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# Maritime Mining Record

MAY 10 1911

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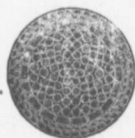
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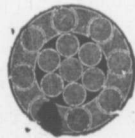
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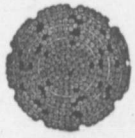
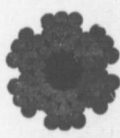
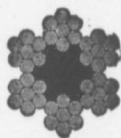
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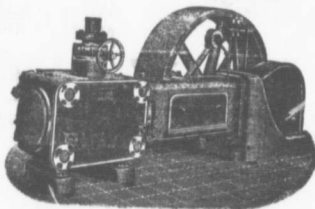
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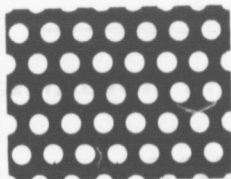
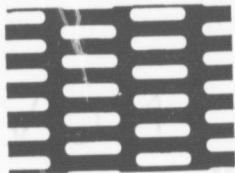
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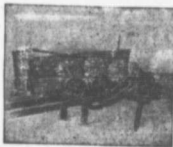
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# MARITIME MINING RECORD

Vol. 13, No. 21. Stellarton, N. S., May 10th. 1911. New Series

## SOME TIMELY SUGGESTIONS.

(Paper read by C. J. Coll before the Mining Society.)

It is claimed that the first explosive used in Canada for the getting of coal was in the mines at Stellarton, Nova Scotia, now the property of the Acadia Coal Company. Records shew that powder was in use in the early thirties of the last century, at which time the line of shafts to the Foord Seam, and known as the "Bye Pits," belonged to and were operated by the General Mining Association.

Many claims as to mining matters are made with respect to these old workings—some no doubt true, some otherwise. As to whether the above claim is classed as true or otherwise I am unable to say and have not the time to verify. The Pictou Miners' motto with respect to Mines and Mining is—"To claim every thing and concede nothing—and we must stand together."

It is needless to say that in these modern days of keen competition and high rates of wages some means must (wherever possible) be employed to reduce the cost of production or to maintain present costs as long as possible. Granting that it is difficult to reduce wages when once established, the alternative is left—to increase production per workman. Among means employed are—Machines and the use of Explosives—the latter recognized as a means years ago, as now; the former, of comparatively recent date.

Coming back to the crux of the matter, as intimated in my brief preface, we have had experience with many explosives in our mines, and they all point in the same direction—use no Explosive other than a Permitted one.

We will not consider Black Powder, except to point out the results and losses which were attendant on its use in the mines of Pictou County. As far back as 1840 or 1841, a miner in one of the old Bye Pits was burnt so badly by the ignition of gas in firing a shot (Black Powder) that he died in a short while. It was a daily occurrence—even in the memory of some of our younger miners—to have feeders of gas ignited at the face by shots. So common was this that wet canvas was provided to beat out the flames after shooting; and in some cases where this failed a small cannon was taken close to the face and a heavy charge set off in order to extinguish by concussion. To many of the fires so started which were not extinguished are due the numerous fires in our mines which have been giving trouble for years and have caused great loss to property. I feel fairly certain that ninety per cent of the fires which have occurred in the Stellarton Field were started by blown-out shots and by the use of Black Powder.

Some years ago, it was decided to introduce "Safety Explosives." In the meantime, discipline was becoming more rigid, mining laws and regulations for

the preservation of life and property better,—and a marked change was at once apparent. While trouble had been experienced with workmen in introducing the Safety Explosive, it was only in use a short time until the changed conditions so appealed to them that a change back would have resulted in consternation and a strike.

(Mr. Coll then proceeds to enumerate the steps taken to secure a satisfactory powder, one that would be efficient, economic, and safe. We leave out the details as the paper is lengthy, and it is desirable that it should not cover more than two issues.—(E. L. Record.)

In many of our mines we are obliged to use Explosives in order to "get" our coal economically. This being granted, let us have the best and safest. Personally, I do not think any of them are Safe, nor do I think makers would claim so. But if there are any means whereby they may be brought up to same standards as are required in Great Britain and on the Continent here in Canada let us have them. If not, then, so far as we are concerned, with our fiery, dusty mines, we will obtain our Explosives where we are sure the requirements warrant us in the belief that such standards must be maintained.

It is axiomated that, no matter what Explosive is used care must be exercised in the handling of the Powder from the time it is received at the mines until all danger from fire has been passed after the shot is exploded and the coal "blown down" has either been "loaded out" or "turned over."

This brings us to a consideration of the human element in our endeavor to safeguard life and property, which, to my mind, involves two questions of vital importance to attain those ends toward which every responsible employer of miners and others working underground is striving:

First—Education of the individual workman.  
Second—Discipline.

As both of these pertain to the broad question of greater care and efficiency on the part of the individual or collectively of the total number of workmen employed in and about the mines with respect to all dangers, including those pertaining particularly to the use of Explosives, it is intended to treat each along the general lines as applicable to daily practice.

By education of the individual workman I do not mean book learning or theoretical instructions in the more advanced branches of mining relating to those subjects and questions which are passed upon by Engineers and Officials. Education in the sense as implied in these remarks means instruction in those things which, in the course of his daily occupation, lessen dangers and increase efficiency; practical illustrations of methods whereby a workman produces a greater tonnage with less expenditure of muscular energy; hints as to boring of holes for shooting and location of

holes with respect to certain physical conditions existing in a working face; mining or shearing along certain lines; the setting of timber to give more lasting results and better support to roof or sides, and by so doing lessening the time taken for renewals from actual earning time at the face or in the loading of material won. So many interruptions in preliminary work or in renewals of work badly placed or poorly executed detract so much as is taken from actual earning time.

It is absolutely necessary and unavoidable that a portion of each Miner's time must be employed on "dead work;" and while true that much of so-called "dead work" has earning capacity for the miner, it is of material. Remuneration for "dead work" particularly applies to first preparation and placement as the renewals caused by slipshod first methods, and in addition entails extra expense on the operator for material required to replace what may have been broken or destroyed.

It is too often the case that workmen do not know simply from lack of instruction and helpful hints. We might go further and say that great improvements may be made in the most ordinary methods which have been down through many of the older workmen who have been taken as mentors by younger men, as they grew up with and took for granted that what they saw these more experienced men practice must be the best way to perform any given piece of work. Yet at the same time by giving thought to the work before them and experimenting in different ways would lead to other and better methods. Faults are too often perpetuated and in fact augmented. There must be a right way to do any piece of work, which will benefit all concerned.

Take the question of drawing timber. It will be found that nearly every man has a different method. They cannot all be right. It is freely admitted that varying conditions in a mine or in fact a given working face require different methods. But the point I mean formulated from like or nearly like conditions has applied as closely as possible.

Take another instance - the placing of "Chocks." An inspector of roadways or working places discloses the fact that, where conditions apparently are identical, at the same time some retain their position and then require repairs in a short time and continue to give trouble. Experiments in location as to high or low side; incline of foundation and depth of same; whether bottom should "toed" against strata or not; batter of face; placing of timber with reference to both top and bottom to bring sticks longitudinal or on the incline of the same; squaring up of top or leaving on backs of chocks and rib or built solidly against same; whether wedging should be driven tightly or allowance made in inclination of certain rows of sticks by wedges or heavier butts to give varying inclinations in "chock;" whether or not "chocks" should be filled with stone or refuse or left open; these and many other make for permanency and reduce labour and expense.

While most of the above relate more particularly to

the miner, the same method of instruction may be applied to each and every Department about the mines, both on the surface and underground. The secret of success in this connection rests absolutely in interesting the individual, and therein lies the difficulty. The old saying that "it is hard to teach an old dog new tricks" may be applicable to Nova Scotia workmen about collieries, but at the same time they are of a class which absorb ideas readily; and, while appearing to dissent (probably due to the preponderance of blood of a highly argumentative race) and to take a diametrical position to what may be to their best interests, after a time they will be found to be following out suggestions which have been made; and if results prove satisfactory, the scheme has been their own, the credit theirs. And it may be that, once started, they evolve improvements on the specialized work in hand with respect to which instructions have been given. Interest being established along a certain line leads naturally to another. If better results are obtained by the individual or a set of workmen it is fair to presume that further interest is created in other workmen doing like work. Much might be written on the subject as to how to attain desired results and to educate workmen along foregoing lines.

For some time past this question has been agitated in the Eastern part of Pennsylvania, and from the attention it is now receiving in the Press has been put into successful operation at a number of large works—both in respect to contract work and day labour. It has not as yet been tried in or about coal mines, at least so far as my knowledge of the subject goes. The suggestions I make briefly are offered more for the sake of bringing about discussion by the Members of the Society.

It may take some time to inaugurate some system whereby instruction may be developed along the lines of least resistance and smooth over adverse opinions on the part of those whom we are desirous of reaching and aiding.

As we are all aware, some men have a knack of doing certain things. Others have profited by experience and observation and a sort of sixth sense in the way of intuition, and by the application of any one or a combination of these attain better results, decrease their actual labour or increase their earnings, or if they are the kind most sought after—both. This applies particularly to contract men, although the same is true of day or monthly men, as their services are in greater demand and command higher wages.

The course advocated is—to select men expert in each branch and have them act as instructors and demonstrators—that is to say, they stay with a certain number of men and by actual work prove their contentions, and at the same time give reasons for every move or way of doing certain things; this course to continue until the men themselves follow the leader mechanically, if no other way. Let thorough grounding by word and example be the keynote of instruction.

When it is not taken kindly, let up for a while, and take another set of men—coming back later to try again. Where men are ready and anxious to learn and are possibly held back by others in the same place, place such men together and afford them an opportunity to satisfy themselves and afford them an opportunity to satisfy themselves as to the benefits to be derived. They will sooner or later be shining examples to the "doubting Thomases" and bring them into line.

We all realize the difficulty of getting that rare combination of "doer" and "teacher," so that experiments are to be made in selection of the right instructor.

(Continued next issue.)

## MARITIME MINING RECORD.

The MARITIME MINING RECORD is published the second and fourth Wednesday in each month.

The RECORD is devoted to the Mining—particularly Coal Mining—Industries of the Maritime Provinces.

Advertising rates, which are moderate, may be had on application. Subscription \$4.00 a year. Single Copies 5 cents.

R. DRUMMOND, PUBLISHER.

STELLARTON, N. S.

May 10

WHERE NOVA SCOTIA LEADS.

The RECORD does not assume to be in a position to speak for labor, as a whole, in Nova Scotia, while claiming to be in a position to speak in reference to labor at the coal mines. Confining ourselves to labor at the coal mines there need be no hesitation in asserting that since 1880 this class of labor has received every consideration at the hands of our local legislators. Since 1879, it can be with safety asserted, that every consideration has been given the demands or requests, of labor. About thirty years ago the rather novel demand was made for incorporation of a trades union, and it was granted. At the same time there was demand for many important amendments to the Mines Act, which were also granted. These were previous to 1882. Since that year and almost year by year since that time the special legislation granted has been a series of triumphs for labor at the mines and indirectly for labor as a whole. So far as legislation is concerned no body of men have been so highly favored as the mine workers of Nova Scotia. We challenge contradiction to the assertion that no reasonable or legitimate demand has been turned down. Remedial measures for the betterment of the condition of mine workers ceased to be enacted only when requests for such ceased, or when the list of reforms had become exhausted. Let us enumerate some of the legislation enacted since 1882 affecting labor:

1. At the request of labor, and at a time prior to the enactment of the much talked of New Zealand Arbitration Act, there was placed on the Provincial statutes an arbitration law which had it been acted upon would have abolished strikes in N. S. It was ahead of the present Federal conciliation act. In a sense it was compulsory, as a penalty for not abiding by an award was one of its features. This provision, later, was cancelled by one who thought he was doing a good turn for labor, whereas the withdrawal of the penalty to be imposed on the workmen mutilated badly the act. The act was perhaps a little ahead of the time. There was, however, an important part omitted. The original act revived, with a provision that in the event of neither employers or employed evoking the act, the government of its own accord, or at the request of citizens formally expressed, could set the machinery of the act in operation, would make it ideal. That done, there would be no more labor troubles at the mines of the province.

2. The establishment of Relief Funds places the

miners of Nova Scotia in a more favored position than those of other lands. The Relief Fund is no pauper measure, for while the government and the companies contribute to the fund, the workmen's contribution is larger than both combined. No workmen's compensation act yet enacted is to be compared with the Relief Fund in the matter of wise allowance to its members in times of stress.

3. If there is no pension act on the statute book it is because there is not as yet, in this new country, any urgent demand for it. A few years ago a request was made for old age pensions. The government did not turn the request down but appointed a commission which made an excellent report with valuable suggestions. Should the demand for pensions arise in the near future the government has information at hand which will enable it intelligently to handle the subject.

4. Though there was nothing like a unanimous demand for an eight hour day, the government thought it well to inquire into the subject and for this purpose appointed a commission. The workmen recognize that until climatic conditions can be met by some, as yet unknown, expedients, it would not be in their interest to press for a statutory day. Indeed with the working of the British act before them it is doubtful if they are enamoured of the old cry for eight hours work, play, and sleep.

5. The compensation act is passed over for the reason that a majority of the men preferred their Relief Funds, realizing that they could not have both.

9. Inspectors. In Britain they have been clamoring for some time for additional mine inspectors from the ranks. In Nova Scotia we have an inspector for every four or five collieries, and four of the five inspectors were former pit workers.

7. In Britain also they are demanding shelter for checkweighmen. Years ago the N. S. Act provided not only shelter but a desk and 'every' facility for the checkweighmen to carry on their work.

8. In the U. S. they are asking for stricter laws regulating the use of explosives. In one district there were eleven lives lost last year, through their use, whereas in Nova Scotia in years there has not been a fatal accident from explosives, and this, we claim, is due to wise regulations.

9. All managers and lesser officials must be holders of certificates, and

10. All miners must, before working at a face, be also holders of certificates granted after examination.

11. An act is now before the Pa. legislature asking for ambulances, blasting by shot-firers, for assistants to examiners, more extended use of safety lamps, rescue apparatus, helmets, etc., all of which we already have in Nova Scotia.

12. The act referred to also asks that the use of electricity in mines be legalized. Well in N. S. we are so far ahead that even an electric pocket flash light is in disfavor in gassy mines.

These are a few of the things secured by wise and forward legislation. Outside of mining the workers in factories are looked after. We have a factories act and government inspection; and then there is the compensation act, applicable to works where more than ten men are employed. Nova Scotia is just as much a paradise for the workmen as New Zealand. Of course wages for unskilled and perhaps skilled labor are not so high here as in the West or in the United States, but then living is less costly and we have here that which is better than

mere wages, comfort, freedom, law and order. Our workmen may not earn as much, but they are not called on to spend so freely. Our workmen may not have so much excitement, they have fewer worries and discomfords. They may not earn as much but they can save more.

#### PROGRESSIVE 'SCOTIA'

Things never looked better for Trenton, a town now, where grows the manufacturing plant of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. The papers have it that Thos. Cantley, the untiring manager of the company, when in Britain, bought plant and machinery to form the nucleus of what would by and by become big and modern steel shipbuilding works. It may not perhaps be gainsaid that in ordering new and for Nova Scotia, yes even for the Dominion, stupendously large and wonderful machinery, the management had not in their mind the requirements for steel shipbuilding, but while the company are preparing to supply the material there is no present intention of going into steel shipbuilding on their own account. And while the machinery ordered by them will play a prominent part should shipbuilding soon be started in Nova Scotia, it is all important and necessary for the company's expansion and for the production and manufacture of material after the most approved, economical methods. Forging was the first business of the concern which has steadily grown into the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co., and in its operations.

There is not a better forge in Canada than that at Trenton, But, and here begins the tale, Good as it is it is not good enough for this rapidly growing concern. It was thought good enough and quite up-to-date until Mr. Cantley happened to light upon an establishment in Germany, where 4,000 men were employed in the machine shops alone. The German manager and the Nova Scotian of course talked shop. The former said there were three or four similar forges to his in Germany, but there were no forges in Britain, yes, there was one, at Darlington. That one might be called a forge, the others were little better than toys. "Well," thought Mr. Cantley, "that might hit 'Scotia' if he knew just what our plant was." Bidding the German rather hasty good-bye, Mr. Cantley bolted for Darlington and saw the forge where shafts for the Olympic and the big White Star liners were forged. On one side he saw thrust away ready for the scrap heap big hammers and other tools looked upon as antiquated in Canada. It was a case of instantaneous conversion. Just such presses for steel, and for Trenton. And orders have been given for machinery, orders so extensive that they will keep one busy for eight months to supply, and which will cost a half million dollars or so.

The steel ingots presently turned out in Canada are not flawless. In every ingot there are air bubbles, some big and some almost invisible to the naked eye, but even a small bubble may make worthless a valuable piece of machinery at the testing point. Presumably the upper part of most ingots has to be cut off on account of the pressure being unequal to the expulsion of all the bubbles. The new presses ordered will make perfect ingots, wholly free from bubble imperfections. This means a tre-

mendous saving. There will be no flaws found hereafter in completed forgings necessitating their rejection, and there will be no remelting of imperfect ingots, or pieces. This new addition to the plant may be called 'the fluid steel compressor,' Another huge piece of mechanism to be added is the Hydraulic forge press. This displaces hammers and other tedious processes. When installed at Trenton it will do work in a couple of hours that now requires twenty and will enable the company to turn out shafts sixteen inches or so in diameter in the course of a few hours.

That the company's axle shop, there is not a better on the continent, and when the new plant referred to has been installed at Trenton, the Nova Scotia Company will have a better forge shop than any in the United States or Canada.

#### WHAT THE U. M. W. HAVE COST NOVA SCOTIA.

There are some few people outside the members of the U. M. W. who express sympathy for that order. Among those who have given public expression to that solicitude are Dr. Kendall, M. P. P., Dr. McMillan, M. P. P., and Mr. Baillie, though he was more guarded than the others. Dr. Kendall is a patriot, and surely therefore he has not, when bolstering up the U. M. W., taken into consideration the incalculable injury the foreign order has done to the province since the first day it darkened our doors with its advent. The havoc the order has wrought morally, mentally, and socially cannot be estimated in figures, and perhaps it has to be confessed that the mental or moral aspects of the case will not appeal so directly to the people at large as a short presentation of the material loss their pockets has inflicted. The loss in coal shipments alone in Inverness, and Cumberland to 950,000 tons loss of revenue to the province from lessened shipments is in the case of Cape Breton Co. \$124,375 and in the case of Inverness and Cumberland \$85,000 or a total of \$209,375. With that sum in the provincial treasury much more could be done for humane institutions or education than was possible. U. M. W. strikes are responsible for short shipments since July 1909 of 1- at \$2.25 and the mainland coal at \$300 per ton, selling price, we have a total of \$4,575,000 lost to the province in wages supplies etc., etc. The loss in revenue added to this gives a total of \$4,784,000. Let us assume that charities to the amount of \$784,000 are remains a loss of four million dollars. A dead loss for there is not a single thing to set against it. Nova Scotia has paid sweetly for her supineness, and her tolerance of and toadying to marauders.

#### THE NINETY MILLION MARKET.

To speak of the "Agreement" as opening up to Nova Scotia, or let us say the lower provinces, a market of ninety million people is to mislead. The ninety million market may possibly benefit Nova Scotia fishermen, but it is not likely to benefit the farmers one little bit and the miners not at all. This market that they would tempt us with has ever been open to Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and other states and yet it does not seem to have done them so very much good.

According to a United States report the increase in ten years in the value of farm lands in the States named has been 67.33 and 37 per cent respectively, while in Nova Scotia the increase has been 181 per cent. The increases in Maine etc. do not say very much for the ninety-million market. The increase in Nova Scotia is due as we have time and again stated to increased activity in coal mining and to working of steel. Speaking on this point a contemporary well says:—

"The great influx of settlers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta accounts for the rapid increase in farm values in those provinces; but what is the explanation of the extraordinary increase in farm values in the three Maritime Provinces of Canada? Why did Nova Scotia farm values increase 181 per cent, while farm values in the neighbouring state of Maine only increased 67 per cent.?"

Undoubtedly the great increase of values in the Maritime Provinces is due to the establishment of manufacturing industries in recent years. The establishment of great iron and steel industries in Nova Scotia has revolutionized conditions throughout the three provinces. A profitable home market has been created for everything the farmers produce. These industries have been equally beneficial to the fishermen.

As the steel industries are located in Nova Scotia the influence on the price of farm lands has been most marked in that province, but Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick have been greatly benefited. The development of St. John as a winter port has also helped to increase farm values in New Brunswick.

It will be noted that the increase of farm values is considerably greater in Quebec than in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, and the improvement has been greater in Ontario than in the adjoining state of Michigan."

## *- Rubs by Rambler.*

All roads lead to Sydney, and all sorts of businesses are finding opportunity there. One of the latest is an Assurance Association, Sick and Accident, I take it from a circular before me. The capital is \$50,000 in dollar shares. But all that sum is not available in cash for the circular is silent however on this point—three of the promoters got between them 24,900 shares "or" as the contract says "having provided the whole of the preliminary expenses in connection with a 1 for the promotion of the company", and one hundred shares is given to a fourth party for services rendered. Benefit societies are not a new thing and we see it not that there are no things arresting in the circular I might have nothing to say. First of all notice the legend: "No Fines—No Medical Examination—No Levies." The second phrase in the legend will seem good to some, and should bring business. They come the name but I skip that as it might look like free advertising. After that we have the scale of benefits, namely: For a dollar a month males from 16 to 45 will receive \$10.00 per week for 26 weeks for sickness; the same for accident; \$5.00 per week for 5 weeks for quarantine, and \$5.00 for 4 weeks for unemployment. Females from 17 to 40 pay the same as males but only get half the allowance in each case, only they get 26 instead of 5 weeks for quarantine, and

5 weeks, instead of 4, allowance for unemployment. The scale, to my mind, affords every suffragette an opportunity to kick. In the course of 18 months it is possible for a male, for his dollar a month, to "come" on the society for \$565.00, while in the case of a lone woman the utmost she could exact is \$317.50. This does not look like fulfilling the scriptural injunction: "Ye that are strong should bear the infirmities of the weak." It is all the other way about, and the weak are made to help the strong. The following is what a person with a judicial turn of mind might call a beautiful example of redundancy:

"The association is established by the workers for the workers. Its greatest advantages are that the sick and incapacitated workers can be independent of all the miseries of poverty by the payment of the small sum of one dollar per month; which will also"—(don't miss the also)—"entitle them to a claim of \$5.00 per week for four weeks in case of unemployment, also \$5.00 for five weeks in case of members quarantined, in addition to,—(don't forget the "in addition to")—\$10.00 per week for 26 weeks in case of illness, and \$10.00 per week for 26 weeks in case of accident." The terms offered are the most liberal I have come across in any Accident Insurance Co., and yet they will not tempt the steel workers or miners. A miner pays into the Dominion Relief Association 50 cents a month, and is entitled to \$6.00 per week for 26 weeks—\$156.00, and \$3.00 for 26 weeks—\$78.00, and then \$1.00 for 104 weeks—\$208.00 in case of prolonged disability, or a total in all of \$442.00. Then again in case of only \$200.00 in case of fatal accident, his widow gets \$100.00 down, \$480.00 in five year monthly instalments, and if she has three children, 5, 5, and 7 years old, she gets for them before the last has passed the \$100.00 only. \$972.00 or a total of \$1,552.00 instead of \$200.00 only. Than the Dominion Coal Co's Relief Society there is not, a better sickness and accident insurance society, in my opinion, on the face of the globe.

The people who know little about the coal trade and still discourse of the great benefit reciprocity in coal would be to the Nova Scotia operators, tell us to look back to the old reciprocity days when there were fleets of vessels at Cow Bay, North Sydney and Abercrombie, on the East River of Pictou, all clamoring for cargoes to be carried to the United States. If one tells these people that in forty-five years conditions have wholly changed, they still insist that these changed conditions will not deter the shipments of coal to the New England States. And here they are woefully mistaken. Through ignorance or perversity they ignore certain facts which must enter into any intelligent discussion of the question. In 1865 when the treaty was abrogated no less than seventy-two per cent. of the total sales of coal were taken by the U. S. In 1865 about a twenty-fourth part of the total U. S. coal consumption came from Nova Scotia, for in that year the production of U. S. bituminous was about ten million gross tons. At that time Nova Scotia's coal production was equal to a twentieth of that produced in the United States, while to-day it is only a sixty-eighth part, a drop in the bucket. In 1865, half a every pound of coal mined in Nova Scotia gone to the U. S. it would have been equal to say a twentieth of the production there; had all the coal mined in Nova Scotia in 1910 gone across the line, it would not have constituted a twentieth, but a miserly sixty-eighth part of the U. S. bituminous coal production. In the U. S.

since the abrogation of the treaty the production has increased forty fold; in Nova Scotia it has increased only ten fold. In 1854 when the treaty was entered upon, the U. S. produced only some four million tons of coal. In 1910 she produced a quantity greater by a hundred times. In 1854 she had few mines and no great connecting railways, now she has innumerable mines in many states, and railways spread through these like net work. If coal were admitted free to the U. S., Nova Scotia coal operators could not serve a pound in opposition to the coal operators of Western Virginia, who are gradually gaining control of that market from so powerful a competing state as Pa., and if Pa. is being forced out, it is not the least likely that Nova Scotia would be allowed to put a foot in.

A writer in an exchange says: "Reciprocity undoubtedly would be beneficial to Nova Scotia, especially to those engaged in fishing and farming, and I do not think that operators of coal mines should be alarmed if the duty on coal had been entirely removed, if they could have access to the American market. The last summer of the old reciprocity treaty, the summer of 1866, I spent at Port Morien, C. B., from forty to fifty vessels were at the wharves and breakwater, the output of both mines then being operated could not supply the demand for the American market."

Evidently there are still Van Winkles. The mine now at Port Morien could more than supply the demand for round coal likely to be asked for under free coal. One modern steamer can carry as much as the forty vessels of 1866, and one colliery as supply as much coal as the total of collieries in 1866. In 1866 the American coal output was a fiftieth part of the output of to-day. Conditions have changed. Since the Anthracite strike Nova Scotia has not sent a pound of round coal to the United States, and she won't send any, duty or no duty, until there is a general and prolonged strike of miners in the U. S.

In a collegiate debate in Amherst between Dalhousie and Sackville, a student on the latter team who had evidently drunk from the turbid stream of William C's wisdom, declared that Nova Scotia coal could be bought cheaper in Boston than in Boston. This is William all over. The student had a blind guide and therefore little wonder he fell into the ditch. It does not speak well for Mount Allison that it would consent to one of its scholars go-debater enquired at the RECORD office he would have received information which might have saved his reputation. I wonder if he would be greatly surprised to be told that could he not only buy Nova Scotia coal in Boston as cheaply as he could in Nova Scotia, or Sackville, but that he could not buy a ton of it there, at all, for love or for money, and for the simple reason that for years not a pound of Nova Scotia coal has been shipped to Boston. If he called at Everett the gas people might give him a paper bag full as a gift, but they would not sell any washed slack to him or his agent, and that and unwashed slack are the only kinds of coal sent to Mass. in years. And nobody classes slack coal as coal for the purposes of an argument.

The schoolmaster evidently is abroad in more places than debating halls. Here is another speci-

men of unnecessary ignorance: "The provincial legislature has also passed an Em-ployers Liability Act—a most humane measure; but, remarkable to say, the miners of the province (one of the largest of our industrial classes, are excluded from the benefits of that Act. Why? Some people are wicked enough to suspect that it is because the Government is too chummy with the coal barons." To which it may be replied: 1st. All the miners of the province are not excluded from the operation of the compensation act, only such portions of them which have benefit societies that they consider more serviceable than any yet devised compensation act. 2nd. The miners were not excluded from the benefits of the act on account of the chumminess of the government and the operators, but because the miners sent influential delegations to the House of Assembly asking that the Act should not apply to localities where there are Relief societies. The miners are of opinion, as stated, that the system of relief in vogue is preferable to any system of compensation.

I am very much affected these days by the grief displayed by many of the liberal papers on account of the weakness of the Tories, the discussions in their midst, and their lack of a leader. So great display of grief faces me to sympathise with them. Of course I don't quite understand how they should be sorry and that I should sympathise but the facts remain. Instead of being glad that the Tories have no capable leader, that they are at sixes and sevens, among themselves, and have not the ghost of a chance of success, why they are actually sick at heart, I sometimes have to laugh at the tender interest some of the papers take in their opponents or rather seem to take, but when I realize that their concern is real, I also put on sackcloth and become sprinkled with ashes by fling-oh, so sorry, for the poor dear torpescents. Mis-placed sympathy, ain't it?

A Sydney broker arguing on reciprocity and in reply to the statement that the coal duty and the flour duty were not honorably separable said: "If the duty were taken off flour to-day, the lower provinces would still buy Canadian flour." Well, then, why is free flour not included in the pact. If we are bound to get our flour from the West, what was the necessity for increasing the duty from fifty to seventy-five cents a barrel. Why, seeing flour and coal were in a formal pact, fifty cents duty on flour, for sixty-seven cents duty on coal, comes it about that the duty on flour has been increased fifty per cent., while fifty per cent. has been taken off the coal duty.

Minnesota women have lost the vote owing to the rudeness of a too ardent suffragette. A bill which had every prospect of success was being discussed in the Legislature when a leading senator rose to oppose. His arguments incensed some ladies in the gallery, and one of these threatened to go down and pull his nose. The senator adroitly turned the threat to his own advantage by the remark, 'Can you trust that sort of person with a vote?' When the division was taken, senators who up to then had been favorable, voted against his Bill.



## AMERICAN MINING METHODS.

Out of 390, the total number of shipping mines operating in Illinois, 225 blast coal from the solid. These exclusively solid blasting mines employed 22,731 men and produced 25,500,000 tons, or a little over one-half of the aggregate tonnage for the State. In the production of this coal there was exploded 1,000,000 kegs of powder, 25 million lbs. or 12½ thousand tons. Each employer used about 1,100 pounds; producing but a fraction over one ton for each pound of powder consumed. As to the marketable quality of the product, statements vary, some asserting that fully 50 per cent. is unfit for consumption. The one million kegs of powder, according to the contract rate, cost the miners \$1,750,000, add to this the cost of 688 shot firers at \$4.00 per day, 179 days, or \$500,000, brings the total to two and a quarter millions per annum. These items do not include all the expense which the using of powder involves.

The record this year shows that 17 men lost their lives directly on account of powder explosions and as the statute puts a value \$10,000 on each life, this adds another \$170,000 to the cost. This is not all, as many lives are lost because of fall rock and coal loosened on account of blasting, the net expense would foot up nearly three million dollars. Is this not too high a price for destroying coal and killing men? What have the miners and operators done toward changing these conditions? Beyond a few unimportant experiments with so-called safety explosives, nothing has been attempted. The question of absolutely prohibiting the use of all explosives in coal mines has never been publicly considered in this State. When the mine inspectors, two years ago, recommended a law prohibiting solid blasting in entries or other narrow work, the only response came from certain mine workers criticising the effort as an attempt to increase their work without increasing their compensation.

In the cause of this suggested reform it was not expected that powder manufacturers would enlist or that operators who realize considerable profit from powder sales, would become enthusiastic. The practice of solid shooting in narrow work is now practically confined to Sangamon County. Other districts, if they ever permitted it, abandoned it years ago. In the table relating to solid shooting mines the extra cost to the Sangamon Co. mines is shown. It required 243,970 kegs of powder to produce 4,353,890 tons, while in Wilfomson County, under similar conditions, but where the coal in all narrow work is cut, half a million tons more of coal was produced with 7,517 less kegs of powder. The purchase price of this additional powder with extra work in drilling holes and a diminished per capita product, came out of the wages of Sangamon County miners.

Whether it is possible with the operation of thick coal seams and the material now available in the mines to dispense entirely with the use of explosives or substitutes therefor, may be questioned, but must of the unjustifiable waste of present methods could be immediately avoided by requiring that all coal be undercut before shooting. Where machines were not employed this would mean a return to the lost art of pick mining, and incidentally an increase in the cost thereof, as it

would require more time and a higher grade of skilled labor to produce coal. This would not necessarily mean a net increase in the cost of production, and a readjustment of present labor relations.

The employment of practical miners would notably reduce the present cost of powder and other supplies; it would also reduce, if not entirely dispense with, the services of shot firers and the expense of many accidents, a great part of the wealth that is now diverted into these channels would find its way into the pay envelope of the practical, competent pick man. Out of the surplus men in the mines of Illinois, surely there are a sufficient number to perform the work of mining coal in the new solid shooting mines, or who, under the inducement of added compensation, would be willing to learn, considering that present demands do not require their employment for much more than one-half of the year.

No more effectual check could be placed upon excess capacity and production than through the adoption of a system that would require the employment of practical, experienced men to mine coal. While the volume at rush seasons might not be so great, the quality would be better and the operations conducted in a more intelligent and workmanlike manner. The men employed at the working places of the solid shooting mines are not miners, in the sense that term should be understood, the character of their work does not confer upon them that distinction; they are, at best, but drillers, blasters and loaders, employments which, while calling for some physical strength, demand no special tact or ability, and as a sequence, American coal mines are now overcrowded with legions of mere manual laborers. It is fitting that with the general impairment of the craft, its legitimate implements should disappear. Investigators report that in the class of mines referred to, the sight of a pick is the source of surprise. Once in a great while the remnants of one is discovered, but its use is chiefly confined to the unlawful practice of opening powder kegs.

Men who have come up from the ranks of apprentices at a time and under conditions that required some knowledge of the art of real mining, justly regret the methods through which the industry is rapidly becoming impaired.

If our coal resources are to be intelligently conserved, a more merchantable article produced, accidents avoided, the business put upon a higher plane, wages and profits increased, these, and other considerations, can be realized only by the abandonment of present plans with all the frightful waste and unnecessary expense they entail and the substitution therefor of a system that would encourage the employment of practical pick men and suitably reward skillful work.—Illinois Mine Report.

New York Board of Health have prohibited the use of what is known as a "common drinking cup" in any public building, institution, factory, theatre, school, railway station or ferry house in the city. This has been done on the advice of their health expert, who regards the public drinking cup as a carrier of diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid, cholera, influenza, and even tuberculosis.

# AROUND THE COLIERIES.

Ten days ago the Acadia had the biggest day's output in years, over two thousand tons.

Mr. John Moffatt was in Halifax during the U. M. W. conference, watching proceedings on behalf of the

Additional shipping facilities are being secured at Joggins by an extension of the dock, and the erection of 600 tons additional pocket capacity. The work is being done by an Amherst firm.

Since the world began it has held true that without the shedding of blood there shall be no remission. At this moment it looks as if the tragedy at Glace Bay means the freeing of the Nova Scotia miners from the tyranny and deadly blight of the U. M. W.

A large number of men, close on fifty, have gone to work at Springhill during the past ten days. It is said that there is now pit room for a limited number only, and that after the few empty places are filled there will not be working places for more men for probably six months.

When the new Brown Machine Co.'s works were being erected at Trenton many thought the plant was far too big for the business requirements for years. So much success has attended the company of late that the plant is found to be too small instead of too large. The company is rushed with orders, and is daily receiving enquiries as to new undertakings.

The esteemed Von Hagen paid a visit to the Great Northern Coal Company in Cumb. Co. last week. There has been a change in the management at that colliery, Mr. Emery having succeeded Mr. Buxton. An increase in the output has been secured. The Great Northern is now producing almost fifty tons per day, which they are shipping over the Maritime Road from Chignecto.

One of the big new steamers of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. made her first round trip, Wabana to Philadelphia and back, in April. The vessel carried the large quantity of 12,500 tons of ore, the largest cargo of any kind that ever left Newfoundland. The steamer took six days going, loaded, and five days to return. Between them, the two big steamers should carry 300,000 tons of ore before the end of the shipping season.

The Maritime Coal, Railway & Power Co. have an electrically operated Pick Quick long wall machine in service at the Joggins. It has been running for a month, and has given one hundred and twenty tons of coal each shift, which it cuts in three hours. This is not all that the machine can cut. It has exceeded all expectations, in that the length of face set out for it to cut was not long enough to keep the machine busy. This will be remedied shortly when a greater output from the machine is expected.

The report of one of the Springhill strikers who went to C. B. to spy out the 15th. of May strike possibilities or probabilities was to the effect that while No. 6 was O. K., all the collieries about Glace Bay were rotten, which interpreted means that they could not be drawn out to strike by any team of oxen at command of the U. M. W.

A simple soul writes in the Halifax Herald inviting the miners of the province to come out from the little weak P. W. A., and join themselves to a society that will back them up until the companies surrender. All the fools are not killed yet. This innocent over-looks the fact that so far the successes of the U. M. W. in Nova Scotia have been utter failures.

Discipline was meted out by the Dominion Coal Co. to a large number of its employees lately. Irregular attendance at work, and persistent absenteeism is to be drastically dealt with in future. Some eighty men, who did not seem to take much interest, were given their marching orders. It is to be hoped this lesson will not be lost on the lazy, and the bar loungers.

A number of the miners at Thorburn are talking Cosgrove, or the labor candidate. Well, there is no harm in that, it won't hurt the six other candidate. Independent candidates may be all right, but to speak of labor candidates in Nova Scotia, where all classes are represented in parliament, except manufacturers and mine owners, is to betray innocence that is not charming.

The latest from the conference in Halifax between Premier Murray and the U. M. W. delegates is to the effect that there is nothing doing. It is hinted that of the whole bunch of delegates only two seemed the least anxious for a settlement and ten to come, these two are not known as holding positions in Nova Scotia, carrying with them salaries which raise the holders above the pinch of poverty. How long o' lord how long will the poor foolish strikers of Springhill be content to be clothed in sackcloth and covered with ashes while certain brazen and oily tongued traitors strut about in purple and fine linen.

There should be no anxiety whatever as to the continued payment of the four per cent. dividend on steel. An Amherst audience the other evening was informed in the most solemn manner by a leading Mt. Allison man that the Dominion Coal Co. was content with nothing less than seventy-five cents profit on every ton of coal sold. Assuming that the company this year will sell three million seven hundred thousand tons, and that the profit per ton is as stated, the gross profit will be \$2,775,000, which will pay a dividend of five per cent. on \$14,000,000 worth of bonds, seven per cent. on \$8,000,000 of preferred, and four per cent. on \$35,000,000 of common, and still leave something to be added to reserve or used for the redemption of bonds, and mark you this is from the coal end alone.



## AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

Buller Lodge, P. W. A., is again in business. The following are the officers:

Daniel McAskill, M. W.; Joseph Frew, A. M. W.; Dan. R. McLean, Treasurer; Everett Reynolds, Financial Secretary; John Henry Mailman, Rec. Secretary; Wm. Byrne, Guardian; Charles H. Pemberton, Inside Watch; John McLeod, Outside Watch; Melford Johnson, Chaplain.

A lesson that operatives and operators must learn from the Springhill strike is that it is the height of folly to assume on the part of the operators that the men cannot hold out, and on the part of the men that the company will soon be forced to accede to the workmen terms. Had Mr. Cowans assumed, as perhaps he should have, that the men would be supported in a long stand, and had he secured at the first ample protection for men who would go to work, the strike would not have lasted six months.

Rev. D. M. Gillies and Rev. Dr. Thompson of G. Bay have discovered that the U. M. W. has not got competent or reliable leaders in N. S. for they both warn the workmen to remain away from the Union—meaning of course the foreign order—until it has leaders that can lead. The discovery is welcome though, frankly, it is a wonder it was not made two years ago. The same sources of information were open to all as were open to the RECORD, which made the discovery of incompetence two years ago or more.

There have been not a few defections from the U. M. W. but until now the RECORD has not heard of a public recantation. "Vannie" was for some time a fervent U. M. W. man. He lost taste for work in the mine when the strike ended and engaged in another line of business. Oh this account he was less active as a U. M. W. worker. However, his sympathies were still wandering. He went to the meeting in Glace Bay, where the shooting took place, and after the shots had done their unfortunate work, "Vannie" addressed the people outside the hall thus: "Never, never again, so long as I live; never till I'm as gray as a badger, and every hair in my head is white will I ever, ever again, enter that hall."

When referring to the farmers the Dartmouth Patriot is as innocent as they make them. Eggs in autumn are stowed in straw or chaff or salt and kept there until there is a scarcity and then sold at fabulous prices as fresh. No potatoes come out of the pits until the supply is short and then double prices are asked. If coal operators acted after a similar fashion, they would be called robber barons. The law of supply and demand, if the Patriot could only see it, applies more directly to coal than to farm produce. A hold up is a hold up whether by a single footpad or a band of bandits though the Patriot thinks there is a mighty difference between being buncoed by individual farmers and by coal operators in supposed combination.

The RECORD has at times held up Mr. McLaughlan, McGlocklin or McLochlin to the gaze of the public, but we never gave such a flaying as he deservedly got the other Sunday from the Rev. D. M. Gillies of Glace Bay. People on the mainland cannot understand how it was necessary for Beal to shoot on the plea that his life was in danger seeing he had possibly ten comrades around him, for one unfriendly face. The only explanation is that these valiant platform shouters all forsook him and fled. After hearing himself called a rat Jimmie will be sorry he did not take the RECORD's friendly advice and gang back to whence he came.

Says Mr. Gillis:

"I have some respect for Beal but no respect for the large number of men who were in the building and did not try to prevent the assault upon Beal and the murder. Where were these great Socialist leaders, the McLennan's the McLachlan's and the others? They scurried out of possible danger, like rats leaving a sinking ship, and left the men to their fate."

At the beginning of the U. M. W. campaign in Glace Bay it was generally understood that Dr. Thompson of that town sided with the invaders. All that is changed—now and the doctor has made a gallant recantation as we knew he would with increasing knowledge of U. M. W. leaders and methods. Speaking of the 'Glace Bay tragedy' before his congregation Sunday week last and taking it for an assured fact that the Glace Bay Leaders of the U. M. W. were socialists he opened out on them in this fashion:

"They know they are ruining the labor organization on which they have managed to fasten their clutches. They have succeeded in ruining the U. M. W. of A. in this district, and this is not the only community in which they have done the same. It is a pity that a few Socialists bosses should be allowed to destroy the usefulness of any organization which is intended to benefit workmen."

"Concerning such leaders I have just one thing to say: KEEP AWAY FROM THEM AND FROM THEIR MEETINGS. As christians and knowing the harm and mischief which they occasioned, YOU ARE BOUND BEFORE GOD to have no more to do with them."

Professor J. H. Priestley, of Bristol University, lecturing to members of the Farmer's Club, stated that experiments in various parts of the country of the effect of high tension electricity on crops showed increases per cent. in cucumbers of 17, strawberries 36, beets 33, carrots 50, wheat 29, and in barley 5. Cabbages had been accelerated 10 days. In a greenhouse the rays of the mercury vapor lamp had accelerated the germination of seeds, and produced more sturdy seedlings.

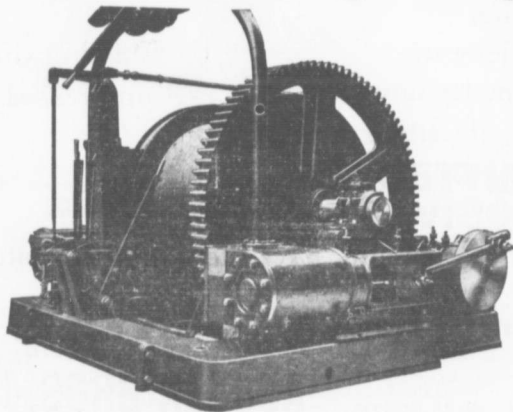
For a serious injury caused to the back by her employer's child kicking her, a domestic servant has been awarded 10s. a week under the Workman's Compensation Act at the Westminster County Court.



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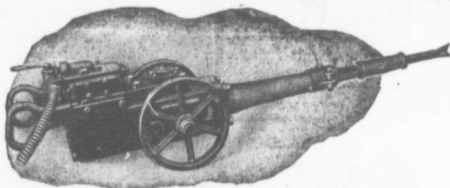
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55	51		54	52
P. M.	A. M.		P. M.	A. M.
3 25	10 45	P. TUPPER JUNCTION	3 45	11 00
3 35	10 55	INVERNESS JCT.	3 55	11 10
3 45	11 05	PORT HAWKESBURY	4 05	11 20
P. M.	10 07	PORT HASTINGS	4 15	11 30
9 57		TROY	4 25	
9 44		CREIGNISH	4 35	
9 27		CHALGOMORE	4 50	
9 08		JUDIQUE	5 05	
8 55		CATHERINE'S POND	5 15	
8 41		PORT HOOD	5 30	
8 35		GLENOCE	5 38	
8 20		MAROU	5 53	
7 59		GLENDYRE	6 16	
7 40		BLACK RIVER	6 26	
7 25		STRATHLORE	6 48	
7 12		INVERNESS	7 00	
6 55			7 10	
A. M.			P. M.	

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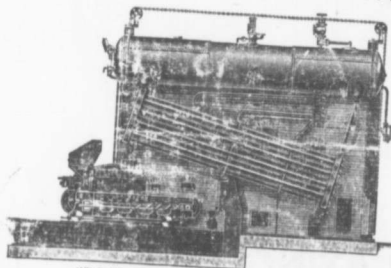
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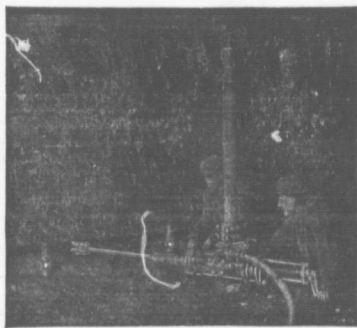
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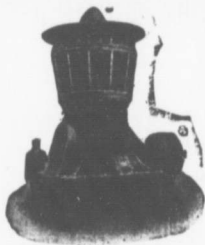
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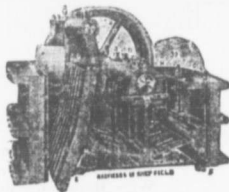
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