width.

The Coniagas Mine is still the largest shipper. When the concentrator is completed her shipments will probably be increased by fifty per cent.

The 13-drill compound air and steam compressor ordered by the Cobalt Lake Mining Company arrived at Cobalt on June 8th. It has now been installed.

Superintendent Drummond, of the Nipissing, reports that $1,058,000 worth of ore has been blocked out. The mine is shipping at the rate of $100,000 per month.